



**Jim Deibler, 82**, of Miller, passed away Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at his home under hospice care after a frustrating battle with cancer.

Merle James "Jim" Deibler, Jr., the third of fifteen children of Merle and Ireta (Ross) Deibler, was born October 1, 1941, in Miller, Iowa. He attended Miller Elementary School and graduated from Garner High School with the class of 1959. Jim served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1964 to 1970. He was the long-term "Mayor" of Miller – reminding everyone that "all roads lead to Miller!" Always a mechanic, inventor, and Ford guy, Jim started his working career at Ford garages in Garner and Forest City. He made enough to enhance his racing car projects, eventually building from scratch his hot rod, then many years later tearing it apart bolt by bolt to make sure no one got hurt driving it. He worked five years for Hancock County Road Maintenance, completing his working career with 25-plus years at Winnebago Industries designing metal fixtures and frames from scrap. Jim designed the original rotational molded plastic frame later patented by Winnebago. Jim was an amazing self-taught, one-man designer, fabricator, inventor, and mechanic with no limits, except time, to his creative abilities. He built his first home and completely remodeled his current home. Jim proudly designed his circular staircase, tractor replicas, and motor inventions/modifications and made 60-plus oak stools for his family members.

He was a lifetime member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner.

Jim is survived by his sisters, Donna (Dennis) Easley of Mason City, Rita (Martin) Furst of Garner, Betty Knazs of Baton Rouge, LA; Kathryn (Dave) Pueggel of Clear Lake, Pat (George) Bethel of Arvada, CO, Barbara (Brian) O'Rourke of Tucson, AZ, Peg (Jon) Lemke of Miller and Janet (Steve) Goll of Miller; brothers, Bob (Diane) Deibler of Garner, Bill (Diana) Deibler of Hayfield, and Tom (Elaine) Deibler of Garner; sister-in-law, Lois Deibler of Huntington, IN; Joe's fiancée, Jackie Loterbour of Garner; and about 100 nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews who are honored to remember their "Uncle Jim." He will be sorely missed by his furry family members, Hank and Hattie, and all the rest of his family members' animals.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Mary Evans; brothers, Jack and Joe Deibler; nephews, Paul Evans, George Bethel, Dave Neuberger; brother-in-law, Doug Evans; and grandparents, John and Ann Deibler and Jim and Daisy Ross.

## Celebrating the Life of

# JIM DEIBLER

October 1, 1941 - February 14, 2024

#### **MEMORIAL MASS**

St. Boniface Catholic Church Garner, Iowa 10:00 a.m., Friday February 23, 2024

#### **CELEBRANT**

Rev. Fr. Andrew Marr

#### **MUSIC**

Mary Kopacek, Organist Mary Chambers, Cantor St. Boniface Choir

#### **USHER**

Francis Oborny

### **FLAG PRESENTATION**

Garner Veterans Ceremonial Unit

#### **INURNMENT**

St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery Garner, Iowa

All are invited to a luncheon in the church basement immediately following the committal service at the cemetery.

Cataldo