



## Raymond "Smoke" Gandia



**NATURAL BRIDGE** – Ray Gandia, 52, 43449 County Rte. 41, died Tuesday, February 14th at Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse. Born on November 30, 1959 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of Raymond & Marylou Whitrock Gandia, he graduated from Tremper High School in Wisconsin, in 1977. He married DeAnn Bell on November 27, 1978 in Washington. He served in the United States Army from 1977 - until his retirement in 1997. He was an Army Ranger served in numerous locations all over the world. After his active duty he continued to work on Fort Drum as a Weapons Instructor for the 10th Mountain Division. He also worked as a bouncer in Alexandria Bay and worked store security at Hannaford in Watertown. He was a mentor and advisor to students at the Carthage Central High School and oversaw the operations of the former Branaugh Memorial Boys Club in Carthage for several years. Ray enjoyed painting, wood carving, hunting and fishing. He was also an avid football and NASCAR fan. He had a passion for riding motorcycles and was currently the Road Captain for the Carthadians Motorcycle Club in Carthage. He is survived by his wife, DeAnn, at home, his son Ray and his companion, Matt Hernandez, Watertown, his daughter and her husband, Erin & Alan Knack, Gouverneur, his daughter, Jamie Frost, Wisconsin. Also surviving is his sister, Lisa Baker, Wisconsin, his grandchildren, Gabriel, Danielle and Chloe. One more grandchild is expected. He is predeceased by his sister Constance Gandia and his mother Marylou Allen.

