

William F. 'Hoppy' Hopkins

Aug. 6, 1942 - Jan. 1, 2006

William F. "Hoppy" Hopkins, 63, Kokomo, died at 2:12 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006, in Summerlin Hospital, Las Vegas, Nev., while visiting his granddaughter. Born Aug. 6, 1942, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was a son of James and Beatrice (Reilly) Hopkins. On Dec. 23, 1964, in Kokomo, he married Benita C. "Betty" (Valadez) Hopkins.

He served with the U.S. Air Force from Oct. 22, 1963, to Dec. 21, 1967. During his military career he was on alert for the 305th Bomb Wing at Grissom Air Force Base. He was a group leader at Delco Electronics, retiring in 1993 after 23 years.

He was a member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Eagles Lodge 255 and a proud supporter and life member of the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion. Bill was a devoted family man and he took pride seeing his youngest grandchildren, Jacob, Hannah and Shelby, grow up. He loved to watch his grandchildren's sporting events. Also on his list of favorites were his wife's home cooking, the Purdue Boilermakers and the New York Yankees.

He is survived by his wife, Betty C. Hopkins; two sons, Tomas and wife Brenda Hopkins, Steven and Marsha Sanders, all of Kokomo; three daughters, Susan Bartrum and Cinthia McDonald, both of Kokomo, Tiffin and husband Louis Despres, San Antonio, Texas; 13 grandchildren, Amy Ropes and her companion Blane Secrease, Las Vegas, Nev., Rachel Bartrum, Jordan, Jacob, Shelby and Hannah Hopkins, all of Kokomo, Nolan and Cameron Sanders, Kokomo, Brett Downs, Dallas, Texas, Robert Domitrovich, Adam, Aubrie and Darci Despres, all of San Antonio, Texas; three sisters, Barbara and husband Hank Franczese, Boca Raton, Fla., Irene and husband Tony Garcia, Peggy and husband Richie DeLuca, all of Long Island, N.Y.; numerous nieces and nephews; and many close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 3155 S. 200 W., with Pastor Dennis O'Keefe presiding. Burial will be in Crown Point Cemetery with military honors provided by the Air Force and the Kokomo VFW Military Rites Team. Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m. Friday with a scripture service scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Ellers Mortuary Webster Street Mortuary, 3400 S. Webster St. Memorials may be made to the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Reunion. Envelopes will be available at the mortuary.

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