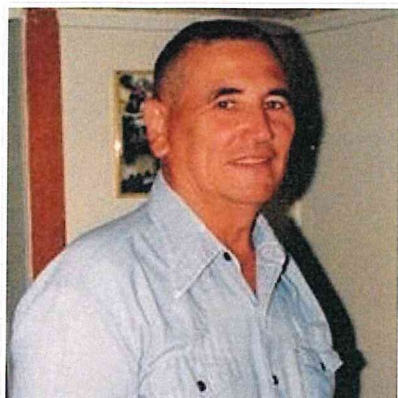


Leroy Baker

February 10, 1930 ~ October 31, 2014 (age 84)



Leroy Baker, 84, of Hoopeston, passed away at 8:27 p.m. Friday, October 31, 2014, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Baker was born on February 10, 1930, in Hoopeston, the son of Sterling and Sophia (Burton) Baker. He married Margaret Joan Mullins on February 1, 1952. She preceded him in death on July 27, 2000.

He is survived by one daughter- Sandy Pickett of Hoopeston; four grandchildren- Eric (Carole) Catron, Brian (Jannifer) Catron, Gary Catron, and Mark (Dara) Catron; nine great-grandchildren; half-brother- Sterling "Butch" Baker of Paris, Illinois; half -sister- Melvina Baker of Paris, Illinois; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, four sisters-Dorothy Lee, Shirley Calvert, Lettie Arlington and Bearl Nolan and four brothers- Leonard Baker, Daniel Baker, Joseph Baker and John Baker.

Mr. Baker proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War, enlisting in 1947, fighting on the front lines and serving as a Petroleum Specialist. Following his wartime enlistment, he spent many years in the Army Reserve where he was promoted to Sergeant in 1977. He worked at FMC in Hoopeston for 38 years, until he retired on February 27, 1992. He was also a member of the Hoopeston Jaycees for several years. Mr. Baker enjoyed dogs, riding motorcycles, taking car rides, talking about his time in the Army and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Mr. Baker's Life will be at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday November 5, 2014, at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Chapel, with Steve Unger officiating. Burial will follow the service in Floral Hill Cemetery, with full military honors conducted by the Hoopeston American Legion. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the family. The family has entrusted the Blurton Funeral Home to assist them in honoring Mr. Baker's life. Memories or photos may be shared with the family on his memorial page at: www.blurtonfunerlahomes.com.