



Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic

January 13, 1938 - May 8, 2023

Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic, age 85, of Hobart, passed away May 8, 2023. He was born in Gary Indiana to Rudolph Marion and Ann Magdalen Pavletic. Rudy attended grade school at Franklin School and St. Joseph Parochial School in Glen Park. He graduated from Lew Wallace High School in 1956. In May of 1957, Rudy joined the Army and was an infantryman at Fort Riley, KS for four years of military service, one and a half of those years which was served in Germany. Before joining the Gary Police Department in 1967, he held a variety of blue collar jobs. Rudy received a degree in Law Enforcement from St. Joseph University Northwest. At the police academy, he graduated first in his class among the Gary police officers. He was assigned to the Gary Narcotics Bureau in 1970. On September 30, 1972, he graduated from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs of the United States Justice Department in Washington, D.C. His group received many citations for the work fighting drugs in Gary. Rudy joined the D.A.L.E. (Drug Administration Law Enforcement) Task Force working out of the Chicago and Hammond federal building. His unit joined forces with the F.B.I., the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire Arms, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Customs Service in an effort to combat drugs.

A karate teacher since 1969, Rudy taught programs at Y.M.C.A.'s in Gary, Glen Park, Valparaiso, Crown Point, Portage and Hobart, as well as the Martial Arts Institute of Tae Kwon Do in Chicago, Olympic Judo and Karate in Gary and the Chicago Judo and Karate Centers. Rudy taught police clinics in

Gary and taught martial arts clinics throughout the United States. He studied the Chinese art of Chi-Kong under Dr. De Heng Liang OMD. Rudy considered himself a lifetime student of martial arts. He promoted over 60 students to Black Belt, and his students won over two thousand trophies in state, regional, national and international competitions.

After Rudy's retirement, he enjoyed meditating, walking, crosswords, spending time with family and friends and trying his luck with the lotto. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister-Ann; brothers-Robert "Whitey" and Thomas "Tom". Rudy is survived by his nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Visitation for Rudy will be Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. until time of funeral service at 6:00 p.m., at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart, IN 46342, Pastor John Starr officiating. Services will conclude at funeral home with cremation to follow at Burns Funeral Home Crematory (Crown Point). www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 18. 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
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Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Pavletic history and background*

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - May 11, 2023 at 11:27 AM

BK

“ *While speaking with someone at the University where I work, I mentioned Rudy's name in passing as he taught arnis stick fighting - one of the many prolific styles that he studied and taught at the academy that he ran. He was a fantastic mentor, Sensei, and friend. My only regret is that I lost touch with him as I moved away and rarely found myself back in the region. From what I recall, while being both a strict teacher, he was also a wonderful mentor and someone that I often remember as someone who had deep reflections from his time in the service or through his lived life experiences. One whimsical thought I recall, while during an exercise where we trained together with the sticks, he repeatedly said, "softer, softer, softer..." He then smacked me in the back with the stick in his right hand upon which I winced. He then said to me, "I said softer." I still remember the welt and bruise it left for the next week and am still mindful of how easy it is to lose control in the moment. A lesson well learned.*

You will be missed Sensi Pavaletic but well remembered as your name and memory lives on.

Brian Krecik

Brian Krecik - April 09, 2025 at 10:22 AM

WD

“ *Rudy and I were police and karate partners together. He was a great cop and loyal friend. He is missed.*

Wally derose - June 23, 2024 at 03:54 PM

JD

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Sensei Pavletic's passing. He was a wonderful coach and mentor to me and I owe much of the person I became to his generous spirit. Will miss him greatly.

Jeanne (Wilbert) DeGrauwe

Jeanne DeGrauwe - August 29, 2023 at 09:56 PM

RG

“ Rudy was my sensei and great mentor he will be missed dearly

richard gerlich - June 20, 2023 at 01:00 PM

DB

“ To my friend, my brother, my Sensei. Through your dedication to the Art that you truly loved you touched many lives making each one better and safer. You were loved and respected my dear friend and will not be forgotten. May you rest in peace Dave Banas

Dave Banas - May 18, 2023 at 12:25 PM

SS

Mr. Banas, this is Sharen Van Santen. I tried to locate you last year. We lost Michael last February 2022. Rudy spoke at his funeral. I recall him talking about you quite often and with admiration. Just thought you'd want to know. Thank you Sir. Sharen Van Santen

Sharen Van Santen - May 18, 2023 at 06:55 PM

DB

Sharen I am so sorry to hear of Michael's passing. Over the years I had the honor to see Michael go from the terrific young boy when we first met to the man and gentleman that he became. We always enjoyed our time together plus shared the same birthday. Thank you so much for reaching out and for the very kind words. I retired from the federal government in 2021 and shortly thereafter relocated to Florida. May Michael and Rudy both rest in peace. Take care Dave Banas

Dave Banas - May 18, 2023 at 11:09 PM

DS

“ Sensei Pavletic was a great instructor in the martial arts as well as teaching me honor, discipline and respect to others. I am very proud in Sensei making me a better man. I have many fond memories from our Dojo! May God bless you in his heavenly paradise! David Starko

DAVID STARKO - May 17, 2023 at 04:13 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic.



May 16, 2023 at 11:05 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic.



May 16, 2023 at 02:31 PM

RG

“ To the family and friends, sorry for your loss.

Rest Easy Hero.

Randy Gumkowski (INPGR)



Randy Gumkowski - May 16, 2023 at 11:35 AM

RJ

“ From Grade school to high school, he was a very good friend to me. RIP pal!

Ron Jeremiah

Ron Jeremiah - May 14, 2023 at 03:48 PM

DW

“ Rudy was a wonderful teacher for my brother Mike from the day he enrolled a child. His wonderful program gave so many young people the opportunity to fulfill their greatest dreams and accomplishments. His message of positivity and health will spread throughout the world through each child and adult he taught. His impact will not be forgotten. Thank you Rudy for being you. Love, The VanSanten and Ward families.

Debra Ward - May 14, 2023 at 01:43 PM

MH

“ I was a student of Rudy at the Hobart school from 1979 till 1982, he always made me want to get better and was a great guy he we always be remembered by me as my Sensei.

Mike Haburjak - May 13, 2023 at 08:49 PM

DG

“ I was fortunate enough to train with Mr. P before I became a cop. With his background in law enforcement, he would always tell us how certain moves were done, but then say, "but you would never do this in a street fight." He also always encouraged us to do kickboxing to develop our karate skills into real-life techniques. Thanks for being who you were, Mr. P. Godspeed.

Dominic Gagliardi - May 13, 2023 at 09:33 AM

JE

“ *Very sorry for the family's loss. My sincere sympathies. Mr. Palletizing was my Sensei when I was in High school back in the 70's. He taught me not only how to defend myself and others, he taught me to have confidence and believe in myself. This were important lessons which I have carried throughout my adulthood. I am positive Mr. Palletizing influenced many young people that way. Rest in peace Sensei.*

James Elia - May 12, 2023 at 10:04 PM

JE

The spell correct incorrectly spelled Pavletic.

James Elia - May 12, 2023 at 10:06 PM

YA

*Enjoyed competing through the years with Rudy, his laid-back attitude and ever-present genial smile was immanent to all that marveled at his skills.
The Gates shall Open.*

Yalitza - May 14, 2023 at 01:13 PM

JC

Rudy was the Best. He will be missed walking through downtown inspiring the store owners and Customers. He was a Great Teacher

Joe Casko - May 14, 2023 at 02:34 PM

CM

“ *As a young married couple my husband and brother in law started Karate classes in Glen Park. I remember going to watch them as they progressed thru the different stages and met Rudy, Joe and Wally. Rudy was a man to look up to, they never forgot him and his help. Rest Well Rudy.*



Connie Metz - May 11, 2023 at 11:18 PM

WD

“ When Rudy came on the Gary police department in the Mid - 60's I was assigned as his training partner. Later we started taking karate together. He was then assigned on detached duty from GPD to the federal DALE unit in Hammond. Later I left for the US State department, but always maintained contact with him. A great guy, a great partner, a great instructor and loyal person. He will be missed by many. Its' shocking to learn of his passing. God bless his soul.

wally derose - May 11, 2023 at 05:59 PM

ET

“ Rudy was my karate instructor from the age of 12 to the age of 18 (1972 to 1978). He was a wonderful person who helped shape me into the person I am today. He was generous and kind as well as being a fantastic karate instructor who helped his students reach their full potential in the dojo as well as in life. We will miss you, sensei, but the lessons you taught us live on in each one of your students.

Until we meet again, may the Lord make his perpetual light to shine upon you and grant you his peace.

Eileen (Gallagher) Thompson

Eileen Thompson - May 11, 2023 at 10:19 AM

JS

Rudy was a great person and a great Gary Police Officer he will be missed.

Jesse Salomon - May 11, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic.*



May 10, 2023 at 07:07 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Jerome Pavletic.*



May 10, 2023 at 05:55 PM



“ *I have known Rudy for 53 years. I met him at Turners Karate and Judo Center on Broadway in Gary in 1970. I studied Karate with him at the YMCA in Glen Park in 1972 and 1973. When he opened the Karate school in Hobart, I signed up as a lifetime member and studied with him until 1984. We ran a Karate program together at the Crown Point YMCA and River Forest High School. Rudy and I became great friends over the years and attended many tournaments and seminars all over the country. We used to have rooftop parties at his apartment. I saw him last when he sold the school and building right before he moved. He was a great guy and awesome instructor and he will be greatly missed. Goodbye Sensei Rudy, I hope to see you "on the other side"...Marty Fick*

Marty Fick - May 10, 2023 at 09:11 AM