



Clarke G. Picken Jr.

May 17, 1949 - November 11, 2022

Clarke G. Picken Jr., 73, of Manito, passed away Friday, November 11, 2022, at his home. He was born May 17, 1949, in Dallas City, Illinois, the son of Clark G. and Viola (DeFrates) Picken.

Surviving are his wife: Brenda L. (Eggers) Picken; three brothers: Mannie (Carol) Roberts, Rick Picken and Max Picken, all of Manito; four sons: Kelly (Patia) Picken, of Manito, Kim (Tara) Picken of Morton, Craig Picken, of Manito, Joe (Jenny) Iles, of Lincoln; and daughter: Melissa Echols-Sherry of Woodridge; as well as numerous nieces, and nephews. Also surviving are eleven grandchildren: Chase Picken, Camryn Picken, Gage Picken, Harper Picken, Blair Picken, Amanda Picken, Jake (Andrea) Dean, Jarrett Dean, Julia Dean, Grace Echols, and Vanessa Sherry; and two great-grandchildren: Pete Abel and Tenley Dean. He was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers: Charlie, Frank, Tom, Bob, and Edward Picken; one son, Brian, as well as one nephew: Daniel Roberts.

Clarke grew up in Forest City and was a 1967 graduate of Forman High School. He was a very talented athlete. Clarke was a joy to watch on the basketball court, often scoring more than half of the baskets for the team at each game. He also excelled at pole vaulting. He still holds the record for Forman High School. He worked for thirty-eight years at Illinois American Water in Pekin. Clarke spent countless hours operating a backhoe with his co-workers that he considered to be friends.

After retirement, he fell in love with the game of golf. He absolutely enjoyed

every minute that he spent on the course with family and best friends, Howard Cooper and Carl Meeker.

Clarke and Brenda spent their summers at Campers Village Oak Run. He loved spending time at the campground with friends & family, golfing, fishing, and visiting with everyone on golf cart rides.

He spent the majority of his life living at Spring Lake. Friends and family would visit him often and enjoy his constant infectious smile. Clarke was always smiling, whistling, and spreading his good mood to others.

Clarke spent over thirty years married to the love of his life. Clarke and Brenda were inseparable. Very rarely did you see one without the other. He truly enjoyed spending time with his loved ones. He will be greatly missed by all, and his smile, kindness and fun guitar songs will be permanently etched in our hearts and minds!

The Picken family will be having a private family funeral service at Maas-Hurley Funeral Home on Thursday, November 17, 2022. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Following the services, cremation rites will be accorded and burial will be held at Glendale Memorial Gardens, in Pekin, at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society to be put towards Prostate Cancer Research. Online memorial messages may be left for the family at www.hurleyfh.com.

Maas-Hurley Funeral Home in Manito is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

BP

“ *Brenda, we're so sorry for your loss. Please know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Mike & Barb Polson*

Barb Polson - November 22, 2022 at 03:30 PM

KG

“ *Kim and Tara, I was so sorry to read of your dad's passing. I am so very sorry for your loss. May you feel God's peace in the days ahead. May he Rest In Peace. Kay Goeken*

Kay Goeken - November 22, 2022 at 07:13 AM

GN

“ *Gail Sharon Niffenegger lit a candle in memory of Clarke Picken*



Gail & Sharon Niffenegger - November 19, 2022 at 05:34 PM

GN

“ *Gail Sharon Niffenegger lit a candle in memory of Clarke Picken*



Gail & Sharon Niffenegger - November 18, 2022 at 08:24 PM

SP

“ Brenda, Craig and families, We were so sorry to hear of Clarke's passing. He was such a great guy and always greeted us with a smile. We remember when he and Brenda first got together, they just seemed to click. They had a wonderful life together. Clarke was the only person we knew who could whistle for the orioles and they would answer. We enjoyed many evening at the "club" when he would play his guitar and sing silly songs, (there's a log on the bottom of the sea). Clarke will be missed by all who enjoyed his friendship and will be welcomed in heaven by those who went before him. Our most heartfelt condolences to the family. Glenn and Sandee Perkins

Sandra Perkins - November 18, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Clarke G. Picken Jr..



November 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM

AS

“ Uncle Clarke's smile would light up the room. So many childhood memories that I will keep close to my heart and always cherish. He will be deeply missed by so many friends and family. ❤️🕊️
Love, Angel and Tim



Angel Swardenski - November 15, 2022 at 07:35 PM

TC

“ Uncle Clarke was one-of-a-kind. He had an infectious smile, wonderful sense of humor, and was always so kind to me. Many of my favorite childhood memories involve him playing his guitar and singing at family get togethers. Those times were part of the reason I fell in love with music. The one memory that stands out to me the most, though, was in my adult years. My grandpa passed away and his funeral was in Tennessee. I had recently gone through a divorce and was a single mom. Uncle Clarke asked my dad if I was going to TN for the funeral, and Dad told him I really couldn't afford to. Without missing a beat, Uncle Clarke reached into his pocket and handed Dad gas money to drive me there so that I wouldn't miss my grandpa's funeral. Dad told him I wouldn't want to take the money, and Uncle Clarke said I didn't have a choice. That was and still is one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me. That's just the kind of man he was. ❤️ He will be missed by all who knew him.

Terra Coon - November 15, 2022 at 06:11 PM



“ Clarke was the salt of the earth. Many times we sit around and listen to him strum his guitar. He will be missed by all. May he rest in peace and continue to strum his guitar in heaven.
Tammy Oliver

Tammy Oliver - November 15, 2022 at 02:32 PM

CM

“ Carl Cathy Martin lit a candle in memory of Clarke Picken



Carl and Cathy Martin - November 15, 2022 at 02:18 PM

PW

“ So very sorry for your loss. Clarke was a great guy with a huge heart and so much fun to be around. Hugs to all from Harold and Patty Weber

patty weber - November 15, 2022 at 12:28 PM

RQ

“ Ron Quinones lit a candle in memory of Clarke Picken



Ron Quinones - November 15, 2022 at 10:32 AM

MG

“ Sorry to learn of Clarke's passing this morning. It brought back a Flood of Memories that I have with the Picken Family over the years. I still remember the Little Restaurant they had by their house on the edge of Forest City. We would go there on Sunday after Church. I would always sit at the little counter & order a Hamburger & fries, to hurry up & eat, so I could go out back to play with Tom & Max. Usually Dutch Worner & his wife would be there. My deep Condolences to the Family.....May He REST IN PEACE.....Mike Garlisch

MICHAEL A GARLISCH - November 15, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Clarke G. Picken Jr..




November 15, 2022 at 09:53 AM

VD

“ *Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Don enjoyed golfing with him at Oak Run. When we'd see them on the golf cart he always had a big smile. He will be missed. RIP Clarke.*

Vicki and Don - November 15, 2022 at 09:32 AM

TS

“ *What a sweet Man !!!
Definitely will miss him !!!!
Big Hugs to Brenda !!!!*


Tammy and Kimbal Skaggs - November 15, 2022 at 08:44 AM