

### **VanValkenburgh, Richard**

Richard "Rick" Lee VanValkenburgh, 41, passed away Thursday evening, May 8, 2003, at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor after a three-year battle with leukemia. He was born April 6, 1962 in Howell to Evelyn (Perkins) VanValkenburgh and the late James VanValkenburgh. Rick moved to the Pinnebog area with his parents when he was a child and went to school at Elkton-Pigeon-Bay-Port Lakers. He was united in marriage to Linda J. King in Bad Axe. He became a residential carpenter working with the family business, "VanValkenburgh Brothers," and also Goretski Builders in Port Austin, but was forced to retire recently for health reasons. Rick continued with his carpentry skills by building birdhouses and feeders, and other woodcrafts. He was an avid fisherman both on the water and the ice. He also enjoyed hunting deer and small game. Surviving are his wife, Linda; two sons, Brandon Sammarco of Warren, and Ray, who lives at home; his daughter, Crystal Sammarco of Bad Axe; two grandchildren, Dominick and Jasmine; his mother, Evelyn Morin, of Pinnebog; also surviving are nine brothers, Robert, of Pinnebog, Randy and his wife, Lori, of Port Austin, Tom and his wife, Carol, of Dectour, Texas, Ray and his wife, Dawn, of Elkton, Doug, of Fillion, Steve, of Pinnebog, Mike and his wife, Tammy, of Deckerville, Jim, of Pinnebog, and John and his wife, Gina, of Caseville; six sisters, Judy Bannister and her husband, Lewis, of Snover, Bobbie Churchill and her husband, Skip, of Cass City, Laura Stauffer and her husband, Jim, of Pinnebog, Linda Wood and her husband, Ken, of Pigeon, Chris Swartzendruber and her husband, Marv, of Pigeon, Kathy Birchfield, of Elkton; two step-brothers, Jim and Ervin; a step-sister, Janet VanValkenburgh, all of Pigeon; and 58 nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 12, 2003, at the Champagne Funeral Chapel in Elkton. Burial will be in the Chandler Township Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. until the service time on Monday. Friends may sign the guest book at [www.CFCelkton.com](http://www.CFCelkton.com)