



Richard Lee Gage, age 82, of Manistee, Michigan, died Monday morning, April 29, 2013 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee.

He was born February 18, 1931 in Caro, Michigan, son of the late Nelson & Alice (Stader) Gage-Barton. He was a graduate of Caro High School with the class of 1948. Rich served our country in the U.S. Army as a Paratrooper of the 187 Airborne Regt. From June 29, 1948 until his honorable discharge as a Corporal on April 10, 1952. After his military discharge, Rich took various college courses at Bay

City Junior College. He was employed as an Iron worker and a member of the Ironworkers Local 340 of Battle Creek. Rich married Dorothy Weis on April 1, 1953 in Angola, Indiana. She preceded him in death October 15, 1983. Richard later married Geraldine (Grabowski) Bernier on August 10, 1985 at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Manistee. They have celebrated over 28 years of marriage together.

Rich had an interest in fly fishing and making his own flies, complete with catch and release. He also had an interest in painting and enjoyed reading. When he had nothing to read, the encyclopedia was his favorite tool on any subject.

Richards is survived by his wife Geraldine of Manistee, MI; 2 daughters, Sally Gage of St. Petersburg, FL and Susan Gage of Winnepeg, MB, Canada; 1 brother & sister-in-law, Jerry & Pat Barton of Shelburne, VT; 1 sister-in-law, Jewel Barton of Bethania, NC; His dear friends, Robert Scott (Anita) Joslin of Hendersonville, TN. Both he and Rich attended school together, graduated, and (as Rich told the story) they flipped a coin and joined the army together remaining friends and maintaining contact as often as possible; Frank Chamberlain from Ooltewok, TN, who along with Frank's parents practically adopted Rich as their own, making trips to Frankfort for summertime fun; David (Julie) Silvernail of Vancouver, WA, army friends since 1948. Locally, very good friends included Robert (Nancy) Coates, Delores Van Meter, Rich (Pat) Pepera, Larry (Donna) Rector, Gene (Nancy) Dumas, Walter (Ethel) Plouhar, Terry Nauta, Duane Davis, Jim Nauta, Babylas (Linda) Bourdages and members of the Ironworkers Local 340. 6 brothers-in-law and 2 sisters-in-law, Phil, Roger, James & Cathy, Casimer, Robert & Maryann and Joseph Grabowski also survive him. Numerous nieces and nephews, who Rich helped thru the years by putting them thru college and buying cars and tires-many, many tires. When the young family members needed a loan, "Uncle Dick" was so kind and generous to always be available with his wallet wide open, never asking for repayment. Numerous cousins also survive him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by 1 brother, Larry Barton and 1 sister, Mary Fink.

Visitation and a time of remembrance will be held from 3:00 to 6:00 pm on Friday, May 3, 2013 at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee where Richard's friends will be offering a short eulogy at 4:30 p.m. A continued time of fellowship will take place at the Bungalow Inn also in Manistee immediately following visitation at 6:00 pm. According to Richard's wishes cremation will follow.

Memorial contributions may be directed toward the family who will decide on a specific memorial to contribute in Richard's name. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

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