

Grifka, Richard

Richard C. "Bear" Grifka, 58, of Warren, passed away Sunday, November 30, 2003, at his residence after an extended illness. He was a resident of Warren for 31 years. Richard was born on April 19, 1945 in Cass City to Olive (Stepka) Grifka and the late Alex J. Grifka. Richard was a 1963 graduate of Ubly High School. He drove gas tankers for 12 years. He was a member of the Teamsters Union and the Carpenters Union. He was a member of the Polish League of American Veterans No. 165 in Warren and a Moose Lodge member. He was a member of the Eagles Club for 30 years, serving as secretary for seven years. He liked to do crosswords, golf, play cards, hunt, and race cars at the Ubly Dragway. He enjoyed all sports, especially football. Richard is survived by one daughter, Tammy Grifka, of Casco; four sons, Jack Grifka, of Warren, Carl Grifka and his wife, April, of Warren, Rick Grifka, of Warren, Bear Grifka and his wife, Amanda, of Marquette; his significant other, Kathy Logan, of Warren; 14 grandchildren; his mother, Olive Grifka, of Snover; six brothers, Anthony "Tony" Grifka and his wife, Jean, of Ubly, Bill Grifka and his wife, Mary, of Chelsea, Ron Grifka, of Ubly, Jim Grifka and his wife, Elaine, of Caro, Lee Grifka and his wife, Sandy, of Deckerville, Tom Grifka, of Sandusky; three sisters, Kay Muma, Ann Shatto and her husband, Walt, and Mae Grifka, all of Snover; and many nieces and nephews. Richard was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Jamie Lee Grifka; his father, Alex Grifka; one brother, Alan Grifka. Funeral mass will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2003, at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Freiburg. The Rev. T.J. Fleming, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. There will be a parish vigil service at 8 p.m. today at the Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home of Ubly. Visitation will be from 1:30 to 9:30 p.m. today and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home.