



## Van Earl Pace

December 9, 1929 - July 23, 2018

Van Earl Pace, 88, of Springfield, formerly of Lillian, Alabama and Peoria, IL, passed away at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL at 11:25 p.m. on Monday, July 23, 2018. He was born December 9, 1929, in Rector, Arkansas, to Zelmer and Eva (Clayton) Pace. He married Mary Garls on July 4, 1959. He later married Virginia Trice on June 24, 1983, and she preceded him in death in February 14, 2008. On March 2, 2017, he married Mary Karr and she preceded him in death on October 1, 2017.

Mr. Pace is survived by two daughters: Patti (David Halpin) Pace-Halpin of Springfield, IL, Vanessa (Dru) Bergman of Havana; three grandchildren: Molly Stinauer of Lewistown, Alex (Jessica Heffern) Bergman of Springfield and Trey (Katie Powers) Bergman of Havana; three great-grandchildren: Olivia and Elise Stinauer of Lewistown and Holden Bergman of Havana. Also surviving are three half-brothers: Terry Pace, Lannie Pace and Franklin Pace, all of Arkansas; one aunt, Virginia Clayton of Peoria and several first cousins, including: Michael Clayton of Peoria, Jeff Clayton of Houston, TX, Brent Clayton of Wynne, Arkansas, Trent Clayton of Camdenton, Missouri and Edith Bache of High Springs, Florida; and also his best friend Chimi. He was preceded in death by his parents and several aunts and uncles.

Mr. Pace was a former member of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Lillian, Alabama. After high school, he served in the US Navy for four years.

He retired from Caterpillar Inc., after thirty years of working the the factories in Peoria and Decatur. In retirement, he relocated to the Lillian, Alabama/Pensacola, Florida area and ran his own sealcoating and parking lot striping business for the next thirty years. He was an avid sports fan, following Duke Basketball, the Golden State Warriors and especially the St. Louis Cardinals.

Funeral services will be held at Hurley Funeral Home in Havana at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 28, 2018 with visitation one hour prior to the services. Burial will follow the services at Swan Lake Cemetery in Peoria. Fr. David Whiteside will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to the veterans' organization of the donor's choice, or American Red Cross. Online memorial messages may be left for the family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com).

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Swan Lake Cemetery

4601 W. War Memorial Dr.  
Peoria, IL 61615

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana  
217 North Plum Street  
P.O. Box #648  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2244  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral

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Hurley Funeral Home - Havana  
217 North Plum Street  
P.O. Box #648  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2244  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Van Earl Pace



Hurley Funeral Home - July 27, 2018 at 03:17 PM



“ Van Earl Pace

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Van Earl Pace.



July 26, 2018 at 10:07 PM



“ Patty and Vanessa! Jim and I are so sorry to hear about the loss of your father! Were sending our love to both of you and your families.

Sandy and Jim Garls - July 26, 2018 at 10:04 PM

JC

“ Van was such a good fellow who had so many good qualities it's hard to list them all. He loved everybody, especially his family. He was always quick to offer words of encouragement and support to others. He was the original positive thinker. He would have given anyone in need the shirt off his back. I admired the fact that he had the courage to speak publicly in meetings and funerals and to act in community plays. He was a whirlwind of energy and a very hard worker who made friends everywhere he went. He truly had the courage to change the things that he could.

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**Jeff Clayton** - July 26, 2018 at 08:21 PM

TP

“ Terry & Theresa, Lanny, Frank & Bernice Pace purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Van Earl Pace.



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**Terry & Theresa, Lanny, Frank & Bernice Pace** - July 26, 2018 at 01:47 PM

SW

“ Thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Let us know if there is anything we can do for you. Chuck and Susan

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**Susan White** - July 26, 2018 at 08:53 AM

TC

“ Patti and Vanessa, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father Van. He was a great man. I have great memories of him visiting us in Arkansas, especially when Dee Dee (Aunt Eva) lived in Wynne. I know that my Dad and the rest of the Clayton siblings considered him more of a brother instead of a nephew. Van was was the oldest first cousin and Brent and I were the youngest (really Brent by 3 minutes). The last time I saw Van was when he came to Wynne for my Dad's funeral. Jeff, Brent and I really appreciated him attending both my Mom's and Dad's funeral. Please know that you guys and your families are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Trent Clayton

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**Trent Clayton** - July 25, 2018 at 10:01 PM

SG

“ I will always remember the good times water skiing with Van!!!  
Steve Garls

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**Steve Garls** - July 25, 2018 at 08:08 PM

GB

“ Georgia Brown lit a candle in memory of Van  
Earl Pace



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**Georgia Brown** - July 25, 2018 at 06:49 PM