



## Henry Martin DeVries

April 7, 1941 - May 13, 2017

Henry "Big Hank" DeVries, 76, The Villages, FL passed into our Lord's arms May 13, 2017, surrounded by family and friends. Hank was born April 7, 1941, in Evergreen Park, IL. He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry & Henrietta DeVries, his sister Floretta Iacono, his daughter, Laura Williams, and his first wife, Beverly Ekholm who was the mother of his two children, Laura and Timothy. He will be greeted with wagging tails by Shotzie, Cody and Sammy. Hank is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 39 years, Marilyn (Chinni). Also surviving are his son, Timothy (Jeri) and their son, Benjamin; his granddaughter, Megan Compton, and her children, Evan & Hanna; and his grandson, Robbie Williams, and his daughter, Kylea. Hank had many siblings: Brothers Denny (Carol), Bill (Carol), Jim (Diane), George (Tammy) and Chuck. His sisters Marlene DeVries, Carol (Mike) Garner, June (Barry) Saidat, and Henrietta (Mike) Timm.

He had many nieces and nephews that he loved and was so proud to be their uncle plus many cousins too numerous to mention. Hank graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School in 1961 where he was a member of the 50 year all-star teams in basketball, football, boys cross country and track. He attended the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, IA and played AAU basketball. He worked 30 years for the Chessie System (now CSX Railroad) in the Chicago area, first as a trainman and retired in 1997 as a Power Coordinator officer for CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, FL. Hank and Marilyn retired to The Villages in 1997 where Hank golfed and played

baseball. He loved volunteering for many years with New Life Carpenters for Christ building ramps for people who were handicapped. Almost every day Hank proudly wore his New Life Carpenters for Christ T-shirt with his carpenter's suspenders. Hank's family and friends will miss his giving heart, his ready smile, his big hugs and his joking manner.

Visitation will be from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Saturday, May 20th followed by a religious service at Beyers Funeral Home Chapel, Lady Lake, FL with Pastor Daryl Allen of Community United Methodist Church, Fruitland, Park officiating. Afterward there will be a Celebration of Life brunch at La Hacienda Recreation Center in The Villages. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to New Life Carpenters for Christ, PO Box 57, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ *What a delight it was to see Hank first thing in the morning at Santiago Pool. He emanated calm loving energy that touched all of us, shared a sweet sense of humor, and was always ready with a hug to brighten anyone's day. So glad I got to start those morning with him.*

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**Michele Lupowitz** - May 21, 2017 at 11:59 AM

BT

“ *Heartfelt sympathy to your family...we both thought a great deal of Hank. What a good guy!*

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**Bob and Billie Thatcher** - May 19, 2017 at 09:14 AM

MG

“ *I wish to express my condolences on the passing of your loving husband, Marilyn. I will hold you in my thoughts and prayers throughout this most difficult time in your life. I am sure he would be proud of the beautiful obit you wrote because I feel I got to know him by your description of his life.*

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**Mary Frances Gerace** - May 18, 2017 at 06:05 PM

SG

“ Tim,

*We were all saddened to hear of you father's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I have already taken your advice and reached out to my mother just to let her know I was thinking of her. It really is important to show our love for our family while we have the opportunity.*

*Please let us know how we can help.*

*Your friends at Hoyt*

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**Steven Goode** - May 18, 2017 at 10:03 AM

KP

“ *Our hearts are filled with sadness. We will miss Hank but are so happy to have known him for all these years. He was always so caring and helpful in so ways to us and our families. It will not be the same in The Villages for us without him. Our deepest sympathy to Marilyn and all the Family.*

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**Keith & Dot Pokorny** - May 18, 2017 at 09:24 AM

BC

“ *Sorry to hear of Hanks passing, he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Marylin, and with all of his family.*

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**Bob & Jan Courts** - May 18, 2017 at 08:18 AM

DH

“ *My Deepest Sympathy to The Family.  
Hanks caring and dedication to our work with  
Carpenter for Christ was an inspiration.  
He will missed so much. Peace be with you.*

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**Dan Halstead** - May 17, 2017 at 02:09 PM

GT

“ *Although I cannot be at the service for Hank on Saturday, Marilyn  
will be on my mind, in my heart and in my prayers. He was a good  
man.*

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**Gayle Tice** - May 17, 2017 at 09:13 AM

GT

“ *Although I cannot be at the service for Hank on Saturday, Marilyn  
will be on my mind, in my heart and in my prayers. He was a good  
man.*

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**Gayle Tice** - May 17, 2017 at 09:11 AM

GT

“ *Although I cannot be at the service for Hank on Saturday, Marilyn  
will be on my mind, in my heart and in my prayers. He was a good  
man.*

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**Gayle Tice** - May 17, 2017 at 09:08 AM

BR

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss Marilyn. God be with you as you face  
the days ahead. The neighborhood will not be the same without Big  
Hank*

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**Betty & Everett Rhyner** - May 17, 2017 at 12:28 AM