

Robert 'Bob' W. Studebaker Sr.

PONTIAC - Robert "Bob" W. Studebaker Sr., 65, Pontiac, died at 9:22 a.m. Monday (June, 15, 2009) at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington.

His funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Martin-Burke Funeral Home, Pontiac, with the Rev. Phillip Icenogle of the First United Methodist Church in Pontiac officiating. Burial will be at South Side Cemetery in Pontiac, where full military rites will be accorded.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Bob's name may be left to the Illinois Cancer Care, 407 E. Vernon, Normal, IL 61761, the AMVETS Post 115 or the 115 Auxiliary.

Bob was born on Nov. 17, 1943, a son of Harry and Shirley Ingle Studebaker. He was born in The Pas, Manitoba, Canada. He and his mom immigrated to the U.S. after World War II in 1945. Bob married Norma Walker on Oct. 24, 1969, in Pontiac.

He is survived by his wife, Norma Studebaker, Pontiac; two sons, Robert W. (Debbie) Studebaker Jr., West City; and Christopher Studebaker, Pontiac; two granddaughters, Ashley Marie and Brittany Nicole Studebaker; and one brother, Donald (Sandy) Studebaker, Pontiac.

He was preceded in death by one sister and brother in infancy.;

Mr. Studebaker was educated in Pontiac schools.

Bob worked for IDOT for over 27 years, retiring in 2002. He also helped Phillip Trainor farm for over 40 years. He was a retired teamster for Local 26.

Bob was drafted into the United States Army in 1964 and served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 with the 1st Logistical Command at Anke attached to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Bob has been a member of the AMVETS since 1990. He is a life member of Post 115, Pontiac, and was serving as post adjutant. In Illinois AMVETS, Bob served as the 24th district commander, 4th division commander, division 3/4/5 vice commander of membership and Illinois State commander. He served on the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Support Committee and the Illinois AMVETS State Service Foundation. On the national level, Bob served as the Illinois NEC, senior vice commander of 4th National District and 4th National District commander.

He was a lifetime member of the American Legion 78, AMVETS Sad Sacks, the VFW Post 886, a member of the Disabled American Veterans, a member of the 40 and 8, a longtime member of the Central States Threshermans Reunion, where he operated the shingle mill, and the Pontiac Elks Lodge 1019.

He was of Methodist faith.

Bob was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by the Governor of Kentucky in 2008.

He was an avid gas engine and John Deere tractor collector.

Bob loved spending time with his family and adored his two granddaughters.

This obituary may be viewed and private condolences left at www.martin-burkefuneralhome.com .