



66 year old Larry B. Smith of Rensselaer passed away June 9, 2014 from respiratory failure at his home, with his loving family around him.

Larry was born on September 12, 1947 in Albion, Michigan to the late Robert G. and Arlene H. (Nee: Thenen) Smith. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1966 and was honorably discharged in 1972 with the rank of Staff Sergeant, having severed three tours of duty in Vietnam with the First Radio Battalion, II Marine Amphibious Force. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal and Bronze

Star Medal, both with combat "V", for his professional ability, untiring determination and steadfast devotion to duty under combat conditions. As Maintenance Chief of Critical Communications he frequently moved through enemy territory to restore communication and cryptographic equipment among the widely dispersed sites of the command.

These experiences coupled with his innate analytical abilities and calm demeanor served him well in his career as a computer troubleshooter for Hewlett-Packard. He retired in 2012 after 41 years with HP.

He cared deeply about veterans, especially POWs and MIAs. Larry and his Harley Davidson "Lucille" explored over 100,000 miles of exhilarating open road. Together they were long-time members of Illinois Chapter 1 of Rolling Thunder and participated in many Memorial Day parades in Washington, DC.

Larry was the cherished husband of Hildegard (Nee: Kotschisch) Zetek for 30 years and devoted father of Stefan of Denver and Sam of Elburn, Illinois. He is also survived by sisters Diane Metzger of Austin, Texas, and Nancy Faurot of Homer, Michigan and their children and grandchildren, as well as the "Queen Mother" Helen Kotschisch of Hebron, Indiana.

Larry will be interred at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois on Friday, July 18, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. with military honors and committal service. Family and friends are invited to gather at the cemetery's public information center building at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the organization of the donor's choice is preference.

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, 20953 W. Hoff Rd, Elwood, Illinois, 60421  
Phone: 815-423-9958.

Per Larry's wishes cremation has taken place.

The Boersma Funeral Home, 90 East Grove St., Wheatfield, Indiana was in charge of arrangements.