

Edward Matthew Betke age 79 of Manistee, Michigan. Died Saturday, evening, February 16, 2013 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.

He was born on November 20, 1933 in Ecorse, Michigan and was the son of the late Edward John and Margaret Marie (Steffes) Betke. He grew up in Detroit where he attended high school. He was an honorably discharge Korean War Veteran of the U. S. Marine Corps, where he served as a corporal from July 1952 until July of 1955. Edward married Joan Schaffeld on September 24, 1954 at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Detroit, while he was stationed at Quantico, Virginia. She preceded him in death in March 5, 1989. Edward had raised his children in Westland, Michigan. He moved to Manistee in 1985 and has made his home here since that time. He later married Karen K (Corey) (Lillie) on September 10, 1994 at St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine Catholic Church in Manistee. Edward was retired from the Wayne County Road Commission in 1983 after 32 years of service to the people of Wayne County, Michigan. He was a communicant of St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church of Manistee and a member of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor J.M. Steffes Council #853 of Manistee.

He is survived by his wife Karen K. Betke of Manistee, 2 daughters and a son in-law; Sherrie Ann Downs of Westland, MI, Denise Marie and Michael Du Prie of Brighton, MI, 3 sons and 2 daughters in-law; Edward John Betke II of Dallas, Texas, Karl Emerson and Debra Betke of Livonia, MI, Mark William and Cheryl Betke of Westland, MI, 1 step-daughter Cyrilla Dawn Lillie of Traverse City, MI, and 1 step-son and daughter in-law; Michael Edward and Jennifer Lillie of Beulah, MI, 4 granddaughters: Kelly Lynn Downs and Jason Fox, Lauren Betke, Brooklyn Betke, Michelle Thomas and by 6 grandsons, Bryan Betke, James Downs, Ryan Downs, Mark Dillon Betke, Aaron Betke, and Matthew Thomas, three great grandchildren, Riley Fox, Ashlynn Fox and Isabella Fox, his sister, Angela M. Nagel of Allen Park, MI, and his brother and sister in-law, Michael and Cherie Betke of Salem, Indiana. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive Edward.

Edward was also preceded in death by two sisters Ethel T. Grgurich and Gloria Schultz and by five brothers Lee (Leonard) Betke, A. Frank Betke, Kenneth V. Betke, Robert G. Betke and Anthony (Tony) Betke.

According to Edward's wishes, cremation has taken place and a Memorial Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel Shrine Catholic Church in Manistee on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 1:00 PM with Reverend Sylvestre Obwaka celebrant. The family will receive friends at the church on Tuesday one hour prior to the mass. Burial of his cremated remains will take place at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan at a later date.

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