



Howard "Howie" Wayne Wilkes

September 10, 1941 - April 25, 2020

Howard Wayne Wilkes "Howie", age 78, passed away on April 25, 2020 at Essentia Health in Duluth, MN. He was born to W. Ray and Ruth Wilkes on Sept. 10, 1941 in Wahkon, MN and grew up in Barnum, MN. He graduated from Barnum High School in 1959 and entered the Army National Guard serving over 4 years. He married Sandra Lee Hurst in 1961 and had 2 sons, Monty Lee Wilkes and Wm. Ray Wilkes.

Howie was an excellent bass player for 58 years and a singer, bringing music to many people in the area. He was always there to help with benefits, fund raisers, and wedding dances. Any band would be happy to have him "sit in" with his steady and strong bass playing. Best known bands he played in were the Leisure Brothers, Dogs Playing Cards, and The Milkbone Band. Howie was inducted into the Minnesota Rock Country Hall of Fame on Oct. 12, 2019.

Together with Sandy, they managed and maintained hundreds of housing rental units in Superior, Duluth, Proctor and Cloquet.

Howie loved to garden, canoe down the Kettle River with Zim, and spend time outdoors as much as possible.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents; 5 brothers and sisters; and his son, Monty. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; son, Wm. Ray Wilkes "Harpo"; sister, Margie McKinney; and several nieces and nephews.

It is hoped to have a get together at a later time.

Letters and cards of condolence may be sent to the family c/o Atkins Northland Funeral Home, 801 14th Street, Cloquet, MN 55720.

Comments



“ I'm at work listening to Howie's disk, "Out of the Snow," and reminiscing about the times I was fortunate enough to play with Howie in Milkbone. I was so fresh back to the band scene when I was invited into the fold, and Howie was so kind and welcoming. I'll never forget the first time I nailed some nice harmonies on the chorus of one of his songs, and he smiled down at me from the upper tier in the corner of the Endzone. He made me feel like I belonged. I'll never forget him.

Karen Draeger - October 19, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ Howie's love of music brought him a joy that he wanted to share with everyone he met. While recording my dad's CD, Howie shared a lot of advice with me about nurturing my musicianship and maintaining my love of music. His kindness was infectious, causing me to use the same attitude with younger musicians whom I encounter. Years later, my eldest daughter told me that Howie was, "the cutest man." He certainly was a looker as well. I'll miss you Howie. Much love, my friend.

Luke Lekander - May 22, 2020 at 12:29 PM