

Willoughby, George

George W. Willoughby, 55, retired Michigan State Trooper, of Caseville, died Saturday, March 1, 2003, at his home from multiple heart and lung problems. He was born Oct. 16, 1947 in Ann Arbor and grew up in Monroe with his parents, the late Harold and Doris Willoughby. After high school, he studied chemical engineering at Northern Michigan University on a football scholarship. After a serious knee injury, his interest took a turn toward law enforcement. In 1969, on his 21st birthday, he applied for and was accepted into the 76th Recruit School. He was first assigned to the St. Clair Post in December of 1969 and was nominated Trooper of the Year in 1972. In 1973, he was transferred to Grand Haven, and to Rockford in 1974. In 1975, he was assigned to duty in Lansing, working in various capacities, including his assistance in the development of the Automated Major Case System. He was a consultant with the investigation of such notorious cases as the Son of Sam killings and the Hilltop Strangler, among others. He was promoted to sergeant in 1981 and assigned to the Sandusky Post. In 1986, he came to the Bad Axe Post and became a very active part of the Elkton community, which he had done in every community that he had been assigned. He was the chairman of the Huron County Youth Advisory Board, and spent many hours renovating the building that's now known as the Huron Youth Center. He served on the Elkton Village Council and became mayor. In 1991, he was again nominated Trooper of the Year. In 1993 he became a lieutenant, assigned to Gladwin, and in 1994, a first lieutenant serving in East Tawas. After retiring in 1995, George returned to Huron County and settled in Caseville where he enjoyed the Saginaw Bay, fishing and boating. Surviving are his daughter, Brandi Johnston and her husband, Chris, of Johnstown, Ohio; a son, Skip Willoughby, of East Pointe; two grandchildren, Blake and Rilee; and two brothers, Cal Lane of North Carolina and Fredrick Willoughby of Nevada. A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2003, at the Champagne Funeral Chapel, Elkton. The Caseville Eagles will conduct their ritual at 7 p.m. tonight at the funeral home. Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. tonight and after 10 a.m. on Saturday. Memorials may be directed to the family. Friends may sign the guest book at www.CFCelkton.com.