



Melvin M. Steffen

December 9, 1941 - May 18, 2026

Melvin M. Steffen, 84, of Poplar Grove, Illinois, passed away on May 18, 2026 at OSF-Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rockford, IL. Born on December 9, 1941, he lived a life defined by dedication to family, hard work, resilience, and faith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Pearl Steffen, and his brothers, Donald D. Steffen and Gary J. Steffen, and his first wife, Elaine Steffen (Mainiero) from 1967-1985.

Mel is survived by his loving wife of nearly 39 years, Susann; his daughters, Cathy (Joe) Simonini, Shelly Mizell, Victoria Minakes, Annette (Jim) Fulcher, and Lena (Scott) Altergott; his cherished grandchildren, Jordan (Erika) Creasy, Hayden (Katie) Creasy, Carissa Volpendesta, Jarod (Kristy) Resh, Hunter Simonini, Zachary Fulcher, Cierra (Jacob Vallee) Volpendesta, Kaitlin (Alex) Schoenfeldt, Kyle Fulcher, Emily Karst, Isabella Simonini, and Shayna Altergott; and beloved great-grandchildren, Carter, Cooper, Daisy, Casey, and Winnie Creasy.

Mel proudly served his country in the United States Army for two years. Following his service, he spent much of his career in manufacturing, where he was respected for his strong work ethic and leadership. In later years, he owned and operated Simply the Best Painting and Decorating until his retirement.

Outside of work, Mel enjoyed golfing, bowling, and playing cards with family and friends. He took great pride in maintaining his beautifully manicured landscape and was known for his famous “Garage Mahal,” where everything had its proper place.

Mel will be remembered as a loving husband, generous and present father and grandpa and cherished brother. He is widely known for his unwavering positivity, especially as he courageously faced many health challenges throughout his life. No matter the circumstance, when asked how he was doing, he would often smile and reply, “Still kicking! Not as high, but still kicking!”

His strength, humor, and love for his family will never be forgotten. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Services were held at Niko’ Supper Club.