



## Dennis Gene Askew

November 18, 1942 - May 25, 2024

Dennis Gene Askew, age 81, of Kankakee passed away peacefully to be with his savior on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born November 18, 1942 in Kankakee, the son of Clyde & Dorothy (Eden) Askew. Dennis married Leah Mae Leach on May 14, 1965 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kankakee.

Dennis was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He lived most of his life in Kankakee and was a graduate of St. Paul's Lutheran School and Kankakee High School.

Dennis' first job was at his father's restaurant where he met the love of his life, Leah. They were married for almost 60 years.

Dennis served in the United States Army as a Field Wireman at the 24th Evac Hospital and was a proud Vietnam Veteran. During his service he could do, make, or fix almost anything.

Dennis was especially gifted in engineering and could fix almost any machine. He worked for many places such as Arthur Motor Works, Home Appliance, Sherwin Williams, and the East Court Villages where he fixed any issues in the building. He loved helping the seniors that lived in the building.

Denny was kind, helpful, and fun to be around. He loved working on cars and motorcycles, music, reading, traveling, especially to Florida, and helping family and friends build things. Denny enjoyed scuba diving and was a PADI certified diver, instructor, and divemaster. Denny was president of the KUDA Club (Kankakee Underwater Diving Association). He enjoyed his children's

musicals and show choir events of which he always helped at. He loved his grandchildren and being around his great-granddaughter.

Denny was a member of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Surviving are his wife of nearly 60 years, Leah Mae Askew of Kankakee; one son, Robert (Yvette) Askew of Aliso Viejo, CA; one daughter, Christine (Joel) Vaughn of Kankakee; one brother, Duane Askew of Madison, WI; two grandchildren, Hayley (Tom) Kelly and Charlie Vaughn; one great-granddaughter, Eleanora; and many nieces and nephews. Dennis is preceded in death by his loving parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private family inurnment will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

A celebration of life for Dennis will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes, where they will use the money for veteran related causes.

# Cemetery Details

## **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**

20953 W. Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421  
(815) 423-9958  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

# Tribute Wall

PJ

“ Thinking of you and your family and sending prayers for all of you in your time of sorrow.

*Pam*

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**Pam Johnson** - June 24, 2024 at 10:11 PM

CP

“ So sorry for your loss Leah. Kathy and I are thinking of you.

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**chuck parker** - June 24, 2024 at 03:16 PM

GP

“ Leah, I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

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**Gene Plumlee** - June 24, 2024 at 01:09 PM

AW

“ So sorry, you are in my prayers.

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**Alice Wasson** - June 24, 2024 at 12:20 PM

BV

“ Leah and family, so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Leah for many years at St. Marys in MICU. I didn't know Dennis, personally but I remember all the funny stories she would share. Prayers for the family. *Becky Burt Vine*

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**Becky Burt Vine** - June 09, 2024 at 09:11 AM

JL

“ Denny was my best friend in high school, as well as the other french horn in the band (he was better than me by the way). Speaking of horns - we were both sitting on the open rear hatch of Jack Changon's station wagon blowing our trumpets during a mobile pep rally when a sudden stop left just enough time to pull our legs in before the car following crashed into us. As I recall he was always building some sort of mechanical device. Then of course, he lucked-out and met Leah. So long buddy, and thanks for having been part of my life.

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**Jon LaRoche** - June 06, 2024 at 06:43 PM

ML

“ Leah sorry for loss of Dennis. May the Lord and memories heal your grief. Marge Lawler EKG

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**marge lawler** - June 04, 2024 at 07:57 PM

MG

“ So sorry to read about Denny passing. He was a good guy and fun to be around. I remember so many Show Choir events with him and Leah. I am sure you all will miss him greatly. My sympathy to the family.

*Maria and Ron Glasgow*

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**Maria Glasgow** - June 04, 2024 at 12:45 PM

JB

“ Didn't know Denny personally but believe he was one of the first owners of a MoPed in our age group back in the late 50's.

*Jerry the Mailman*

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**jerry bjick** - June 03, 2024 at 11:46 AM

DL

“ Leah, my condolences to you & all your family on the recent loss of your husband.



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**Debra K. Lambert** - May 30, 2024 at 07:04 PM

JS

“ We only spent much time with Denny when he spent winters with Pat and Ron. He was always working. He and Ron could fix anything between the two of them. They devised lights on our pontoon boat. Not very pretty but worked great.

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**Joe Steffey** - May 30, 2024 at 04:32 PM