

Francell, Gary D.

Gary David Francell, 66, passed away suddenly on Monday, October 9, 2006, in Fort Myers, Florida at his residence. He was born December 12, 1939 in Detroit to Mary S. (Lievens) Francell and the late David P. Francell. He was a builder by trade. He is survived by his daughter, Debra, and son-in-law, Kerry Mahoney, of Farmersville, Texas; and his mother, Mary S. Cucrcua, of Fort Myers, Florida. Gary was a partner in the construction company, Indesco Corporation, in the 1960s and early 1970s which constructed the Troy Hilton and participated in developing industrial parks and a big section of the Maple Road area in Oakland County. He subsequently was a general partner in Pine Knob Investment Company in the 1970s to the early 1980s which owned and operated the Pine Knob Entertainment Complex, including, but not limited to, the Pine Knob Ski Resort, the outdoor amphitheater, and the Pine Knob mansion. Gary relocated to the Fort Myers, Florida area in the mid-1980s where he continued work developing commercial and residential properties for his own company, Panther Corporation, which worked in conjunction with Regal Properties developing various shopping centers and office complexes in Fort Myers, Florida. Gary then worked in conjunction with Imperial Property Development through the late 1990s developing and constructing exquisite homes in the Naples, Florida area that included the home selected as the "Dream Home" in early 1998. Gary continued some property investment projects over the past five years during which time he also spent time with his continuous hobby of collecting all sorts of things, especially antiques and depression glass, watching the stock market, eBay purchasing, spending time outdoors, and sailing; helping care for his mother whom he brought to live with him (and for whom he splurged on satellite TV for all of the Piston's games so she would agree to relocate from Michigan); long conversations with his daughter, Debra; and spending some time with his few close friends. Gary was always modest and understated and would rather you thought he was a construction worker than an owner. He always worked hard and greatly valued the few people he trusted, just as they did him. He will be greatly missed by his mother, daughter, son-in-law, and closest friends, all of whom are fortunate to have had him in their lives and are glad he helped develop many things they can still see for many years to come. He will be laid to rest in Ugly as he desired to be close to his father who predeceased him. Visitation for family and friends will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2006, at Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home, 2091 E. Main Street, Ugly (989) 658-8501. Interment will follow at the St. Ignatius Cemetery.