



Ernest Calvin Pitts

March 9, 1937 - October 21, 2021

Ernest C. Pitts

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ASHKUM – Ernest Calvin Pitts, 84, of Ashkum, passed away Thursday, (Oct. 21, 2021) at home after a short battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

He was born March 9, 1937, in Watonga, Oklahoma, the son of Nathaniel and Ethel (Hockett) Pitts. They preceded him in death, in addition to one sister, Ruth, and nephew, Ridgely Paul.

Ernie married Trudy Kapferer on June 7, 1958 in Jefferson, Ohio. He met her through the Conquest penpal ministry which was their social media at the time. They celebrated 63 anniversaries together.

Ernie reluctantly retired at the age of 81 from Central Illinois Transportation (CIT) in Bradley after 25 years of fun-filled adventures driving an eighteen-wheeler. He considered CIT as a second family. Prior to that he was employed by A.O. Smith in Kankakee and Roper Corporation for many years.

He enjoyed woodworking, cutting down trees, chopping wood, camping, flea markets, auctions, festivals, horseshoes, dart ball, cornhole and the card game Rook.

He was known as the “Candy Man” at Kankakee 1st Church for discreetly giving candy while shaking hands with that charming smile on his face. But he was most known for his love of sports and playing 58 years as a fast-pitch softball pitcher. He played for Kankakee First Church, Kankakee Feds, Hemenover Construction, and teams in Cissna Park, Crescent City and

Yorkville.

He loved wearing the homemade graphic shirts and socks made by his dear mother. He was very patriotic and loved his country. He had a sense of humor all his own and loved to play pranks and jokes on others.

Ernie looked forward to parties and gatherings with family and friends, and hardly ever missed graduations, school plays and sporting events for his kids and grandkids. He loved to give “high-fives” to the great-grandkids.

Ernest is survived by his beloved wife: Trudy (nee Kapferer); three daughters: Deborah (Kevin) Norden of Kankakee, Mary Lou Streets of Kankakee, Joannah (Mark) Bierzychudek of Kalamazoo, MI; one son: Daniel (Wendy) Pitts of Minooka; fifteen grandchildren: Joshua (Danielle) Norden, Heather (Tom) Lebda, Jarrid Norden, Alyssa (Dan) Lesch, Shannon (Jake) Stockwill, Brandon (Sydney) Streets, Mark (Jamie) Poole, David (Shawna) Cantway, Kara (Bobby) Ferguson, Tim Gileza, Amanda Bame, Aidan Pitts, Devon Pitts, Ari Shuler and Alyssa Price; and nineteen great grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers: David (Rebecca) Pitts and Paul (Annette) Pitts.

In Ernie’s own words, “Thank you very kindly” for all the memories.

Visitation will be from 11am-2pm on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021 at: Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene. Visitation will be from 11am-2pm on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021 at: Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene. A funeral service will follow immediately at 2:00pm. Obituary and tribute wall for Ernest is available at: delgadofuneral.com Arrangements entrusted to: Delgado Funeral Services 815-774-9220

Previous Events

Visitation at Church

OCT **28**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (cst)

Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N Entrance Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
connect@k1.church
<http://www.k1.church>

Funeral Service

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (cst)

Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N Entrance Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901
connect@k1.church
<http://www.k1.church>

Tribute Wall



“ *Delgado Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ernest Calvin Pitts*



Delgado Funeral Chapel - October 27, 2021 at 11:30 PM

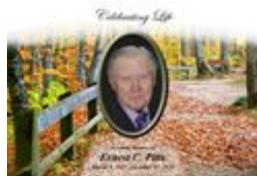


“ *Ernest Calvin Pitts*

January 28, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ *329 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Delgado Funeral Chapel - October 27, 2021 at 11:16 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ernest Calvin Pitts.*



October 27, 2021 at 06:10 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to Trudy and the family. He will be missed.
Clara & JR Gillespie*

Clara Gillespie - October 27, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *JR & Clara Gillespie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernest Calvin Pitts.*



JR & Clara Gillespie - October 27, 2021 at 08:56 AM



“ *Great gentleman! Met Ernie on the fast pitch softball field. Had many, many great battles.
Became good friends over the years. Had the privilege of catching him several games.
One of the finest! Lets play two!*

Pat McConnell

pat McConnell - October 27, 2021 at 08:29 AM

MO

“ *Mark & Janice Orsini purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Ernest Calvin Pitts.*



Mark & Janice Orsini - October 26, 2021 at 06:15 PM

JB

“ *Condolences to Mary Lou and the family. Your father sounds like he was quite the character, a loving man, and that he touched many lives from his community, church, work, activities, family and friends. May all your memories be wonderful.*

--Juliee Beaver, Houston TX, Mary Lou's coworker

Juliee Beaver - October 25, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernest Calvin Pitts.*



October 24, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ernest Calvin Pitts.*



October 24, 2021 at 06:58 PM