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John W. Martin, age 74, died on Friday, March 4, 2011 at home with family following a final bout with cancer. He was born March 1, 1937 to Bessie and E. C. Martin. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Billy W. Martin. John lettered in football, basketball, and track before graduating from Ypsilanti High School in 1955. He also played football for a period in the Army. He was a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles. Returning to Ypsilanti, he was employed by American Airlines, was a manager at Beneficial Finance Company, and attended Henry Ford Community College. He retired from Local 512 of the Carpenter's Union after 30 years. During those years, he worked as a carpenter holding many offices in the Carpenter's Union and became their Business Agent beginning in 1982. After retirement, John moved to Elk Lake in Gladwin County, MI, where he served on the Planning Commission for Clement Township. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Gladwin and the Lenawee County Conservation League. He loved being with friends, hunting, fishing, reading, playing cards, and being with family, especially at the lake in the summer. He spent parts of fifteen winters in Venice, FL, and changed to winters in Tecumseh, MI, in 2006 where his children and grandchildren reside. He was a fun, devoted, supportive, and loving husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. He was loved and cherished in return. John is survived by his wife, of fifty-four years, Nancy (Mitchell); his son, Steve Martin; his daughter, Karen (Mike) Merrell; his grandsons, Nicholas and Mitchell Merrell; and granddaughter, Taylor Martin; all of Tecumseh. He is survived by brother-in-law, Edwin D. Mitchell of Gladwin, MI; sister-in-law Dora Lee Martin of Belleville, MI; sister-in-law Marilyn La Roe of Saline, MI; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Although separated by a good distance, John also remained close to four surviving cousins: Jack Martin, Jo Russell, Jimmy Penny, and Elaine Hackett. He spent his last days at home with the wonderful aid of Lenawee Hospice. According to his wishes, cremation has taken place at J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home and no memorial is planned.

Adrian Chapel

2959 N. Adrian Hwy. (M-52)
Adrian, MI 49221
1-517-265-2300
Manager / Gary Purse

When Calling Long Distance,
Please use our 800 number

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Tecumseh Chapel

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