

# David J. Matthews



## FUNERAL HOME

Ritchay Funeral Home  
1950 12TH ST SOUTH  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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Wisconsin Rapids - David J. Matthews, age 68, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, died Friday, December 21, 2018 at Aspirus Riverview Hospital after a two year hard fought battle with Agent Orange related illnesses.

Memorial Services will be held 11:00 AM on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Ritchay Funeral Home in Wisconsin Rapids. Deacon Jerry Ruesch will officiate the service, military rites will be provided by Wisconsin Rapids VFW Post #2534. Visitation will be held at Ritchay Funeral Home on Wednesday from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, and again on Thursday from 10:00 AM until the time of services.

David was born January 1950 in Wisconsin Rapids to the late Emmett and Hazel (Koth) Matthews. He attended local schools and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1969. He served in Vietnam in the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine division and was stationed near DaNang. He received the Navy Achievement Medal. He married Lana Huebner in September 1972 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wisconsin Rapids.

David was employed by Emmett Matthews Construction from 1971 to 1980. In 1980 he joined the Wood County Sherriff's Department. While employed as a deputy Sherriff he served on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Professional Policeman's Association, and was Vice President of the Wood County Professional Policeman's Association. He was also a field training officer, range officer, and certified armorer for Smith & Wesson, Remington and Colt firearms. In 2003 he was promoted to Jail Sergeant where he remained until his retirement in 2006. He was employed part-time by James Bruener Timber Products until 2013.

David was a boy scout in his youth, and served as a pack leader at Grant Elementary School. He enjoyed reading Louis L'Amour books in his free time. In retirement he took up woodworking. Each piece he made was a special project from the heart for the recipient. He and Lana enjoyed many years camping with dear friends at Petenwell Park. David enjoyed telling stories to anyone who would listen, and loved a good, or bad, joke.

David is survived by his wife Lana, of Wisconsin Rapids, children: Gretchen (Harold) Engelbright of Weston, WI and Seth (Becky Harder) Matthews of Tiffin, OH, grandchildren: Maverick (Marissa Nechuta) Ashbeck, Rachel, Emmett and Henry Engelbright, and Elaine Matthews; siblings: Mark (Sara) Matthews and Kris Pagels of Wisconsin Rapids and Sarah (Ralph) Purdun of Fall Creek; and many nieces and nephews.

Sandra and brother-in-law Phil Pagels.

Memorial donations can be made to the Gary Sinise Foundation in David's name.



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