



Harlan Joseph Slonecki Sr., age 85, of Manistee, MI, passed away unexpectedly Thursday evening, March 30, 2017 at Doctor's Hospital in Sarasota, FL, with his wife, Bobbie by his side.

He was born on January 26, 1932 in Manistee, MI, the oldest son of son of Zygmund and Marie (Stanek) Slonecki.

Harlan was the third generation of his mother's family to be baptized at Guardian Angels Catholic Parish in Manistee and the second generation of his family who attended Guardian Angels Elementary School. Harlan graduated Guardian Angels Elementary 8th grade in 7 years and attended Manistee High School graduating with the class of 1949. After high school, on October 31, 1949, he joined the United States Navy, while in the Navy he was deployed to the coast of Havana, Cuba. On July 24, 1952 he was discharged from the Naval Reserve and ordered into active military services with the United States Army on July 25, 1952 because of the onset of the Korean War in 1950. While in the United States Army; he was stationed at Fort Sheridan in Sheridan, IL and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as a Food Service Specialist. Entering the US Army as a Sgt. He was involved with the training and integration of the Armed Forces into the non-combat military life within the Food Service Area. He was honorably discharged on June 23, 1954. Returning from the service, Harlan worked in sales as a truck driver for Eckrich Meats until the Manistee Office closed. Harlan worked at PCA – Packaging Corporation of America as a Machine Mechanic in the Maintenance Department. Harlan also worked part time for many years, as a Meat Cutter at the A&P Store in Manistee, until their closing. Harlan retired after 33 years from Tenneco/PCA – Packaging Corporation of America in 1993.

On July 11, 1953, he married Barbara Louise Osborn at the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Ludington, MI. They have three children; Debra, Harlan Jr. and Thomas. They lived their entire married life in Manistee, MI sharing 64 years together. Harlan was a soft spoken man, who lived by the Golden Rule "Do unto others, as you would do unto yourself." He loved his cars and was at last count to own over 85 different vehicles during his lifetime. He especially enjoyed camping with his family and friends, growing from a summer tent into a fifth wheel. During their many travels, Harlan and Bobbie found a winter retreat at Craig's RV in Arcadia, FL enjoying their retirement, for the last 18 years. Harlan enjoyed traveling the state of Florida, playing games of dominos and working on the Blue Grass Festivals at Craig's RV during their winter months. During the summer months they continued traveling with family and friends, discovering MI, the states and Canada surrounding Great Lakes with their 5th wheel. They especially enjoyed going to Sault Sainte Marie to watch the ships coming through the Soo Locks. Living near the Manistee River, he enjoyed tracking the coming and going of the "Lower Laker" Ships into Manistee Harbor. He enjoyed working around his home and took great pride in his yard. He especially looked forward to family get-togethers and friends visiting. He was a life member of Guardian Angels Catholic Church of Manistee, the American Legion Post # 10 of Manistee, the Arcadia, Florida Moose Lodge and the Steel Workers Union #12585 Retirees.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbie, three children, Debra (Leonard L.) Bialik and Harlan Jr. (Denise) Slonecki all of Manistee and Thomas (Judy) Slonecki or Irons, MI, his grandchildren and great grandchildren: Jessica (Danny) Patrick Jr. of Gowen, MI and their daughter, Rachel Cobly and fiancé Haus Emery in US Navy aboard the USS Ronald Regan (CVN76) in Yokosuka, Japan, Ryan (Amy

Oakes) Kensil of Iron Mountain, MI and daughters Justice Kensil, Ashleigh and Haileigh Williams of Freesoil, MI, Sara (Ron) Kersey of Traverse City, MI, Joseph (Alicia) Slonecki of Traverse City, MI and their children Micah and Aliana, Lance (Andrea) Bialik of Kaleva, MI and their son Landon, Jacob (Deb Deller) Slonecki and their daughter Charleigh Slonecki, Jacqueline Bialik of Chicago, IL and her sons, Maximus and Declan Armanetti and Jim (Courtney) Slonecki of Cedar Springs, MI and their sons, Dylan and Mason, Katie (Greg) Castle of Brethren, MI and their children, Libby and Gregory, Samantha (Thomas) Hickenbottom of Custer, MI and their daughters Ayva and Allie and TJ Bebee of Irons, MI and his sons Jaide and Sebastian.

He is also survived by his younger brother, Dale (Hazel) Slonecki of Manistee, MI, his sisters-in-law; Patricia Zwiefka of Manistee, MI and Joanna Engfer of Ludington, MI., cousins Betty Adamski of Eastlake, MI and Jim (Cathy) Slonecki of Mount Pleasant, SC and their children. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his mother and father-in-law, Stella & Lewis Osborn of Ludington, MI, brothers-in-law, William "Vic" Zwiefka of Manistee, MI and Herbert Engfer of Ludington, MI and his nephew Fr. William "Bill" Zwiefka of Manistee.

According to Harlan's wishes cremation has taken place and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 11:00 AM at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend Scott Lawler Celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee where Graveside Military Honors will be conducted by the members of the Manistee County United Veterans Council Ritual Squad.

Relatives and friends will pray the Evening Vigil Service Tuesday evening, May 2, 2017 at 8:00 PM at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Tuesday evening from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM, and at the church on Wednesday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of Harlan's funeral Mass at 11:00 AM.

A memorial will be established in Harlan's name for Manistee Catholic Central School. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Wednesday morning.

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