

**Darwin E. Gutowski** age 64, of Manistee, Michigan died Thursday, January 28, 2016 at his home after a battle with cancer. He was born May 8, 1951 in Manistee, Michigan and was the son of the late Edwin S. and Eleanor M. (Loetz) Gutowski. He was a graduate of Manistee High School with the class of 1969. Darwin served in the United States Army from 1971 to 1973 with the Military Police having been stationed in Okinawa, Japan for one year. He married Carol A. Baranek on May 29, 1981 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. He was employed with the Morton Salt Company for 46 years, most of which was spent in the maintenance department. He served as union Vice President for P.A.C.E. Local 6-667 and union President for the United Steelworkers Local 2-667 and also served on the Morton Credit Union Board for 28 years. Darwin loved participating in and watching sports and played softball, basketball, football, bowling and golfing during his lifetime. He also enjoyed hosting "Bon Fires" almost every weekend (Saturday Nights), in the summer and occasionally in the winter behind his home. He liked to work in his yard, cutting fire wood and building bird houses. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manistee.

Darwin is survived by his wife Carol Gutowski, his daughter Katie Gutowski, his son Daniel Gutowski, his very special grandson Austin Harper and a great cousin and friend, Wayne (Nancy) Skory and several other cousins, his brothers in-law and sisters in-law, Bill and Audrey Baranek, Jean and Dave Rhodea, Ed and Mary Baranek, Donna and Dewey Somsel, Don Baranek, David Baranek, Sandy Baranek and Curt Weinert. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him.

Darwin was preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Eleanor (Loetz) Gutowski, his beloved aunt Esther Skory who he lived with for several years, many other aunts and uncles and his sister in-law, Lorrie Weinert.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manistee at 3:00 PM with Reverend Dennis Rahn officiating. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee. The family will receive friends at the church on Thursday afternoon one hour prior to the funeral service.

In lieu of flowers those wishing to remember Darwin, are asked to consider a donation to Trinity Lutheran Church in his name. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Thursday afternoon.

**The Herbert Funeral home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.**