



Gary William DeMink

June 6, 1951 - February 9, 2024

Gary William DeMink passed from this life to a better place on Feb. 9, 2024. He was 72. With loved ones at his side, Gary died peacefully after an extended illness. His passing leaves an emptiness in the lives of many, especially his devoted wife of 52 years, Cindy (Cynthia Carter DeMink) and the four children they were blessed with: Jeremy (Jessica DeMink-Carthew); Jason (Jennifer); Andrea; and Eric DeMink. Gary will also be deeply missed by six grandchildren: Carter, with whom he had an especially close, father son relationship; Jaden; C.J. (Clare Jean); Maddie (Madeline); Siena; and Andrew DeMink. Gary is also survived by two sisters, Michelle (Richard) Howe and Lenore Hill, and many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews and nieces who loved him dearly. He was predeceased by his parents, Ralph and Helen DeMink, and one sister, Audrey Cole. Gary was good-natured and easily approachable, always willing to lend a hand and listening ear. Many considered him to be a “tell it like it is” kind of guy, and when his advice was sought, he gave it readily and from the heart. Gary never knew a stranger. Ever. His friendliness was unbounded — he’d strike up a conversation with anyone, anytime. To him, there was no reason not to make a connection by reaching out with a joke or a smile or a casual observation. Born in Detroit on June 6, 1951, Gary was a graduate of Cody High School and had a long career with Ford Motor Company. In 2005, he and Cindy left Michigan and moved to Florida, fulfilling her dream of living in a warm climate, while Gary willingly surrendered his own dream of living out his retirement years in

northern Michigan near one of the Great Lakes. It was just one of countless testaments of his allegiance to his wife. Gary's likes: His eclectic collection of salt and pepper shakers and beer glasses, fishing, bowling, Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, University of Michigan football, and cowboy Westerns — especially those featuring John Wayne. He cherished Horace the Maltipoo, his constant, canine companion for the last seven years. But Gary's greatest love — his meaning and purpose — was, unquestionably, being a husband, dad and grandpa. In his final days, having all his kids and wife together again, close at hand and gathered in love, gave him immeasurable joy. Gary's family suggests memorial donations may be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. A celebration of life in Gary's honor is planned for this summer in Michigan.