



David Rex Huntley

October 19, 1939 - October 16, 2024

David Rex Huntley passed away Wednesday, Oct. 16, days before what would've been his 85th birthday, after a long, eventful, adventure of a life. Ever the man's man, he had a kind heart and a soft spot for free spirits and especially animals.

The mention of his name always brought a smile to those who knew him, and, often, a funny "Would you believe Rex..." story. For the past half-century, he lived with his beloved wife, Karlene, in a rustic hillside home on the western outskirts of Bloomington. He was in his element at his shop next door, surrounded by a revolving assortment of cars, equipment, pals old and new, and projects in various stages of completion.

Rex was born on October 19, 1939, in French Lick, Ind., the only child of Bob and Mina Huntley. Preceded in death by his parents, infant daughter Gina (1967) son Kevin (1965-2022) and wife Karlene (1942-2022), he leaves behind daughter Jacque (Todd), daughter-in-law Lisa, granddaughter Danielle, and his constant companion, Chinese Crested Lizzy, who, like all his pets, he spoiled rotten. He loved cars, dogs, guns, auctions, racing of all kinds, and collecting things. He always had a project going. Some he finished, others he never quite got around to completing, but all kept him busy until a new one captured his attention.

Hard-headed as a mule but kindhearted to a fault, Rex was a man not to be crossed but at the same time one who'd do anything for anyone, even though he didn't need to and sometimes when he probably shouldn't have. His health

declined in recent years but his last days were happy, active, and fulfilling, spent like he spent his whole life: doing exactly what he felt like doing.

Visitation will be 5-7pm Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 South Old State Road 37 in Bloomington.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

The family requests that memorial contributions may be made to the Monroe County Humane Association, mcha@monroehumane.org

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Jacque- I did not know your Dad but I know you. He must've been a fun-loving, kind Dad to have. My heartfelt condolences to you.*



joni reeves - October 24, 2024 at 02:46 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of David Rex Huntley.*



October 23, 2024 at 09:01 AM

TS

“ *Tee and Michelle Siniard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Rex Huntley.*

Tee and Michelle Siniard - October 23, 2024 at 09:01 AM

SH

“ *Dear Jacque and family, saddened to read of your fathers passing, he was always a delight to be around, I graduated with your loving mother Karlene, at slumber parties in high school we girls would fight to sleep next to her because she was a great back scratcher and massager, Enjoyed joining Rex at the produce auction down by Oden, I pray that the Lord places His loving and soothing hands on you and the family, love*

susie hamilton - October 21, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of David Rex Huntley.*



October 20, 2024 at 02:33 PM



“ *Becky Uciechowski and The Diekfuss' purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Rex Huntley.*



Becky Uciechowski and The Diekfuss' - October 20, 2024 at 12:48 PM

JM

“ I met Rex just one time. My son Quinton and good friend Sam stopped by Rex’s shop one Saturday. Probably for Quinton, an excellent diesel mechanic or Sam a great body man to look at something. It was late winter or early spring and quite cold, so Rex and I stayed near the Shop and shot the breeze. I told Rex how sorry I was to have heard about his son Kevin passing unexpectedly. I did not know Kevin personally, but was aware of his awesome work ethic. We talked about other matters of no importance and then Sam and Quinton returned and talk turned to lunch. We were all hungry, so we loaded up and headed to Casa Brava.

While we were sitting at Casa Brava waiting on our food, more than one person stopped by to greet Rex and an apology was made about not stopping by more recently to visit Rex. Obviously, Rex was respected and cared for by the younger man. Who possibly worked for Kevin in happier times.

As our meal finished, I was planning on paying for our meals, but Rex beat me to it. I thanked him and assured him it was not necessary, but he insisted. I said that the next time was on me and I meant it. It was nice to have a meal paid for, but even better to have gained a new friend.

Rex, it looks like I will not be able to make good on that promise, so I hope this brief story helps pay my debt. If you had this much impact on me with just one meeting, I am sure your impact on others you knew longer is far greater. I hope the funeral home has enough parking spots for all your visitors.

RIP

Joe Myers

Joe MyersS - October 20, 2024 at 08:18 AM

TJ

“ Rex, I humbly thank you for your kindness and love! Until I see you again on the other side of the stars, “behave yourself mister!”
Missing you.

Tammy Jones - October 19, 2024 at 12:27 PM

PT

“ Rex is one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever known. Always willing to help anyone who needed it. Funny, adventurous, always busy working on something. Loved him. Rip, brother-in-law.

pamela todd - October 18, 2024 at 10:53 PM

“ I have been trying to call Rex the last couple of days. We always talked to him on his birthday, and I knew that it was coming up on Saturday. He called us in July when we happened to be on our way to Attica to the Brad Doty Classic, and we talked to him most of the way there. We spent a lot of years following Kevin from racetrack to racetrack, camping with Rex and Karlene. I frequently walked Runt when Karlene's hip was bothering her, and it hurt her to walk. There are so many memories of those days. We used to joke that when Rex started deep frying things you better keep your fingers and toes away from him or he would deep fry those along with the mushrooms, corn on the cob, pickles, etc. One year in Florida he bought a gunny sack full of frog legs, and we ate frog legs all week. Another year it was oysters. He always had something. I remember when we were at a track in Florida, and they were feeding Kevin's race team after the race. Someone asked what they were eating, and Kevin told them it was deer. He told them, "around here you never know what you are going to be eating."

The one thing we will always remember was in 1999. We had bought a 5th wheel camper but did not have a truck yet--was having trouble finding what we wanted to buy. Two weeks before we were supposed to head to Florida Rex called to see if we had bought a truck yet. We said we hadn't found one yet. Rex said, "Hell, come down and get mine. You can use it!" He had a brand new one he had just bought. It was something that we would never have dreamed of doing but appreciated the offer so much. We bought one a few days later.

I will never forget when they brought a kitten to Florida with them one year. Rex tried to put a harness on the kitten and got all scratched up for his trouble. They did finally manage to get it on the kitten though. Rex was sitting outside enjoying the weather, and there was a light chain beside him going under the motorhome. I asked where the kitten was, and Rex told me it was under the motorhome. I got down and looked under the motorhome. No Kitten. Just the empty harness. I found the kitten a short way away, but I think that was the last time they tried to put the harness on the kitten.

Karlene, Sandy Jones and I went to do laundry one day in Florida while the men went to a bar to watch a Daytona race on TV. We came back to the motorhomes, and it was very windy. Karlene came out of the motorhome and the wind caught the door and blew it shut. When she tried to go back in, she found it was locked. I suggested she could stay in our motorhome until Rex got back with his key, but she had the only key, and it was locked in the motorhome. We found the window by the passenger's seat was open just a little bit, so we managed to get it open and then hoisted Karlene up, and she went through the window headfirst with Runt licking her face and Karlene cracking up laughing. There are just so many memories of both of them and Kevin. We have missed them since they quit coming to the races. Although we have tried to keep in touch with them over the years, we haven't seen them nearly as much as we would have like to. The last time we actually saw them was maybe four years ago when we stopped on our way to Florida.

Wayne & Laura Hawkins - October 18, 2024 at 10:45 PM

JB

“ *Jane and Chad Birckelbaw purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David Rex Huntley.*



Jane and Chad Birckelbaw - October 18, 2024 at 08:15 PM

LR

“ *Lisa Roberts lit a candle in memory of David Huntley*



Lisa Roberts - October 18, 2024 at 08:10 PM