

Gregory Edward "Greg" Opalewski

July 22, 1945 - June 17, 2025

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Gregory Edward Opalewski, 79, of Easley, South Carolina, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. He was the beloved husband of 47 years to Vannassee Opalewski and the son of the late Edward and Virginia Golembiewski Opalewski.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Greg graduated with the Pershing High School class of 1963 and earned a football scholarship to Tulsa University. As a young man, he was part of the racing team known as "The Filthy Few" and had a lifelong passion for cars—his treasured '49 Cadillac is proudly displayed in the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Greg served his country with honor during two tours in Vietnam. He later built a successful career as a supervisor in the ceramic division at Champion Spark Plugs and Cooper Industries until his retirement. Among his many accomplishments, he was recognized by the American Red Cross for his bravery in saving two people from drowning.

Greg was an avid sports fan, especially of the Detroit Lions, and he loved boating and spending time tinkering in the garage.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Vannassee Opalewski of Easley; his

daughter, Linda Opalewski (Jeff Bell) of Asheville, NC; and his grandson, Odin Bell of Asheville. He also leaves behind his niece, Michelle Opalewski Carvellas of California; nephews, Scott Opalewski of Pennsylvania, his beloved companion Charlie Opalewski of Easley; along with the families of Julie and Jamie Mann, Stanley and Brad Hart, and Jenny and Dean Durham.

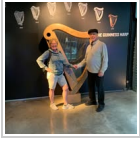
In addition to his parents, Greg was predeceased by his brother, Edward Opalewski, and his beloved companions, Murphy, Bert, and Ernie Opalewski.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Pickens County Humane Society in honor of Greg's love for animals.

The family will hold a private service to celebrate his life.

Mountain View Funerals and Cremations are assisting the family.

Tribute Wall



“ Never forget the Duece & a Half blocking a road on the way to Long Binh from Saigon (1966). As we passed, just happened to look back and see “Sloppy” leaning on the front bumper. Small world. Got to visit Greg’s base camp for a show short time after meeting on the road. Great reunion for both of us. Many good times to follow back stateside. Greg is one of the best friends anyone could have. God Bless Greg and the entire Opalewski Family!

Carroll Easley - July 16, 2025 at 08:04 PM

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“ RIP Greg....as a young kid you were around my dad Gary Ellinger and always would see them beautiful black Cadillacs in our driveway and hearing Chicago on your radio. You always reminded me of Elvis...your were a great guy to me and our family...Bless you and your family

John A. Ellinger - July 16, 2025 at 06:32 PM