



Francis "Hank" E. Gregory

September 9, 1937 - December 28, 2023

Francis E. "Hank" Gregory, 86, of Palmetto FL formerly of Bluffs passed away Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. He was born Sept. 9, 1937, in Meredosia, the son of Everett and Della Surratt Gregory. He married Betty J. Coats, July 21, 1957, at the Methodist Parsonage in Bluffs.

Surviving is wife, Betty of Palmetto; children, Rhoda (Mark) Vortman of Bluffs, Tina (Richard) Freeman of Jacksonville and Eric (Sandra) Gregory of Winchester; grandchildren, Dr. Rebecca Vortman of Murrayville, Andrew (Jenna) Vortman of Jacksonville, Dr. Kassie (Kevin) Missell of Dallas, TX, Hannah Vortman of Springfield, Nathan (Sarah) Freeman of Kansas City, MO and Matthew (fiancée, Katie) Freeman of Ault, CO; great grandchildren, Maddy Vortman, Will Vortman, Kylee Missell, Aiden Vortman and Kole Missell; siblings, Mike (Pam) Gregory of FL and Cecile (Harold) Rohrer of Peoria and sister-in-law, Wanda Gregory of Bluffs. He was preceded in death by siblings, Audrey Gregory, Hubert "Buzz" Gregory, Loretta "Jean" Drohan, Marlene Shepherd, and Betty Irving.

Hank was a 1956 graduate of Bluffs High School. As a young man, Hank was employed by Hap Vortman at the Texaco Gas Station. At the age of 21, he was asked to work for Freesen Bros. Throughout his time with Freesen Bros., he was a mechanic, and drove a low boy, delivering equipment around the country, and then became the dispatcher for the trucking portion of Freesen

Bros. Later he worked for IL. Valley Asphalt, where he worked in the office, also served as paving materials president in Pittsfield. Eventually he became Vice President of the IL. Valley Paving, until his retirement in 1999. Hank also co-owned Bruner and Gregory INC. He was 1 of 10 organizers and directors of the Morgan Co. Community Bank also serving chairman of the board and served on the advisory board of the 1st Bank of America in Jacksonville. Hank was one of the leaders that established what is now called Plum Creek Golf Course. In his retirement years, Hank enjoyed working at the Gregory Farms, cutting brush, reading history, fishing, landscaping and traveling with his wife. Hank was a member of the United Methodist Church in Bluffs, Terra Ceia Bay Country Club, Jacksonville Country Club, Pike and Scott Farm Bureau and the Jacksonville Elks Lodge.

A funeral service will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at the Daws Family Funeral Home in Jacksonville with interment in the Hillcrest Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the United Methodist Church in Bluffs, Meredosia/Bluffs Rescue Squad, Green Pastures Christian Retreat, Chaddock or Western IL. Youth Camp.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

Bluffs, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daws Family Funeral Home - Jacksonville
508 W. Vandalia
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 243-0444
mackeydawsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Service

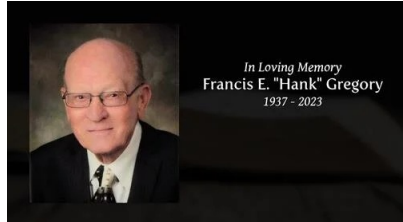
JAN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

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508 W. Vandalia
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 243-0444
mackeydawsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Mackey Daws Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Francis "Hank" E. Gregory*



Daws Funeral Homes - January 01, 2024 at 02:45 PM

JP

Hank was a very giving and friendly person! This world needs more people like Hank. Also, my condolences to Betty and the entire family. Love, Jeff Pontnack

Jeff Pontnack - January 02, 2024 at 12:08 PM

KS

God took another Angel home. Betty, Rhoda, Tina and Eric my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Hugs and love to all.

Karen Saxer - January 02, 2024 at 01:45 PM

CG

“ *I just now read the Jacksonville obituaries and discovered that Hank Gregory had died. We send our deepest sympathy to Betty and all his family. I enjoyed working with Hank on the MCCBank board and admired his wisdom and dedication to his faith. I'm so sorry we missed his visitation and service. Jim and Cathy Green*

Cathy Green - January 09, 2024 at 05:43 PM

LR

“ *Such good memories over the years . Always a true gentleman to share laughs with and his contributions to the success of IVP . My thoughts and prayers remain with Betty and family.*

Larry Roland - January 02, 2024 at 08:23 PM

GP

“ *Hank was always good to my brothers and me. My heart goes out to his family during this time and you have my prayers and sympathy. . Gregory Predmore.*

Gregory Predmore - December 30, 2023 at 08:42 PM

KR

“ *Betty, I just heard, my sympathies to you and your family. I am living in an assisted living home now. It is very nice here in Kewanee, so I will not be at funeral. It does get easier as time goes by..praying for all of you. God is good !*

Karen Renoud - December 30, 2023 at 03:55 PM

LS

“ *Mr. Gregory was one of the “great ones”. Prayers to his family. We are thinking of you all.
Mike and Linda Swisher*

linda swisher - December 30, 2023 at 09:59 AM

TB

“ Hank was such a joy to be with during the years we worked together.

I remember him coming in my office to see if we had anything he could do. " i don't care about the pay , i just need a reason to be out of the house."

His quiet encouragement to both Tom and i and the rest of our staff. He was in the brake room with us one day as we discussed the cost benefits of an automatic transmission in a tandem truck. The decision was made and we went on our way. Later that afternoon he said " this morning brought back so many fond memories of making those type decisions. And for what its worth...you boys made the right call."

What a role model of what i could hope to be like for others!

Prayers for the family as they experience comfort and peace .

Todd Burrus - December 30, 2023 at 07:21 AM

LC

“ Hank and Betty were a very special couple who showed others what it meant to love each other. He was gentle and quiet. I loved looking at pictures when they were young and dating. Hank will be missed by all who knew him.

Linda Curtis - December 29, 2023 at 11:10 PM

PE

“ *My heartfelt condolences to Betty and all the family. I have known Hank most all my life and he was a very kind and friendly man. He and Betty were a role model couple that I so admired. He sure will be missed. Pat Engelbrecht*



PATRICIA ENGELBRECHT - December 29, 2023 at 08:30 PM

RH

“ *Hank was as good a guy as the Lord ever made. He will be missed by his lovely wife, his family and his numerous friends. Betty, Sorry you have to walk the rest of the way down life's path without the love of your life. It will be hard, but you can do it. So sorry for your loss.*

Richard G. Hayes - December 29, 2023 at 07:13 PM