



## Dennis J. Garbas

March 2, 1955 - March 6, 2026

Dennis John Garbas, affectionately known as “Pap” to his family and loved ones, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. Dennis was born on July 2, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, but spent the majority of his life in Knox, Indiana, where he built his life, raised his family, and became well known throughout the community.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Gladys and John Garbas; his sisters, Janice and Joann; his brother, John; and his beloved companion dog, Luke.

He is survived by Sherry Pinney, the mother of their three children: Shannon (Jerry Stewart), Jason (Jessi Garbas), and Michael (Cassie Garbas). He was also the proud grandfather to Daniel “DJ” (Ally Hamilton) and Courtney (Kenny Pfof), along with many other grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who brought him great joy.

Dennis spent much of his time living with his grandson DJ, where he enjoyed doing what he loved most—working on projects, fixing things, and riding his golf cart, no matter the weather. Even in freezing temperatures, if Dennis set his mind to something, nothing would stop him from getting out and getting it done.

He often traveled between Shannon, Dj, and Courtneys houses always encouraging them to get up and do something spontaneous. Whether it was yard work, burning brush, cleaning the barn, or tackling any project Dennis believed needed attention, he was always ready to jump in, lend a hand, and

teach along the way. Dennis had his own unique way of doing things and approached life with determination and independence.

Dennis was widely known for his incredible talent in automotive body work and mechanics. His ability to transform vehicles and his attention to detail were more than just a hobby—they were a true gift. Many considered him one of the best mechanics around. He proudly passed these skills and knowledge down to his sons, Jason and Michael, his grandson DJ, and many others who had the opportunity to learn from him.

In addition to his work with vehicles, Dennis proudly served his community as a member of the Washington Township Fire Department for more than 20 years. His willingness to serve and help others reflected the kind of man he was.

Dennis was a simple man who lived life on his own terms. He was strong-minded, determined, and independent, rarely asking for help and always trying to handle life's challenges himself. One thing Dennis strongly believed in was reminding those around him to slow down and not stress over the small things. He often encouraged his family to take a breath, let life be lived, and remember that it was okay if the house looked lived in or if life felt a little messy—what mattered most was simply enjoying the moment.

Although he longed for the warmth of summer, winter never stopped him from getting outside, whether on foot or riding his golf cart. Dennis had a deep love for being outdoors and staying active.

His faithful dog Luke was more than a pet; he was Dennis's constant companion and best friend. The two were rarely apart and shared a special bond.

Through his terminal illness and other serious health struggles, Dennis remained surrounded by the love and care of his family. His grandchildren DJ and Courtney devoted themselves to caring for him during this time, ensuring he was never alone. Dennis passed peacefully at home, the place he loved, with his children, grandchildren, and the mother of his children, Sherry Pinney, by his side.

While his passing was unexpected and his family hoped for more time and a miracle, they take comfort in knowing that Dennis fought a long and difficult battle without complaint. His family finds peace knowing he is now free from suffering.

They imagine him finally enjoying warm weather again, riding golf carts wherever he pleases, and being reunited with Luke and the loved ones who went before him.

Visitation will be from Noon to 2:00 CDT Thursday, March 12, 2026 at the Rannells Funeral Home, Hamlet Chapel. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 CDT also on Thursday, March 12 at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Lutheran Cemetery, Bass Lake.

Dennis will be deeply missed by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all who knew him. Though he has left this world, he leaves behind a lifetime of memories, lessons, laughter, and many unforgettable stories that his family will cherish forever.

# Cemetery Details

## Lutheran Cemetery

Knox, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel  
102 W. Davis Street  
Hamlet, IN 46532  
(574) 867-3321  
rannellsfh@mchsi.com  
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

Rannells Funeral Home - Hamlet Chapel  
102 W. Davis Street  
Hamlet, IN 46532  
(574) 867-3321  
rannellsfh@mchsi.com  
<https://www.rannellsfuneralhome.com>

## Burial

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MAR 12.

Lutheran Cemetery  
Knox, IN