

Swanson, David

David Arnold Swanson, 57, died Wednesday, October 29, 2003, in Grand Rapids after a short illness. David was born May 1, 1946 in Huron County. David's father was Carl Arthur Swanson, originally of Crystal Falls, who had a dentistry practice in Ubly, in the 1940s and 1950s. His mother was Grace Swanson, originally of Port Austin. They had six children, Paul, Frederick "Fritz", Eric, David, Carl and Ann. David's father, Carl Arthur "Doc" Swanson died in 1953 of a heart attack, and his mother, Grace, and four of his siblings, Paul, Fritz, Carl and Ann, died in 1954 in an auto accident while driving in Huron County. From 1954 David and Eric were raised in Port Huron with their uncle and aunt, Carl and Nan Schwedler, along with their three sons, Rick, Pat, and Carl. David was an altar server at St. Edward's and St. Mary's Parishes in Port Huron, and graduated from Port Huron High School in 1964. He broke his neck that summer in a diving accident. David received an associates degree from St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron in 1967, and attended Wayne State University in Detroit, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He received a law degree in 1972 from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. From the late 1970s to recent years, David practiced law in Benton Harbor, with his uncle, Thomas Robinson, and his cousin, Jim Ford, in the law firm of Robinson, Ford and Swanson. He lately resided with his cousin, Stan Slavin and his wife, Nancy, in Benton Harbor. He was a member of the Berrien County and Michigan Bar Associations. David was an active member of the St. Bernard's Parish of Benton Harbor, where he participated in the Crusillo movement, taught Catechism and was a member of the Benton Harbor Council of the Knights of Columbus. David had a lifetime avocation for birding, and was a supporter of Sarett Nature Center in Benton Township. In the last couple of years, he was a resident of the Michigan Assisted Breathing Center in Grand Rapids. David's remaining brother, Eric, preceded him in death in 1965. His Aunt Nan Schwedler preceded him in death in 1972. Pat Schwedler preceded him in death in 1985, and his Uncle Carl Schwedler preceded him in death in 1993. David is survived by Rick Schwedler and his wife, Jean, of Port Huron, and their two children, Barbara Greaux, of Port Huron and Julie Schwedler, currently residing in Tennessee; Debbie Ladensack and Pat's two children, Sarah and Amy, all of Port Huron; Carl Schwedler and his wife, Marcia Berry, of Davis, California, and their four children, Lena, Grace, Catherine and Luke; Stan and Nancy Slavin, of Benton Harbor and their children, Elaine Slavin, residing in South Carolina, Charles and Louis, of Kalamazoo; and Raymond and Norah of Benton Harbor; his aunts and uncles, Chuck Ehlen, of Chicago, Tida and Bob Finan, of Port Austin, Ann Schwedler, of Port Austin, Susan Schwedler, of Bay City, Margaret Howard, of Benton Harbor, Bill Robinson, of Detroit, John and Betty Robinson, of St. Joseph, Gert Preble, of Fremont, Tom and Audrey Robinson, of South Haven, Dorothy and Joe Ludlum, and Sally and Dick Tucker, of Allegan; numerous cousins and dear friends throughout the state of Michigan and beyond, including his close friend, Jean Domer, of Sawyer. Mass of Resurrection was at noon today at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Benton Harbor with Father William J. Jacobs Jr. officiating. A commitment service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2003, at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 4470 Washington St., Ubly, with Pastor Thomas J. Fleming presiding. Burial will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Cemetery on M-19/Ubly Road. Memorials may be made to the Sarett Nature Center, 2300 Benton Center Road., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.