



# James Rodick

## **James Rodick**

**James "Jim" Rodick, 71, of Hometown, decorated military veteran, passed away unexpectedly at home on May 3.**

**Born in Shenandoah, Jim was the son of the late John and Anna (Smulligan) Rodick.**

**He attended Mahanoy City Elementary School until third grade when the family relocated to Cherokee Ranch in Berks County and Jim continued his schooling in the Reading area.**

**He went on to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1967. The Marine Corps immediately recognized his artistic abilities and chose Jim to paint the USMC insignia on the floor of the barracks. Jim was trained in heavy artillery and deployed to Vietnam during the U.S. response to the famous Tet Offensive. It was a major escalation of the conflict and one of the largest military campaigns of the war. Jim manned a Howitzer in the heat of battle and his valor earned him a Purple Heart. Shy and humble, he rarely spoke of the war after as he sought a life of peace and quiet.**

**Jim lived in Michigan for a short time, working in the Detroit auto industry. He also trained as a pilot. Upon returning to Pennsylvania, he served 23 years as a crane operator at Dana Corporation in Reading, then went on to work for Progressive Converting in Hazleton for nearly a decade more.**

**In later years, Jim settled in Hometown, assuming the role of caregiver for his aging parents. After their passing, he continued to care for his older brother Jack until his passing in 2017.**

**With his duties behind him, Jim's final years were spent surrounded by the peace and quiet he had sought after. He enjoyed fishing with friend and neighbor Dan Christian, and pursued a hobby building and flying remote control aircraft. He was a member of the Tuscarora RC Flying Club and was FAA licensed. He also returned to his love of art and painting and enjoyed visiting museums and cultural events and spending time with his friend Donald Serfass of Hometown.**

**Preceded in death by parents John and Anna; sister Carol; and brother Jack.**

Survived by nieces Cathleen Clouse and Sharon Clouse Frisell of St. Paul, MN; aunt Ruth Smulligan of Tamaqua; and cousins Audrey Leyfert Jones and Brian Leyfert, both of of Bath, Cheryl Leyfert Krystopa of Drums, Thomas Adamitis of Coaldale, Gerald Smulligan of Albrightsville, Karl Smulligan of Tamaqua, Dianne Smulligan Lehatto of Sinking Spring, Gloria Smulligan Forte of Nesquehoning, Donna Smulligan Romano of Schuylkill Haven, James Smulligan of Andreas, Kevin Hess of Clarksville, TN, Stephen Rodick of Girardville, Joseph Rodick of Frackville, William Rodick of Emmaus, Roseann Sisak of Girardville, Kathy Lorah of Frackville, Linda Dinicola of Springfield, and Judy Cesario of Bensalem.

Service: Memorial service 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, Lamar Christ Funeral Home, Hometown. Interment, St. Nicholas Cemetery, Mahanoy City.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Tamaqua Area Animal Rescue.

