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HENRY PAGE III

PAGE Henry Arnold III AKA "Bert" 1/24/57 - 2/11/09 Henry Page III, son of the late Kate and Henry Page Jr., passed away peacefully in his home with his family and care givers surrounding him. Henry succumbed to kidney failure after being diagnosed with kidney disease a year ago. Henry was born with significant mental and physical disabilities. Yet Henry was blessed with a higher spirit than the rest of us. His family, consisting of mom and dad, sister, Karen, and brother, George learned to never give up on him. Henry was the nucleus of the family-unknowingly teaching kindness, love, compassion, and joy without the veneer of life's hustle and bustle. The love and joy he shared with all who came to know him was immeasurable. Henry was an avid University of Michigan football fan, attending home games with his brother for the last 22 years. He also filled his summers following his favorite baseball team, The Detroit Tigers; even though, there were many summers he was disgusted with their inability to have a winning season. Two summers ago he was thrilled to be able to participate with his brother in all the excitement when the Tigers made the playoffs and the World Series. Henry was at the last game at Tiger Stadium and while there had the occasion to shake the hand of Gordie Howe. Henry attained a certain celebrity status (unbeknownst to him) over the years shaking the hands of Bo Schembechler, golfers Hubert "Hubie" Green and Chi Chi Rodriguez, as well as President George H.W. Bush at various football games, golf tournaments, and events. He loved classical and jazz music, including the likes of Mozart, Duke Ellington, Il Divo, Josh Groban, Mariah Carey and the music from the movie Momma Mia. One of his greatest loves of his life was his niece, Elisabeth Comparetto. They had a most special bond between them that lasted through the 28 years he knew and loved her. The two had a language between them that was all their own. Elisabeth was able to give Henry the thrill of attending her wedding and getting to know her husband, Shane, and a beautiful baby, Henry's great-nephew, Vincent Anthony Comparetto. Henry had an "angel of mercy", Ruthie Smithhisler, that graced his life and cared for him for the past 12 years as his parents grew older and passed away. She had been with the family for 26 years. Ruthie gave Henry the daily love and security he needed to thrive. Although, Ruthie would say that Henry gave her far more than she gave him. Henry had a four-legged dog named Nutty Buddy whom he loved and brought him joy and comfort. His sister, Karen, gave her time and love to make sure his needs were met and his life was filled with fun opportunities and events with family, friends, and fudge. His brother, George, ensured there was plenty of pizza and a "good night Bert" at the end of each day. Henry will be missed greatly. Henry is survived by his sister, Karen (Walter) Sobol; his brother, George (Gayle); his niece, Elisabeth Page Sibley Comparetto (Shane) and great-nephew, Vincent Anthony and his "special angel", Ruth Smithhisler. Henry is further survived by his cousins, Arnold Jr. (Felicia), Tom (Kathy), Sue Culver (Randy), and Debby Schaeffer (Mike)-children of Ann and Arnold Page, deceased; Charlie and Anne Bancroft, cousins, Julie Hays and Sheri (Tripp) Lamkins and Martha (Jim-deceased) Bancroft, cousins, Nancy Day and Jill (Bob) Ralston and numerous children of cousins on both sides of the family. A memorial celebration of Henry's life will be held at his sister's home at 4627 Indianridge Rd. in Sylvania, Ohio on Saturday, February 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, in honor of Henry's life, contributions may be made to the Toledo Animal Shelter Association, 640 Wyman Street, Toledo, Ohio 43609, or Hospice of Northwest of Ohio, 30000 E. River Road, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551. Private graveside services will be held at Historic Woodlawn Cemetery, arrangements by J. Jeffrey Fretti Funeral Home, 5045 Sylvania Ave. (At Corey Road), Sylvania, Ohio, 43560.

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