



Michael L. Harty

September 16, 1942 - September 28, 2008

Michael L. Harty, 66, passed away Sunday, September 28, 2008 at St. Joseph Hospital in Murphysboro after a 20 month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Michael was born September 16, 1942 in Murphysboro to Tom and Nadean (Fairchild) Harty. He was a very loving husband for twenty years to Lola E. Harty.

Survivors include his wife Lola; two daughters Sarah (Harty) Willems and her husband J.D., their two children Katharine and Carter of Denver, CO; Emma (Harty) Woytek and her husband Troy of St. Louis, MO; two step children, Amy E. Morgan-Lyerla and son-in-law Doug Lyerla, their two children Morgan and Tony of Murphysboro, IL.; Andy Morgan and his wife Connie Morgan, their two children, Molly and Ruthie of Carbondale, IL; and a brother, Pat Harty of Springfield, IL.

Michael was employed at SIUC Morris Library from 1993-2008. He was a member of St. Andrews' Catholic Church in Murphysboro, Knights of Columbus, Murphysboro Elks, Jackson County Democrat Precinct Committeeperson, Carbon Lake Corporation, member of Laborers Union at SIUC, and loyal member of the Jackson County Democratic Party. He was former Director of Systems and Standards at the Illinois State Board of Elections in

Springfield and Director of Elections for Maricopa County, Arizona.

He was a 1961 graduate of Danville High School. He received his Bachelors in English Literature from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and his Masters in Political Science at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Michael was an avid reader, enjoyed writing poetry, loved gardening, and the St. Louis Cardinals. He was actively involved in politics. Most important to him was spending time with his grandchildren and family. He was a very knowledgeable man and a brilliant conversationalist.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, and his brother John.

His body has been cremated. A funeral memorial mass will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 2, 2008, at St. Andrew Catholic Church with Father Gary Gummersheimer, Deacon Troy Woytek and Rev. John Annable officiating. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Pettett Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Loyola Academy, 3854 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or Sallie Logan Library.

Tribute Wall



“ *Michael L. Harty*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *I cannot add much to the notice in the Southern Illinoisan. Mike was an outstanding man, devoted to his family, friends, church, community, union, party, and state. I had the pleasure of working with him at Morris Library for three and a half years, and delighted in his wit, as well as his dedication to the welfare of his fellow employees. As a newcomer to Southern Illinois, I found no one who could teach more about the history and character of the region.*

Mike was a dear friend, and will be sorely missed. I was happy that we were able to get together last fall and have some laughs with friends and co-workers. I hope I can get back to the area in the coming months. My best wishes to Lola, and thanks for her hospitality, and greetings to Mike's family and other friends.

John Jeffrey Gibbens - October 01, 2008 at 01:44 PM



“ *He touched the lives of so many people through politics, work, and community activities.*

Mike will be remembered as a wonderful, caring, and loving family man. His command of the English language was a gift he shared with all he met. We feel blessed to have known him. He is now your guardian Angel in Heaven. . . We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers as you adjust to his passing. We are so very sorry for your loss . . .



In Christian Friendship & love, Janice and David Smith XOXOX - September 30, 2008 at 02:35 AM