



Rodney Dean Wells

May 13, 1943 - September 27, 2019

Rodney Dean Wells, age 76, of Traverse City passed away peacefully at Hospice House on September 27, 2019. He waged a long and courageous battle with both Parkinson's Disease and Cancer. His strength, dignity, and positive attitude were admired by all that knew him.

Rodney was born in Detroit on May 13, 1943 to the late Farris and Elizabeth (Harker) Wells. He attended East Detroit High School and then served in the United States National Guard during the Vietnam War. He was active in the Detroit Riots in the summer of 1967. After serving in the National Guard and attending Macomb Community College, Rodney married his sweetheart June (Killen) Wells on February 17, 1968. In 1972, Rodney accepted a position as Plant Engineer at Chef Pierre in Traverse City, and moved "Up North".

Rodney raised his family in Traverse City, and had an outstanding career in food manufacturing for nearly 40 years. He was with Chef Pierre, which eventually became Sara Lee Bakery, for 36 years. While working, Rodney never missed one day of work for illness and was commended for this achievement at his retirement in 2008. Rodney also owned and operated Leasewell Inc. a commercial property management business that he began in 1989. In his free time he enjoyed boating, skiing, and spending time with his family.

Rodney is survived by his wife of 51 years June, daughter Meredith (Garrett) Hawes, son Ryan Wells and daughter Megan (Scott) Wick, grandsons; Hunter Hawes, Parker Wick, Beckett Hawes, Ronin Wells, Hudson Wick, and Anders Wick, sisters; Anita Bloink of Grosse Pointe Shores and Kerry Latour of Eastpointe, and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on Friday October 11, 2019 from 5 to 7 pm at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

The funeral service celebrating and honoring Rodney's life will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 11:00 am with visitation one hour prior also at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be directed to Munson Hospice House <https://www.munsonhealthcare.org>, Parkinson's Network North

<https://www.parkinsonsnetworknorth.org> or St. Jude's Children's Hospital www.stjude.org

Comments



“ June, Ryan, Meredith, Megan - God Bless you all and families at this time, just heard the news about Rod. I will always remember Rod, so glad I was able to know him - incredible man who taught me many things in life. Again God Bless you all !

Robert M Thiel - October 20, 2019 at 01:01 PM



“ Rod was instrumental in the success of our business. When we were first starting out he rented us a space for a reduced rate increasing it as we grew. Later he gave us a chance to bid some projects for Sara Lee. We will always be grateful to him for giving a couple of young kids a chance to succeed. We have been in business 35 years and 29 of those years we rented from him. Laura Carlton-Grand Traverse Mobile Communications

Laura Carlton - October 07, 2019 at 09:11 AM



“ Rodney was always a joy. I remember the first time I met him. He was so funny. We laughed alot on the mornings I gave him care. He mostly talked about his kids and grandkids. He cherished each one. The way his eyes lit up when spoke of June was amazing. I asked him one time how they kept their marriage strong all of those years. His reply was "Have you met my wife?" I once heard someone say that if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. I loved Rodney like a surrogate and taking care of him was never work. I will think of him often and carry his memory in heart always. My love to you all. Stacy Howe

Stacy Howe - October 06, 2019 at 06:23 PM