

Dignity[®]
MEMORIAL



OBITUARY

*Franklin Ray
Hitchell*

MARCH 7, 1952 - JUNE 7, 2024



IN THE CARE OF
Davison-Fulton
Woodland
Chapel &
Parkview
Cemetery

*Franklin Ray Hitchell, 72, of
Dunlap passed away
unexpectedly on Friday, June
7, 2024, at his home.*

Frank was born on March 7, 1952 in Peoria, IL to Francis

and Catherine (Snyder) Hitchell, who both preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Day) Hitchell, his three children, daughters Amanda Hitchell of Peoria, Alana (Jeremy Gonigam) Hitchell of Normal, and son Adam (Kristin) Hitchell of Chicago, as well as his beloved dog, Toby. He was also a brother to Kay Russellburg of Wyanet, IL, Suellen Solomon of Low Point, IL, Doreen Paulsen of The Villages, FL, Debra (Mike) Booth of The Villages, FL, and Rose (Gene) Billick of Edgerton, KS; loving grandfather to four grandchildren, Lucas, Reed, Emmett, and Penelope.

Frank graduated from Peoria Central High School in 1970 and attended North Central College in Naperville before going on to study biology at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. After returning to Peoria, he married his high school sweetheart, Carol, on May 27, 1977, and started his career as a builder. For decades he constructed homes as well as commercial buildings, and continued to hone his craftsmanship in post-retirement for any of his friends and family who asked for his help. He would do anything for his friends and loved being able to assist them with their various home projects.

Frank was a member of the collection acquisition board of the Peoria Riverfront Museum and also served as Vice President of the Peoria Academy of Science. As President of its entomology section, he cared deeply about the importance of science education, and enthusiastically welcomed every opportunity to share his knowledge with younger generations. He frequently led group field trips and hikes, and participated in presentations around area schools and the Peoria

Riverfront Museum. Over the years he amassed a personal collection of thousands of insect specimens meticulously categorized by taxonomic rank. He raised many broods of caterpillars to adult moths and butterflies to release and help repopulate rarer species native to Illinois.

Frank's ardor for the natural world led him on countless nature walks and to dozens of favorite fishing holes. He befriended every animal that crossed his path and was known to raise baby turtles from eggs and care for fawns and orphaned rabbits. His love of the outdoors was paired with a thirst for adventure, whether it be hiking rocky desert terrain in the American southwest, or canoeing the lakes of Minnesota's vast Boundary Waters. In his lifetime he conquered Pikes Peak, swam with sharks, and explored lush jungles of Nicaragua and Belize.

However, nothing out-of-doors brought him more joy than the serenity of his own backyard gardens, where he enjoyed watching new life springing up from the seeds he had sown. Here he could be glimpsed most afternoons, humming to himself the catalogues of Harry Chapin, The Righteous Brothers, or full-throated renditions of songs from Les Miserables. Always up for cards, Frank took great pleasure in beating his kids at rummy games that went long into the night. He enjoyed basketball and even in the final years of his life could still dribble circles around his grandchildren and sink three-pointers with ease.

We will miss his enthusiastic storytelling and quick wit,

but will find comfort in knowing we can all reap the benefits of the knowledge and love he cultivated in our hearts.

Cremation will be accorded, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Peoria Academy of Science.

Condolences and memories may be shared through Davison-Fulton.com

Services

No services are scheduled at this time. Receive a notification when services are updated.

GET REMINDERS

In Memory Of

Franklin Ray Hitchell



VIEW



Click to light a candle

20 CANDLES HAVE BEEN LIT

ADD A MEMORY

ALL MEMORIES FROM THE FAMILY

Mike and April Cheesman
Friend

06/16/2024

We were blessed recipients of Frank's kind generosity and skills. Our heartfelt gratitude to him for always including us in his circle of friends, who he carefully selected to receive his time and talents. We were shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. He lived a full and vibrant life. Our sincere condolences to Carol and his beloved children (and their children).

He was so proud of all of your accomplishments and was so pleased to share many interesting stories about all of you. Frank will be remembered everyday of our lives as we appreciate the benefit of his skills in our lovely home. God bless all of you. Mike and April Cheesman



ADD A COMMENT

Ray Green
Colleague

06/16/2024

My sincere condolences to you, Carol and your family. Frank & I worked together for many years. Not only was he a master carpenter, he was a great friend. He will be missed and thought of every day.
Ray Green



ADD A COMMENT

Bill Lea
Friend

06/14/2024

I am SO SORRY to hear of Frank's passing. My heart reaches out to his entire family, including Toby. Frank and I spent a lot of time together in high school and for a few years after. He was always smart and athletic. I regret I have not stayed in touch with Frank over the years. I know he will be missed

as I know he always had a strong presence. May the Lord be with Frank and all of his friends and family.

With Love,
Bill Lea



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ADD A COMMENT

Pat Dille
Friend

06/13/2024

A lovely obituary Carol. Continuing prayers for you and the family. My heart aches with and for all of you. Much love.



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ADD A COMMENT





Express your sympathy with flowers

Flowers express sympathy and respect. They can be delivered to the funeral home, the family's home, a place of worship or elsewhere.



[SEND FLOWERS](#)

Daniel Maloof
Friend

06/12/2024

Carol,
We were so saddened when we read about Frank.
He was one of kind, he will be missed, such a great man!, We are so sorry for your loss,
We had lively times together alway. Such a gentleman !
Dan and Katie Maloof



[ADD A COMMENT](#)

Bob Carlson

06/09/2024

BOB CARSON

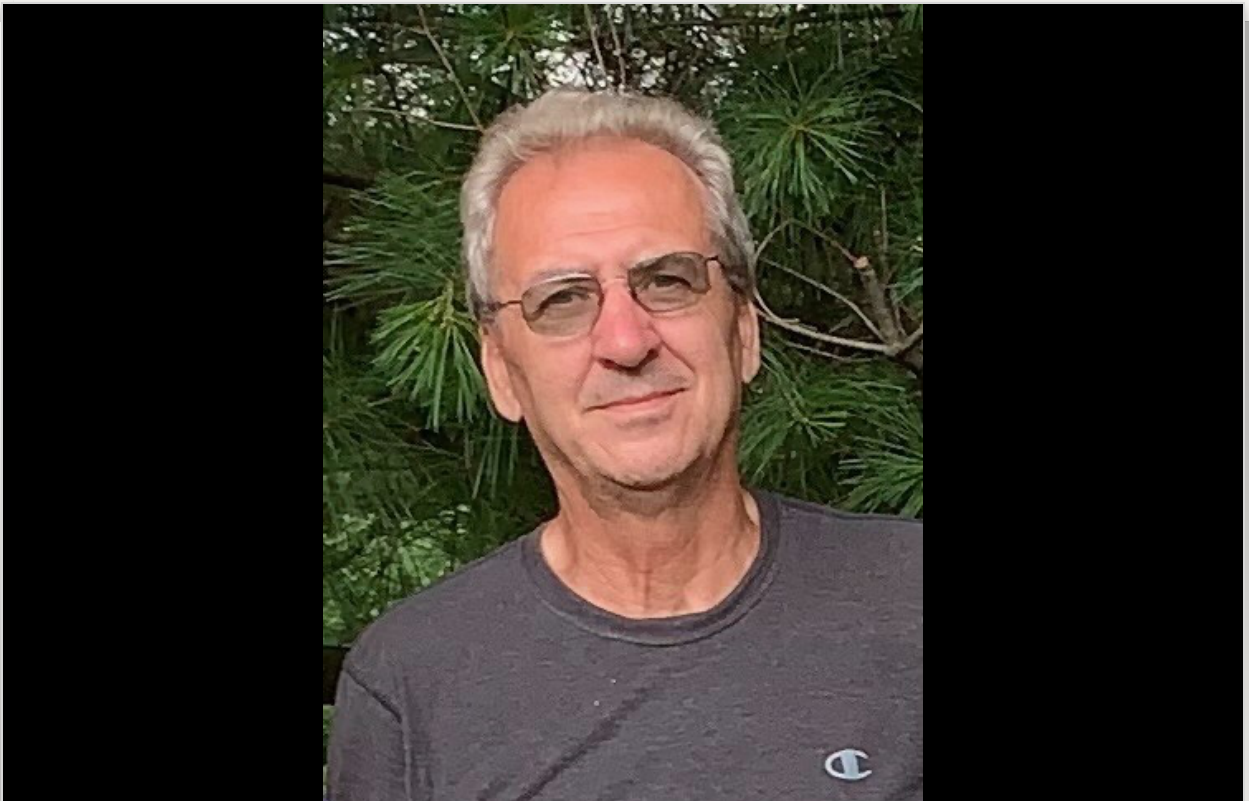
08/07/2024

Friend

Carol and kids, we are most shocked hearing about Frank. We offer our sincerest condolences and prayers to you at this very difficult time. We remember many enjoyable times with you and Frank. Bob and Desiree

♡ 1

+ ADD A COMMENT



From the Family

♡ 5

+ ADD A COMMENT

Every Detail Remembered™

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