



Douglas Victor Ilka

February 13, 1945 - March 11, 2011

Douglas Victor Ilka

Age 66, longtime resident of Huntington Woods, passed away on Friday, March 11, 2011, at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, due to complications related to pneumonia. Born February 13, 1945, in New York City, then moved to Detroit as a young boy. Attended Michigan Tech in Houghton before joining the United States Navy. After an honorable discharge from the Navy, he joined the Detroit News as a reporter and enjoyed a 40-year career there, most recently in the position as a copy editor on the City Desk.

Douglas was the beloved husband of nearly 35 years to Linda and the loving stepfather of Jacqueline Holmes her partner Katerina and Heidi Todd Reed. He was also a very proud grandpa to Amber, Nathan, Rachel, and Samantha Reed and was looking forward to the arrival of his new grandson in June to Jacqui and Katerina. He was also a dear brother to Dr. Richard Ilka and Elizabeth Ilka and their pre-deceased sister Susan. His nieces and nephews and their growing families were a constant source of pride and joy as well. Douglas was an avid golfer and loved to travel with his family. He equally enjoyed his 100% Finnish heritage. In 2009, he combined his love of travel and his Suomi roots by visiting Finland where he, his wife, and cousins, were able to meet extended family and explore their grandparents' villages. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made in Douglas' memory to the Huntington Woods Public Library, 26415 Scotia Road, Huntington Woods, MI 48070.

Tribute Wall

VM

“ I am so sorry to hear about Doug's passing. Mark's and my thoughts and prayers are with you. I wish we were closer to be there for you.

Vivian Michalic - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Linda and family, We are so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. Sorry we are unable to attend his funeral. Jerry just finished radiation treatment for prostate cancer and Dr. told him to avoid crowds and get plenty of rest. Hear you've been sick also. Hope you end up feeling better soon. Love and peace, Dianna & Jerry

Jerry & Dianna Martin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ So sorry to hear of cousin Doug's passing. We have so many fond memories of times together. So glad we were able to travel to Finland with Doug and Linda. What a great trip. He was a great guy. Mike & Sandy

Mike & Sandy Kuhna - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Doug and I are cousins. I married in 1959 and moved west, so we really haven't seen much of each other. We visited Linda and Doug in the 70's. I wish we had kept in touch. He was a wonderful writer and I so enjoyed the article he wrote about our grandmother. My families thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Linda. With love, Kathy

Kathy Kempainen Call - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LM

“*Doug and I were colleagues when we were both assigned as reporters at the Detroit News Birmingham bureau in 1971. The Birmingham Bureau was one of five suburban bureaus the News opened that year as the paper launched daily suburban sections for the first time. In the late 1970's Doug was elected as a Unit Chairperson of The Newspaper Guild of Detroit, representing Detroit News Guild members. He was a solid, unassuming newspaper reporter and a valued friend and colleague. I shall miss him.*

Louis Mleczko - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM