



Ronald G. Heitkamp

September 6, 1940 - June 11, 2025

Ronald G. Heitkamp, a cherished resident of Du Bois, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, at the age of 84. He was Born on Friday, September 6th, 1940, in Cravat, Illinois to Ernest and Ruth (Quinn) Heitkamp. In 1960 he married Sharon Cowie and they later divorced.

Ronald had a career as a Press Operator with Magna, and was also well-known and loved in the community for his 25 years bartending at Jerry's Bigger Jigger and his several years at Gibb's Lounge. Through his work and sociable personality, Ronald touched the lives of many.

In his early years, Ronald found joy in outdoor activities such as fishing and hunting. He was an avid player of bocce ball and softball, showcasing his love for sports and the outdoors throughout his life.

Ronald is survived by his loving daughter, Kym Heitkamp and her friend, Ken Powless of Central City; his son, Craig Heitkamp, also of Central City; and his three grandchildren: Travis Lavin (Beth) of Reno, NV, Joe Loera (Lisa) of Evansville, IL, and Lacy Heitkamp of Salem. Ronald was also a devoted great-grandfather to Gwen Loera, Ava Newcomb, Emma Britton and Aiden Heitkamp. He leaves behind a special niece and nephew, Lisa Henson (Dane) of Herrin, and Kirk Watts (Dahlia Chapman) of Walnut Hill. He is fondly remembered by many other nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Ronald was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest Heitkamp and Ruth Heitkamp, two sisters, Audrey Watts and Eileen Lynch and a brother, Jerry Heitkamp.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the family and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is Honored to be of service to Ronald's Family during this difficult time. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Funeral Home Facebook page. .

Though he is no longer with us, Ronald's spirit and legacy live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. His warm smile, sense of humor, and love for life will never be forgotten.

Tribute Wall

BC

“ *Ronnie was our customer at Harrisons Sports Shop. He was always such a nice man. You never knew when you might look up and see him coming in with a cooler of fried fish and hush puppies. Always so good. We will certainly miss him.*

Brenda Cizick - June 23, 2025 at 11:13 AM

DS

“ *Ronnie was more than just a customer to us at Harrison's Sport Shop. He was one of us. Countless times he would show up with a cooler full of fried fish and hush puppies just because he thought of us and loved doing it .I will never forget him frying fish for all our customers during our Open House Event every year. The best tasting fish ever!!! He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was always kind and good hearted. David Rutherford Harrison's Sport Shop.*

David Rutherford Harrisons Sport Shop - June 23, 2025 at 11:07 AM

MM

“ *To Ronnie's family; Thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I knew your father growing up as a teenager and he did have a sense of humor for sure. He had a cane with the hook behind the bar and you definitely didn't want to nod off, he would reach over and hook you behind the neck and say wake up.*

Michael Marcum - June 18, 2025 at 01:19 PM

MB

“ I worked with Ronnie at Jerry’s. He was so fun n nice to everyone. A great friend n person. In 82 January 31 it was a snow storm. He made it home with the friend of mine that he was with. We got off work at 230 n the gals had to stay at a friends across the road. But they showed up in the morning. Town was completely shut down. He came to try to get me home for my birthday the 1st they took me as far as they could into Irvington I had to walk all the way way through a field 3 1:2 foot of snow. Would have never made it without the help. Asked about him not too long ago ago to see if someone could asked if he remembered. Didn’t get to ever find out. I was from Dubois my whole life.

marlene barczewski - June 15, 2025 at 05:46 PM

LD

“ Sympathy to Ron’s family and friends, Ron was a friendly sweet guy loved hunting and fishing . He had a smile that was unique .



Laura Dalman - June 15, 2025 at 10:22 AM

SK

“ He was our neighbor for many years. Him and my husband had many stories about their fishing and hunting. He was a wonderful neighbor and friend.

Sharon Klamm - June 14, 2025 at 10:13 AM

WH

“ Sending prayers for/with family and friends!

Wayne Houser - June 14, 2025 at 07:44 AM

BE

“ we are all missing ron and loved him, we spent every thursday night together at the dubois auction

betz - June 13, 2025 at 08:32 AM