



James Rodney Etter

June 6, 1942 - May 16, 2018

Princeton – James Rodney Etter passed away, May 16, 2018 after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

James Rodney Etter was born June 6, 1942 in Augusta, IL to Russell and Mildred Sackman Etter. He graduated from Carthage High School in 1960 and served in the Vietnam War (Army) from 1964-1966. Rod worked at J.I. Case, Burlington, Iowa as a welder. He graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy in March, 1969. Rod honorably served the State of Illinois as a Senior Master Trooper, District 17, until his retirement in December, 1997. He received the Governor's award and Purple Heart for valor for his involvement in apprehending a burglary suspect who shot a Putnam County Deputy in 1982. Rod was involved in an additional shooting in a Putnam County bean field, receiving a minor injury prior to his retirement. He lived out his State Police oath by the courage he displayed and ran toward the danger. He assisted and served many throughout his 30 year career. Rod farmed eighteen years and was involved in the family farm operation until the time of his passing.

Rod married Marie L. Ernat at St. Louis Church, Princeton on June 27, 1970. After living in Hoffman Estates, Rod and Marie resided in Dover Township near Princeton since 1972. Together, they raised two beautiful daughters, his pride and joy, Tracie Kristine and Karmen Beth.

He belonged to the Fraternal Order of Police, Bureau County Farm Bureau and attended Christ Community Church of Princeton. He enjoyed his favorite sport, fishing, family vacations, computer work, landscaping, visiting with his coffee buddies and his beautiful grandchildren.

Rod is survived by his wife of nearly 48 years, Marie, two daughters; Tracie (Darryn) Foley, of Blythewood, South Carolina and Karmen (Brendan) Keane, of Frankfort, IL, four grandchildren; Savannah Mistarz, James Foley, Nora Keane and Ellie Keane. Also surviving are siblings; Carroll (Donna) Etter of Quincy, IL, Dixie Durbala of Burlington, IA, Doris (Fred) Lung of Dallas City, IL, Lennie (Abby) Etter of Keokuk, IA, and Timothy (Brenda) Etter of Nauvoo, IL.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Mildred Etter, two brothers; Jackie Eugene and Willard Dean, and an infant sister.

Services will be at Christ Community Church, Princeton, IL on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., officiated by Pastor Jon Panner. Interment will follow at Prairie Repose Cemetery, Dover, IL.

A visitation will be held Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Norberg Memorial Home, Princeton, IL.

Memorials may be left in Rod's memory to The American Brain Tumor Association, Gateway Services, or the charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be left at www.norbergfh.com

Cemetery Details

Prairie Repose

Dover, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356
(815) 875-2425
norberg@norbergfh.com
<https://www.norbergfh.com/>

Tribute Wall

LH

“ So sorry I was unable to attend the visitation or service. You and your family have my deepest sympathy.

Lorraine Hanna - May 21, 2018 at 01:25 PM

KB

“ I worked with Rod for many years and made several traffic stops with Rod. He was a great brother in Law Enforcement. I am truly sorry for his passing, but he is in good hands.



I will be praying for him and his family. God Bless.

Keith - Judy Brody Retired Sgt. Illinois State Police

Keith Brody - May 21, 2018 at 10:09 AM

TG

“ I did my internship at District 17 in 1995 and Rod was one of the best troopers in the District & probably the state. I rode with Rod many times and enjoyed sharing time with him.

He was a great American and he will be missed.

Semper Fidelis,

*Thomas Gualandi
LtCol USMC (Ret)*

Thomas D Gualandi - May 21, 2018 at 09:23 AM

RL

“ We are saddened by the loss of Mr. Etter. He and his wife certainly raised two great daughters, which were his pride and joy, and rightfully so. The Etter family is in our thoughts.

Roger and Lynn Lowe - May 20, 2018 at 09:47 AM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Rodney Etter.



May 19, 2018 at 12:57 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Rodney Etter.



May 19, 2018 at 11:08 AM

TM

“ The family of John and Verna Maxwell purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Rodney Etter.



The family of John and Verna Maxwell - May 18, 2018 at 04:34 PM

DP

“ Our sympathy and prayers go to the Etter Family, Tim talked about his brother and respected him. Good family! Sorry for your loss!
Dean and Sandy Printy

Dean Printy - May 18, 2018 at 04:05 PM

LR

“ Love Uncle Allen Aunt Roxane purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of James Rodney Etter.



Love Uncle Allen Aunt Roxane - May 18, 2018 at 01:44 PM

NS

“ Navigant Human Capital Staff purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of James Rodney Etter.



Navigant Human Capital Staff - May 18, 2018 at 11:38 AM

GS

“ My family extends sympathy to the Etter family. Rod's police career and mine overlapped so there are many memories including sharing fellowship with our families. I'm grateful Rod was a part of my life and a friend. RIP!

Gary Swanson - May 18, 2018 at 11:17 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Rodney Etter.*



May 18, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ *Karmen,*

You're in my thoughts and prayers. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Nancy Corless

Nancy Corless - May 18, 2018 at 09:51 AM



“ *Some of he best days of my career were working with Rod. Scripture says, "God will not be unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people." And Rod was always there to help. While our hearts are heavy they also are happy that Rod is with God.*

Charles Schwarting - May 18, 2018 at 09:35 AM

JD

“ My sincere sympathy to Rodney’s family. I have fond memories of knowing Rodney in Basco, hanging out at his dad’s blacksmith shop, visiting with he and Lennie, and asking him for rides in his gray 67 Plymouth. When he became a State Police officer, I would stop to see him in Princeton when possible, after I moved to Ottawa. When on I-80 I was always on the lookout for his car, 17-77 I believe, so I might visit with him. He was always so personable. May his soul Rest In Peace.

John Damron - May 18, 2018 at 07:12 AM

RL

“ I always enjoyed seeing Rod, whether it was on a crash scene, fire, or in public. Great person... To Marie and the girls, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Rodney and Tammy Lange - May 17, 2018 at 08:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Rodney Etter.



May 17, 2018 at 06:30 PM