

Luke L. Heitkamp

MSg. Luke L. Heitkamp, USAF ret, 66, of Panama City, Fla., passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, at Bay Medical Center following a brief illness.

He was the second of 11 children, born on Feb. 22, 1946, son of the late Leonard and Edna (Elking) Heitkamp of Maria Stein.

On Aug. 2, 1985, he married Frances Calhoun, and she survives in Panama City, Fla.

He is also survived by his stepdaughters, Kimberly and Julie Vinson; grandsons, Michael J. Vittore III, Austin L. Strassner, L. Anthony Marshall, Jr.; a mother-in law, Alice Calhoun, all of Florida; brothers, Stan (Marilyn) Heitkamp of Van Buren, Howard (Susan) Heitkamp and Ted (Janet) Heitkamp, both of Maria Stein; sisters, Lillian (Bob) Guggenbiller of Sharpsburg, Paulette (Jim) Hemmelgarn of Worthington, Viv (Ron) Hartings of Maria Stein, Bert (Tom) Giere of Powell, Brenda (Dave) Moran of Celina, Annette (Russ) Wortman of Westerville; a brother-in-law, Jeff (Anne) Heckman of New Bremen; numerous nephews and nieces, cousins and friends.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Gladie Heckman.

He was a 1964 graduate of Marion Local High School. He enlisted with the Air Force in 1964 and served until 1990.

He received many Decorations, Medals and Citations while stationed in Florida, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, California, Colorado, Germany, Iceland, Iran, and Vietnam. Following his military life, he worked with Bay Co. Parks and Recreation from 1992 until he retired in 2006.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 at St. John the Baptist Church in Maria Stein, with the Rev. Tom Brenberger officiating. Interment with full military honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Jude Children's Hospital.