



Duane Richard Leinonen

September 4, 1948 - September 28, 2020

DUANE RICHARD LEINONEN, 72, born September 4, 1948, passed peacefully on September 28, 2020, surrounded by his beloved daughter, close family, his dearest friends and his loyal fur companion.

In his lifetime Duane worked as a professional optician and took advantage of many successful career opportunities, which afforded him the luxury to retire early on and pursue his passion of travel and adventure. As an avid traveler, Duane drove cross country multiple times, visiting all 50 states . He was a fierce outdoorsman who loved nature and all its beauty, whether it be hiking the Grand Canyon, kayaking the Gulf of Mexico, or walking the nearest beach. Duane was also a warrior. Diagnosed with terminal Multiple Myeloma in 2004, and given a five-year survival prognosis, he faced his cancer nemesis head-on and turned five years into sixteen.

Duane is survived by his daughter and best friend Lauren Leinonen, his sister Kathy Anderson , his two brothers Wilfred "Butch", and Dale (Vicki) Leinonen, many loving friends, including his lifelong friend Philip Pitts .

Due to the pandemic, a celebration of Duane's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Nature Conservatory.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Duane meant so much to me in high school. He always had that smile and twinkle in his eye. We had many talks about life and death, he helped me work through my own father’s death. I will always be grateful for his friendship. Rest In Peace Duane. My condolences to his family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathy, I still have the rose bud earrings you gave me for Christmas one year and still wear them now. Thank you.

Susan Byrne

susan Byrne - December 08, 2020 at 04:40 PM

RB

“ First met Duane in early, early high school years as we both worked at Bridgeman's on the north side of Virginia, Minn. and loved when the girls would come in for ice cream. (ha ha). I just recently found out about his passing in Florida. The Leinonen family are great folks and good people. Sorry to hear Duane and Willie ("Butch") passed on now so close in timing to each other. My condolences and sympathies to the entire Leinonen family. Rodney Beystrom

Rodney Beystrom - December 07, 2020 at 02:13 PM

KS

Dear Family, I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers and sympathy for each of you. He will be missed. Kathy Bukovac Sandnas, Classmate of the 1966 class of Roosevelt High School.

Kathy Bukovac Sandnas - December 07, 2020 at 08:37 PM

KH

I'm so very sorry for your loss. I got to know Duane in junior high and high school and thought him to be somewhat shy, very polite, respectful, intelligent and always well dressed. Apparently he was also stubborn and determined, to have outlived his life expectancy! It sounds as though he squeezed much enjoyment out of his life and lived well!

*Again, my heartfelt sympathies to Duane's family for their loss.
Kathy Koroshec Halfaker, VHS Class of 1966 classmate*

Kathy Koroshec Halfaker - December 07, 2020 at 11:35 PM



“ *Sorry to hear about your sorrow. Maybe he'll meet up with Drew!*

Tammy Thomas - October 02, 2020 at 02:06 PM