



Norman L. Grimsley

March 3, 1942 - July 4, 2024

Norman Lee Grimsley, of Aroma Park, Illinois passed away suddenly on Thursday, July 4, 2024.

Norman was born March 3, 1942, to Eileen and Norman Grimsley, Sr. in Fairbury, Illinois. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Phyllis, Cheryl, and Nancy and his sister-in-law Sharon Norvell and brother-in-law Russell Heald.

He married his wonderful wife Pamela (Heald) on March 8, 1964) in Chatsworth, Illinois. He is survived by his children Michael & Shelly (Brown) Grimsley of Sugar Land, Texas, Carrie & Francisco Jones of Longmont, Colorado, five beloved grandchildren, Lucas Grimsley of League City, Texas, Dylan and Katelyn Grimsley of Sugar Land, Texas, and Gwendolyn and Wolfgang Jones of Longmont, Colorado, his future daughter-in-law, Kristin Lennon of League City, Texas, his brother in law, Dave Norvell of Thawville, Illinois, and several much loved nieces, nephews, and honorary family members.

Norman was a larger-than-life man who was loved and honored by all who knew him. He graduated from Cullom High School and attended Kankakee Community College and Normal College (now Illinois State University). He served in the National Guard in High School and joined the United States

Army 1961. He served his country as a dog handler for the Military Police until 1965. Upon leaving the Army he and Pam moved to Kankakee, then Aroma Park, Illinois. He worked for General Foods/Gaines as a salesman for 25 years but retirement did not mean rest and relaxation for a man such as Norman.

Norman quickly grew to love Kankakee County as was evident by his involvement in many clubs and organizations. Norman spent time as a volunteer firefighter. He worked with the Salvation Army and delivered food and gifts to the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas. He was both the president and a board member of the Kankakee Elks Club, the Rotary Club, The Liar's Club, and many others.

Norman was elected Mayor of Aroma Park in 1978 and served in that role for more than 30 years. While in office he made it his mission to include the tiny village of Aroma Park in all Kankakee County political life. He was a part of the team that brought 911 emergency services to Kankakee County and served on the 911 and KARMA boards for many years. In fact, a great source of humor and pride for Norman was that the very first 911 call originated from his home, albeit accidentally, by his cat who walked across the phone buttons. Those who knew him well will understand how much he enjoyed retelling this tale.

Norman was also on the committee that brought the Metro Bus system to Kankakee County and advocated tirelessly to make sure Aroma Park was included on the bus route. He was instrumental in making sure the bus route made its way North to Midway Airport. He was instrumental in the sale of the public waterworks system to Aqua in 2000. He implemented multiple improvements in the Village of Aroma Park over the years. He was also a mentor to many who became future leaders of Kankakee County. In 2009, the Illinois House of Representatives passed a resolution congratulating him on

his retirement from public office. He loved his community and its people, and it showed in every word, and every action, that he took on behalf of his country, his county, and his village.

Norman was an extremely gregarious and social man, and he enjoyed speaking to anyone and everyone. He had a wonderful sense of humor and spent much of his life laughing. However, his greatest joy came from his love for his family, especially his 5 grandchildren. He was so proud of them that everyone he met, from President to pauper, was subject to multiple photos and stories of his “five amazing grandchildren”. When his oldest grandson Lucas became engaged last fall, Grandpa Norm was the first person he told, and Kristin immediately became grandchild number six.

While his passing leaves an enormous empty space in the hearts of every family member, we are grateful that his legacy will forever live on through his endless accomplishments in Kankakee County. So, while the rest of the US celebrates Independence Day, his family will mourn him, but will also know there couldn't have been a more fitting day for this amazing man to pass from this life to the next.

A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, July 9, 2024, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Jensen Funeral Home, Kankakee.

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration of Life

JUL 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Jensen Funeral Home
3639 EAST State Route 17
Kankakee, IL 60901
jensenfuneralhomes@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Norman was our neighbor in Chatsworth Illinois and later when the family moved to Cullom your family friendship continued we spent many summers together in Cullom and Chatsworth his sister were always a part of our summer we spent lots of time at the Tavern in Cullom His love of his life Pam was related thur Aunt Gerry and Pam's dad Russ works at Rosenboom Pluming and Heating lots of beautiful fun life growing experiences I love those days ❤️

Sherry Rosenboom - April 21, 2025 at 08:48 PM

KF

“ I just became aware that this wonderful man has passed on. He is a fellow Rotarian who always made me feel included. You could always tell he had a huge heart for others by the things he would say and do. What a loss. My prayers are with his loved ones whom you could tell he loved so much.



Karren Farmer - July 26, 2024 at 11:24 AM

JP

“ A dedicated man to those he loved and served. It was a pleasure working with him. Warm regards, Jim Piekarczyk, P.E., County Engineer (Retired)

Jim Piekarczyk - July 11, 2024 at 10:22 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norman L. Grimsley.



July 08, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ River Valley Metro Mass Transit District planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norman L. Grimsley.

River Valley Metro Mass Transit District - July 08, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norman L. Grimsley.



July 07, 2024 at 01:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norman L. Grimsley.

July 07, 2024 at 01:36 PM

DL

“ I remember Norm from the days working @ St.Mary's E.R. He had a kind soul & always wanted to help people. My sympathy to his family. Rest in Peace Norm.



Debra Lambert - July 06, 2024 at 08:30 AM

SF

“ Mike and family, my thoughts are with you during your time of loss. Norm was a great man and always so joyful to be around. May your memories of his smile and love for others live on always.

Scott Fortin

Scott Fortin - July 05, 2024 at 10:11 PM

VV

“ So sorry Michael for the loss of your father. Prayers for you and the entire family. Sounds like he was a remarkable man.

Virginia Viall - July 05, 2024 at 08:22 PM

JG

“ Joseph Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Norman L. Grimsley



Joseph Giacchino - July 05, 2024 at 05:16 PM

MM

“ Had dinner with Norm & a group of Veterans out at the Elks Club a number of years ago. He was a Class act plus He was pretty funny, 👍...May there be a God that Blesses Him !!!

Mike Marshall - July 05, 2024 at 05:15 PM

CE

“ MMY SYMPATHY MICHAEL GRIMSLEY AND FAMILY



Connie Eaker - July 05, 2024 at 03:08 PM

CE

My

Connie Eaker - July 05, 2024 at 03:11 PM