



Lonnie Ray Meinders

December 28, 1952 - October 24, 2020

Lonnie Ray Meinders, 67, of Dunlap passed away Saturday, October 24, 2020, at his home surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. Lonnie was born December 28, 1952 in Peoria.

He married the love of his life, Jackilyn (Johnson) Huber on December 31, 1983 in Peoria. He is survived by his loving wife, Jackilyn; three daughters, Amy (Rick) Hutchison of Peoria, Ann (Tony) Coovert of East Peoria, and Allison (Eric) Herring of Peoria; son, Kevin (Kara) Huber of Dunlap; nine grandchildren; sister, Linda (Kenneth) Armstrong of Smithton; brother, Dennis (Carla) Meinders of Chillicothe, Mike (Deborah) Meinders of Princeville, and many others he referred to as “brother from another mother”; sister-in-law, Eleanor Jean Kane of Cambridge; several special nieces and nephews including his wingman, Mitchell Meinders and his couch buddy, Girley. Two brothers preceded him in death, Danny in 1982 and Fred in 2012.

Lonnie attended Dunlap High School. He began working for Pabst Brewing Company in 1971 and worked there until it closed in 1981. In addition to working at Pabst, he started Meinders Power Vac Furnace Cleaning and Chimney Sweeping in 1978, retiring in 2001. As an entrepreneur, he was always looking to improve business eventually expanding to include lawn maintenance, snow plowing, pressure washing, and fire restoration. His business included residential, commercial and industrial cleaning. No job was too big or small. Lonnie would never ask his employees to do a job he would not do himself and never refused a job. His reputation was of the utmost

importance to him and his handshake was golden. As a self-taught business man, he would advocate to friends and relatives to start their own business. He was always willing to share his honest opinion with no sugar coating. Lonnie was very proud he was able to help people get started in business. Many will remember his favorite sayings. "Winners never quit and quitters never win", "Time is money", "When the going gets tough, the tough get going", "Lets Rock and Roll". If someone were to say "I can't", Lonnie would reply, "What are the last four letters of American? Drop the "t" and say I can!" In the early 80's he coined the phrase, "clean air ducts are like a breath of fresh air."

Lonnie will be remembered by his deep baritone voice with a big heart that was very caring and giving, the love for family ran deep. He had an infectious smile and laugh, loved joking and being the life of the party. Lonnie never met a stranger and never forgot a friend, or a face. He enjoyed dancing, playing pool, movies, motorcycle riding, boating, traveling, and his 1966 Ford convertible. In the later years watching the children fish, swim and enjoy the playground they built at their home became the highlight of his days. One of his biggest regrets Lonnie carried was not being able to serve in the military due to

losing three toes during an accident as a teenager. He loved showing his foot to children and asking them to go look for his lost toes. Being very patriotic, Lonnie always displayed the American flag at everyplace he called home and encouraged others to do the same. On Veterans Day, he would visit American Legions in the area visiting with vets, buying them a drink and thanking them for their service.

No services will be held at this time due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Dunlap American Legion, St. Jude Children's Hospital, or Toys for Tots.

Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Our family was deeply saddened when we heard of Lonnie's passing! We referred to him as SANTA CLAUS because he was such a "giving person"! The first time we met him, he invited our family over to fish, swim, play on their playground or take out the paddle boats! Lonnie and his wife treated us with welcoming arms! We made it a tradition to go out to their beautiful home and enjoy the outdoors! We were blessed to experience the Meinders hospitality. May this hardworking, caring man rest in peace! We will dearly miss him!

Sheila M Snarr - November 02, 2020 at 12:22 PM

RP

“ Jackie and family
Lonnie was probably one of my most unique customers at the Dunlap Bank. His obituary does a great job of telling his story. I for one can vouch that his handshake and word was his bond. Please know that our world was a better place because Lonnie was the best at making friends and letting them know that they could count on him. My sympathy and prayers are with you all during this time.
Dick Peterson His Dunlap Banker

Richard Peterson - November 02, 2020 at 08:07 AM

JE

“ My heart goes out to you all Lonnie was a great guy rest in peace brother this is John Eble

John Eble - November 02, 2020 at 07:54 AM

PA

“ So glad I got to see you recently. When I walked up to your door, you got tears in your eyes and said, “ If that’s not Little Donnie, I don’t know who is! “ My memories of you will always be laughter, your distinctive deep voice, and bantering with my dad. You filled the room with your giant voice and personality. Your memories will forever make me smile. Rest In Peace dear cousin. You will be missed by many.



Paula - November 01, 2020 at 09:00 PM

MH

“ So sad to hear the loss of a very dear friend! Great memories and a whole lot of fun with Lonnie. RIP my friend! Prayers for the entire family!!

Mark S Henry - November 01, 2020 at 11:40 AM

AH

“ I remember when we rode on your bike with you and you didn’t even have shoes on all 3 of us girls love you !!

Allison Herring - November 01, 2020 at 08:17 AM

DK

“ When Captain Clean in Morton was in fire and water restoration, we worked with Lonnie and his crew well. His boisterous laugh was infectious, and will be missed.

Dick Koehne - November 01, 2020 at 07:42 AM

LA

“ Love You Lonnie❤️ You will always be missed, your energy, personality and love was beyond words. There was never a dull moment when you where in the room. I'll never forget the the time you were 2-3 years old and I was babysitting, I was trying to do dishes and make lunch and you cried with that big voice and was a beat red. I got angry and threw a cold dish rag on your head! For many summers, anytime you we're outside you'd have a cold dish cloth from the ice cold well water on your head. Anyone that new you couldn't help but love you. You got the best of care during your illness. May God Bless you and your family...always in my heart.
Love You, Linda

Linda Armstrong - October 31, 2020 at 06:13 PM

AH

“ Love you dad



Allison Herring - October 27, 2020 at 11:43 PM