

John S. Stec, age 84 of Manistee, died Thursday, May 29, 2014 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee surrounded by his loving family after a two year battle with cancer.

He was born July 16, 1929 in Freesoil, MI, son of the late John J. and Mary (Pekarcik) Stec. He was a graduate of Freesoil High School with the class of 1948. He excelled as an athlete with the Freesoil Basketball Team throughout high school. He proudly served our country as a Paratrooper in the U.S. Army 11th Airborne Division from January 4, 1951 until his honorable discharge on December 19, 1952. John married Kay N. Walker on May 21, 1955 at St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Catholic Church in Manistee. John was a self-taught T.V. and antenna repairman and ran his repair service for at least 30 years. He was employed at PCA most of his life up until his retirement. He was known to be able to fix anything, once he put his mind to it. John was bigger than life. He never met a stranger, never held a grudge and always had a joke to tell. He was a wonderful dad and grandpa and was absolutely adored by his grandchildren and grand-dogs.



John is survived by his wife just over 59 years, Kay Stec; his son John J. Stec (Stasi Starik) of Freesoil, MI; his daughters, Lora Strandberg and Chris Olen (John Bartosz) of Manistee, MI and Jo Ellen Zwiefka of Grand Rapids, MI; 8 grandchildren: Cory Zwiefka, Amber (Michael) England, Amanda Olen, John (Beth) Olen, Melissa Schester, Courtney (Jim) Slonecki, Tyler and Kyle Stec; 4 great-grandchildren, Alaina Zwiefka, Hunter, England, Hope Olen and Dylan Slonecki; his sister, Marie Clark of Eastlake, MI and his son-in-law, James (Kathy) Boyle. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive him.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his daughter, Bonnie Boyle; granddaughter, Lacey Erin Boyle; grandson, Dylan James Boyle; great-granddaughter, Alise England; son-in-law, Michael Strandberg and his brother-in-law, Albert Clark.

Cremation has taken place and a Funeral Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee where members of the V.F.W. Walsh Post #4499 Ritual Squad will present graveside military honors.

Family and friends will pray the evening vigil service at 8:00 PM on Tuesday evening at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee where the family will be to receive friends from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and also will be at the church on Wednesday morning one hour prior to the funeral Mass to receive friends.

A memorial has been established in John's name to the American Cancer Society. Envelopes are available at the funeral home and will be available at the church on Wednesday morning.

John will be missed dearly and always remembered for his famous words "There is a lesson to be learned."

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