

## **Jon Harmon Graf**

Jon Harmon Graf, 77, of Wausau, Wisconsin, went to be with his Lord Jesus on Saturday, January 10, 2015.

Jon was born March 25, 1937 in Milwaukee, WI. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Helga Graf, Ringle, WI; four children, Scott (Susan) Graf, Ringle; Carolee Graf, Brazil; Ted (Andrea) Graf, Des Plaines, IL; and Jeff (Sherry) Graf, Colorado Springs, CO; his older brother Jim (Grace) Graf, Milwaukee, WI; three "adopted" children, Doris (Brad) Weyers, Mosinee, WI; Juan Carlos (Elsy) Romero, El Salvador; Reniery (Ana) Aguilar, TX; twelve grandchildren, Joshua, Christian, Gabriel, Benjamin, Peter, Davon, Dalton, Jaison, Sylvia, Sylvana, Isabella, Samuel, Reniery Jr, and Karla; and one great granddaughter, Eloa. Even though Jon never had the chance to meet his overseas grandkids face to face, he treasured them in his heart.

Jon attended The Naval Academy from 1956 to 1960 and after graduating served active duty in the Navy for 5 years, including time aboard the USS Alamo. While stationed in southern California he met and married his wife Helga Kneidl on August 18, 1962 in Pasadena, CA.

After serving in the Navy, Jon taught at St. John's Military Academy in Delafield, WI. In 1972, he moved his family to Wausau, WI and worked as an engineer for Drott, then Wausau Homes. In 1978 he became an instructor; teaching engineering classes at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) for which he was honored by Governor Tommy Thompson in 1987 with the Educator of the Year Award. Later in his career, when a teacher exchange opportunity arose through Purdue University, Jon and Helga moved to Malaysia and thoroughly enjoyed a year of cultural exchange experiences. He retired from teaching in 1995.

Always the adventurer, Jon loved to travel and visited all 50 states, most via motorhome. Often his travel had a deeper purpose, such as helping a rural Indonesian hospital by using his computer programming skills to digitize their records. Jon also had a heart for strays of all sorts, coming home with a donkey, numerous ferrets, and even three Central American students from NTC who became his "adopted" kids. Other interests included genealogy, NASCAR, the

Packers, and rebuilding his first car - a 1959 Triumph. Later on Jon enjoyed sitting around a campfire along the river with family and friends.

The family would like to express their deep gratitude to the staff at Mount View Care Center for their excellent care of Jon during the last 5 months of his life.

*Wausau Daily Herald*