



Ern K. Hudson

January 18, 1950 - June 16, 2017

The Life of Ern K. Hudson

Sheriff Ern K. Hudson (Ret.) did not live the life of a great man, he lived the life of ten (10) great men. He never met a stranger. After a valiant eight (8) year health battle, Ernie went to the Lord on June 16, 2017.

Ernie was born in Anderson, IN on January 18, 1950, the son of Jack W. and Carrie (Huston) Hudson. His father passed in 1973 and mother in 1987. He is survived by the love of his life, Judy (Kiphart) Hudson. They were married over 48 years. Ernie is also survived by their two children Holly (Lucien) Perras of Lebanon, IN (and their children Cassie, Carrie and Clayton) and son Rick (Susan) of Boulder Colorado (and their children Gunnar and Ayla.) They were members of Central Christian Church in Lebanon IN and First Christian Church in Loveland CO. He is also survived by his sisters Janey Antibus of Bloomfield IN and Jabet Arnett of Fortville IN. His brother Jake passed in 2013.

Schooling began in Fortville, IN and with graduation from Tech High School in 1968. He also attended courses at Indiana University. Ernie met the love of his life, Judy Kiphart when they were young children and, as Judy said, he “had to have her.” They married in November, 1968. TWA was his employer until he was accepted to the Indiana State Police Recruit School, graduating in 1971. Ernie was also a veteran of the Indiana Army National Guard.

Time was spent with family and as an Indiana State Trooper, assigned to Boone County, until 1978 when he successfully ran for Boone County Sheriff. He served two (2) terms as Sheriff, Judy was elected Sheriff for a term and Ern ran again and served two (2) additional terms as Sheriff. As Sheriff, he enhanced the Sheriff's Office in training, manpower, equipment, and more. A new jail was constructed in 1992, without remonstrance and coming in under budget. He also served a term as the President of the Indiana Sheriff's Association. While he received many awards and accolades during his thirty-nine (39) year law enforcement career, two (2) of his favorites were the two (2) "Richard Brown Police Officer of the Year Award" in Boone County and the Boone County Sheriff's Office "Medal of Valor."

He was known as one of the best criminal investigators in the law enforcement community. His interviewing skills were unmatched. While he was a certified Polygraph Examiner, many cases were solved with confession before the polygraph test was ever taken.

After serving twenty (20) years in Boone County as Sheriff and Chief Deputy, he and Judy moved to Larimer County Colorado where Ern served as Chief Investigator and Undersheriff from 1999 until January 2011, taking a medical retirement. Although retired, he had an active hand in many more criminal investigations in Indiana and Colorado until his passing.

While he was relentless in pursuit of criminals, he was also kind and caring. His soft heart was often unknown to the public, but never to the victims of crimes and accidents. His demeanor also allowed him to have a tremendous rapport with the criminals that he had often convinced to confess.

Simply put, Ern Hudson was a "Lawman" in the truest sense of the word. As Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith put it: "Ernie brought an unmatched passion for the job. He was a friend and mentor to all that knew him. . . . His

eyes always lit up when he got a chance to discuss a case. He loved nothing more than to offer his experience and expertise. He left a long shadow in Colorado and we are all saddened by his passing, but we are all better Deputies (and Sheriff's) for knowing Ernie."

Although law enforcement was important to Ernie, his family was paramount. Traveling throughout the country was a favorite family adventure. Whether it was to Florida with Judy, Holly, Rick and their families, or throughout the US with Judy and friends seeking outlaw history.

One of his many attributes was the study of the history of gangsters and outlaws. His collection of memorabilia and photos of equipment, locations and more is unprecedented. His knowledge of the history was uncanny. He always shared his tales of talking his way into shoot-out locations and other places that others could not get access to. According to noted outlaw historian Sandy Jones: "He handled and fired more historical 1930's outlaw guns, including Thompson Submachine Guns, Browning Automatic Rifles and handguns, than anyone ever in the world." He owned and was a Thompson Submachine Gun expert.

"Colorful phrases" were common with Ernie, and he was not one to "let the truth get in the way of a good story" when visiting with his many, many friends or around a lively euchre game. Gun writer Jan Liborel mentioned Ernie in a national publication several years ago after attending a class with him, referring to him as "one of the greatest raconteurs he had ever met."

Shooting and collecting firearms and accoutrements was another pastime. He was a crack marksman and took great pride in that. He was always in search of "the deal" and it was said he "could sell ice to an Eskimo" in his "deals."

He “dabbled in politics,” from his own campaigns to assisting with friends who sought office. His political counsel was sought by many throughout the States. He always made time. Again, the stories abound.

A Memorial Service will be held at the First Christian Church, 2000 North Lincoln Avenue, Loveland, Colorado on June 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

A second Memorial Service will also be held at Central Christian Church, 311 East Main Street, Lebanon, IN on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Myers Mortuary in Lebanon is helping with the local arrangements. Online condolences: www.myersmortuary.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

Central Christian Church
311 East Main Street
Lebanon, IN 46052

Tribute Wall



“ *Ernie Hudson was the greatest man I ever knew and I love him dearly full stop! As an arrested ex Enforcer for the Outlaws MC I came to know Ernie and Judy. They treated me with kindness and compassion while in their custody. Our friendship grew over the next 35.4 years in custody. I remain close with Judy, Rick and Holly. They traveled all the way from Colorado to pick me up after my prison sentence was completed. I would run through hell in a pair of kerosene shorts for any of them.*

Steven Weaver - March 08, 2025 at 02:46 PM



“ *Ern K. Hudson*

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *Ernie was a great man. He meant a great deal to my dad. He left some big shoes to fill for all that follow. I know that heaven now has another honest lawman in its ranks. May God's grace ease your pain at the loss, but rest and rejoice in the fact that you will see him again through the sacrifice of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Joe Hieston

Joe Hieston - August 23, 2017 at 10:46 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ern K. Hudson .*



July 11, 2017 at 12:00 PM



“ *I was privileged to serve as Patrol Secretary at Larimer County Sheriff's Office from 1999 until 2016, and worked with Ern during his tenure as Undersheriff and Investigations chief until his retirement in 2011. The Sheriff's Secretary and I got to know Ern well, and were always impressed with his humor, his tenacity, his investigative prowess and his genuine, heartfelt kind nature. We heard him whistling down hallways and grew familiar with his love of telling a good story - he was a delight to know. He and Judy adopted the entire Investigations Division as their own family, and then opened their arms to include the agency as a whole. He was a consummate investigator and was a bulldog on investigations. He demanded integrity and honesty of his people - and they were delighted to give it. That unit would have gladly assaulted hell with a bucket if Undersheriff Hudson had asked. He was truly one of a kind, and I do believe the world will not see another of his kind.*

*Carol Downing
Larimer County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Admin (Ret.)*

Carol Downing - June 29, 2017 at 09:35 AM

SF

“ Steve Grismer & Dayton Police History Foundation purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ern K. Hudson .



Steve Grismer & Dayton Police History Foundation - June 26, 2017 at 10:40 AM

KW

“ Dear Judy and family, in 1989 when our 5 year old son was hit by a car, in front of our house, Sheriff Ern Hudson was the first one on the scene and he immediately radioed and told them to get LIFELINE ready to fly. And about that time, Chief Deputy Dennis Brannon arrived on the scene and Sheriff told him to take this family to Methodist Hospital once their son was loaded in the ambulance. Thanks to his "quick" action, we arrived about the same time as the ambulance. Our son, Kenny Wethington II is now 33 years old and still with us and is a Godly young man who knows he got a "miracle." Thanks Ern. We are praying for you Judy and all your family. God bless you all, Ken, Nancy and Kenny2 Wethington Boynton Beach, Florida

Ken and Nancy Wethington - June 25, 2017 at 07:17 PM

BM

“ Ern was a fellow law enforcement friend and admirer. Representing the FBI, I was able to cause the Bureau to assist him in his training program to upgrade the quality of law enforcement at his department. He was a dedicated Boone County Sheriff

Bill Mattingly - June 23, 2017 at 12:00 PM

JH

“ *Judy Heath-Miller lit a candle in memory of
Ern K. Hudson*



Judy Heath-Miller - June 22, 2017 at 04:33 PM

DK

“ *What a good man!
Ern and Judy both were highly spoke of by my late husband Dean
King.
He truly enjoyed working across county lines with Ern to keep our
counties safe.
Judy, I can hear them now (bet you can too).
I am so sorry for the loss of the love of your life.
It is a big adjustment, takes a long time.
Keep hold of the good memories.
You and your family are in my prayers.
Deb King, Frankfort*

Deb King - June 22, 2017 at 07:59 AM

JK

“ Judy, as my baby sister my heart aches for you and Holly and Rick. Growing up together as we did as children with Ernie living right down the street in Fortville and fell in love with you riding your little tricycle that he used to love to tell people the story of but most of it is true. All of us going to school together and you two finally getting married and having Holly and Rick which made your family complete. Ernie was one of the most caring, loving men I've ever met in my life. When he called at the house worried about my husband's illness and then worried about my surgery instead of the fact he was ill it touched me to the core. I love you so much Sis and pray for your comfort and peace through out the coming weeks and months. I will always be there if you need a sister to lean on.

Jill Konija - June 22, 2017 at 07:50 AM

CK

“ So very sorry to the family for your loss. Sheriff Ern always made me proud to live in Boone County. May God give you all His peace and comfort!

Cindy and Bob Keyes - June 21, 2017 at 11:40 PM

LB

“ Judy our prayers are with you all God Bless you

Lois Biddle - June 21, 2017 at 04:33 PM

KL

“ So very sorry for your loss. Ern always had a joke or a story for everyone he ran into. He will be missed by many.

Kathy Linton - June 21, 2017 at 08:35 AM



Ted
Caldwell

“ *When Sallie and I lost our son, Mike, in an auto accident in 1988 Ernie and Judy came down to our home and cried right along with us. I cannot express how much that meant to us. God took a good one home. We will see you soon my friend. Ted and Sallie Caldwell*

Ted Caldwell - June 20, 2017 at 07:29 PM