

Special Deputy James E. “Cotton” Cottongim (1944-2017)

Cotton was born April 26, 1944 to a steelworker, Chester A., and Jessie K. (Allen) Cottongim, Sr.

After high school, he joined the United States Marine Corps to fight in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the 1st Battalion 9th Marines which earned the moniker, “The Walking Dead,” because during that war it had suffered the highest killed in action rate in Marine Corps history. Cotton was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded.



After military service, Cotton took a job at the Delco Moraine Division of General Motors; from which he retired 32 years later in 2000.

He also joined the Butler County Sheriff’s Office as a Special Deputy and served there for 8 years.

Additionally, Deputy Cottongim was a volunteer firefighter for Madison Township for 40 years and served as Fire Chief twice. He was also the chief for the first Madison Township Life Squad. And he coached many years at the Madison Sports Club.

Deputy Cottongim passed away January 31, 2017, at his home, surrounded by family. He was 72.

He was predeceased by his brother, Gerald Cottongim (2007). Deputy Cottongim is survived by his wife Janet (Zehring) Cottongim; daughters, Missy Cottongim and Jill (Jay) Howard; grandchildren, Jim (Amy) Bolen, Julia Howard, and Jayden Howard; brothers, Chester A. Cottongim Jr. and Norman (Phyllis) Cottongim; and sisters-in-law, Jane Denlinger and Anna Cottongim.

Visitation will be held 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2017 at the Arpp and Root Funeral Home in Germantown. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 4, 2017 with Pastor Tim Rech officiating. Burial will follow at the Germantown Union Cemetery.