



**Dennis Ralph Switalski**, age 70, of Manistee, Michigan died unexpectedly Tuesday night, April 8, 2014 at West Shore Medical Center in Manistee.

He was born on May 13, 1943 in Manistee, Michigan and was the son of the late Ralph and Florence (Purgiel) Switalski. Dennis was a graduate of Saint Joseph High School with the class of 1961. He then attended Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Michigan and then transferred to Michigan State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1965.

Dennis married his high school sweetheart, Sharon Vadeboncoeur on September 5, 1964 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee. They would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary this September 5<sup>th</sup>. He was a retired Vocational Ag Teacher from the Mesick Public School System. Dennis also enjoyed farming and his cherry and peach orchards, and sharing his garden vegetables and fruit on his roadside stand and with his family and friends. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and trapper with his son, grandchildren and friends. He was a former member of the Manistee County Soil Conservation Board, the Manistee Township Planning Commission, the Betsie River Board of Appeals, and the Manistee Township Board of Appeals. He was involved with the U.S. 31 Corridor Study Report, a member of the Catholic Community of Manistee, the Manistee Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #1128 and the National Rifle Association.

He is survived by his wife of over forty nine years, Sharon Switalski of Manistee, his daughter and son in-law; Rennae and Jon Hansen of Manistee, his daughter; Mary Switalski and partner Laura Schmitner both of Takoma Park, Maryland, his son and daughter in-law; Daryl and Jill Switalski of Manistee, his grandchildren; Paul Craig, Sherri Craig, Jon Hansen, Anna Hansen, Mallory (Andrew) Kenny, Jessie Switalski, Dennis Switalski, Shane Eble and Cassandra Eble-Hansen-Krolczyk, two brothers and a sister in-law; Arne and Norma Switalski of Mendon, MI, and Rodney Switalski of Florida. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive Dennis.

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Monday, April 14, 2014 at 11:00 AM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery also in Manistee.

Relatives and friends will pray the Evening Vigil Service at 8:00 PM on Sunday evening, April 13, 2014 at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee, where the family will receive friends on Sunday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and also Monday morning at the church one hour prior to the funeral mass at 11:00 am.

Memorials will be established in Dennis's name for Manistee Catholic Central Schools, the Catholic Community of Manistee and the American Heart Association. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

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