



Duane W. Ballou

April 7, 1951 - December 30, 2020

Duane Ballou, 69-year-old resident of Randall, Minnesota passed away at his home on December 30, 2020 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. A visitation will be held at the Randall VFW on Thursday, January 7th from 4-7 PM. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Family requests that the guidelines put forth by the MDH regarding COVID-19 be followed.

Duane Walter Ballou was born on April 7, 1951 to Merle Jr. and Harriet (Tompkins) Ballou in Little Falls, Minnesota. He grew up in Randall, Minnesota attending Randall Schools through 9th grade and graduating with the class of 1969 from Little Falls High School. He was married June 21, 1969 to Sharon Nelson in Randall, MN, where they lived the entirety of their marriage, and where they also raised their 4 children: Michelle, Chad, Eric and Dwight. Duane was a member of the MN National Guard for many years. He also worked for a time at the family business: Ballou Plumbing and Heating. He and Sharon then operated Cackleberry Acres in Randall. Lastly, Duane worked almost 30 years at IWCO (formerly known as United Mailing) in Little Falls as a maintenance supervisor where he recently retired in May of 2020. In 2007 Duane earned a trip of a lifetime from his company where he and Sharon were able to take an Alaskan Cruise. Duane spent many years learning about and raising unique animals, including emus and elk. He loved spending time on his Gold Wing motorcycle with Sharon, including their group's Tuesday night rides, as well as many trips on the bike including places

like New York, Canada, and Montana. Duane enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and family, including several fishing trips to Canada. He was always ready to learn a new hobby: the last few years he built a maple syrup room and would start the process in early spring by tapping trees. He also planted an apple orchard and enjoyed making apple pies with his fruit, as well as salsa from his garden vegetables. He dabbled with making wine from grapes and apples he grew, and he recently had set up a sawmill in the yard.

Duane was a very proud father and grandfather. He was involved in many of his children's activities, and always made a point to attend his grandchildren's functions including dance, sports, motocross races, various school assemblies, and birthday celebrations.

He was a member of Randall Presbyterian Church (Pastor Michael Hartwell prayed often with Duane and Sharon), MN Gold Wings (Little Falls Chapter), Randall/Cushing Lions, Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America (Randall troop), supervisor for the Darling Township Board, Randall Jaycees (past President), member of the Emu and Pork Associations, member of the Birch Bark Tribe and Lum's group, and past President of the Flyer Wrestling Booster Club.

Survivors include his loving wife of 51 years, Sharon, of Randall; daughter, Michelle Ballou-Donaghue of St. Cloud; sons Chad (Patricia) Ballou of Randall; Eric Ballou (Erik Hyde) of Lee's Summit, MO; Dwight (Aimee) Ballou of Little Falls; Grandchildren: Rachel(Chris), Bryon, Hayle, Chase, Meghan, Nathan, Dane, Elise and Myla; 2 great-grandsons: Bentley and Brady; mother-in-law LaVonne Robinson of Randall. Siblings: David (Sue) Ballou, Diane (Terry) Ballou-Balaski, Doug (Pat) Ballou, all of Randall; brother-in-law Don (Beth) Nelson and sister-in-law Cathy(Mike)Bundy; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. Duane also leaves behind his 4-legged companion of 3 years, Gus, his German shorthair pointer who never left his side.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents, and his grandson Riley Ballou in 2018.

Honorary Pallbearers are Brian Anderson, Steve Stephan, Tom Grams, Ken Koll, Tony Kempenich, and David Eastlund.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Randall VFW Post #9073
401 Pacific Ave.
Randall, MN 56475

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 05, 2021 at 09:37 AM

SB

Beautiful. You did an excellent job. Thank you!

sharon Ballou - January 05, 2021 at 03:06 PM

RW

What a beautiful tribute. The music was the best. I am so very sorry for your loss Sharon and family.

Roxanne Wachlarowicz - January 05, 2021 at 08:39 PM

CA

Beautiful tribute; you captured Duane's essence.

Cathy Adamek - January 05, 2021 at 09:48 PM

TC

Such a beautiful tribute! Sharon, the pictures you chose were perfect, capturing the most important things to Duane;

Tammy Casey - January 06, 2021 at 08:57 AM

LA

Simply perfect. Very moving.

Lani - January 06, 2021 at 09:14 AM

LB

Sharon, I agree with Lani. I could not have said it any better. Thank you Kyle, Margit, and Shelley family. Simply Awesome!

Lois Marie Bieganek - January 06, 2021 at 10:12 AM

SK

What a beautiful tribute !

Shirley kuchinski - January 06, 2021 at 08:14 PM



Just a beautiful tribute Sharon, our sympathy to you and your family.

Ann Hanson - January 07, 2021 at 10:52 AM



“ Duane W. Ballou

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

SE

“ Sharon (Matros) Engelhardt lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Sharon (Matros) Engelhardt - January 08, 2021 at 10:07 PM

RW

“ This evening friends and family are coming together to mourn this kind and generous man who once visited us as Santa. I'm thinking of all who loved him. Duane, thank you for this special memory, for our beautiful maple tree, for letting my hubby & kids sight in their guns at your place, and especially for being a good man for my husband to be friends with. Rest in peace, Duane. You already are missed. 🙏💙 - Becky Walter
(Date on photo: 12-23-1999)



RS Walter - January 07, 2021 at 06:11 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Duane W. Ballou.



January 07, 2021 at 12:45 PM

DW

“ Duane & Cindy Witucki lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Duane & cindy witucki - January 06, 2021 at 07:31 PM



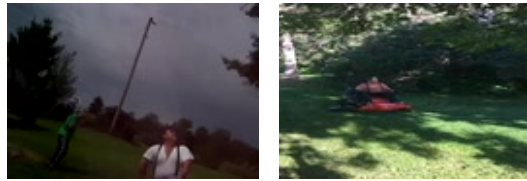
“ Shannon Pusc lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Shannon Pusc - January 06, 2021 at 09:39 AM



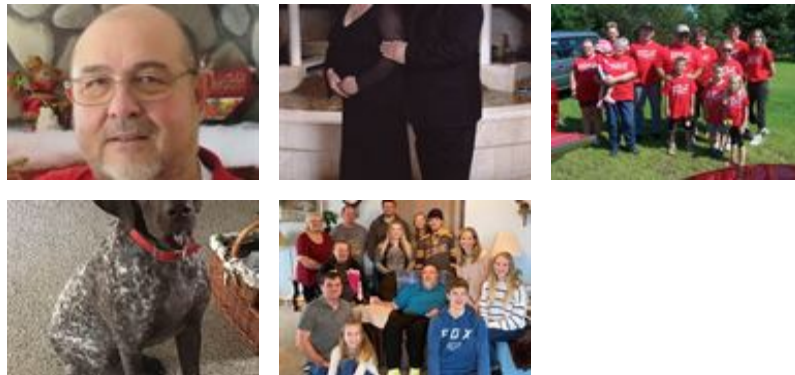
“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 05, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ 16 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 05, 2021 at 09:38 AM

LL

“ *Linda Lea lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Linda Lea - January 04, 2021 at 04:39 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Duane W. Ballou.*



January 04, 2021 at 04:06 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Duane W. Ballou.*



January 04, 2021 at 04:03 PM

DH

“ *Debbie Helmerick lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Debbie Helmerick - January 04, 2021 at 03:02 PM

DH

Robert and I traveled with Duane and Sharon on some amazing motorcycle trips. The one to New York is by far the best. Duane and Sharon led the group made all the plans. It will be a lasting memory. We did several out West with them.. Thank you for the memories . Our deepest sympathy to the family

Debbie Helmerick - January 04, 2021 at 03:05 PM



“ 58 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 04, 2021 at 11:23 AM

AK

“ *Anna & Darrell Klein lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Anna & Darrell Klein - January 04, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Duane W. Ballou.*



January 04, 2021 at 10:53 AM



“ *Jeff Joslin lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Jeff Joslin - January 04, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ *Jim & Jeneva Bellefeuille lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Jim & Jeneva Bellefeuille - January 03, 2021 at 09:34 PM



“ *My sympathies to Sharon and the rest of The family Thoughts and prayers to all of you 🙏❤️*

Carol Hildebrant - January 03, 2021 at 06:50 PM

KB

“ *Kim Barnes lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Kim Barnes - January 03, 2021 at 09:49 AM

JC

“ *My deepest sympathy, Sharon and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*



Jill Case - January 02, 2021 at 01:02 PM

MG

“ *My deepest sympathy. Your family in my prayers and thoughts 🙏💕😊*



Melissa Graves - January 02, 2021 at 10:24 AM

AE

“ *Our sympathy to the Ballou family.*

Ardyce Eckblad - January 02, 2021 at 09:21 AM

MG

“ *Mary Kay Gammon lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Mary Kay Gammon - January 01, 2021 at 08:44 PM

ED

“ *Eldora Dreher lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Eldora dreher - January 01, 2021 at 06:50 PM

ME

“ *Our deepest sympathy for Sharon and family. May God provide comfort and peace in the coming days, months, and years. Sincerely, Marcia and Chuck Engvall*

Marcia Engvall - January 01, 2021 at 05:50 PM

RL

“ *Rick & Donna Lundgren sent a virtual gift in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Rick & Donna Lundgren - January 01, 2021 at 04:12 PM

RL

Our sympathy to the entire Ballou family.

Rick & Donna Lundgren - January 01, 2021 at 04:14 PM

RW

“ *Richard Walker lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Richard Walker - January 01, 2021 at 02:11 PM

DW

“ *Donna&George Williams lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Donna&George williams - January 01, 2021 at 01:47 PM

FT

“ *Fred Tabatt lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Fred Tabatt - January 01, 2021 at 12:49 PM

KT

“ *Prayers to you, your children, grandchildren and Gus as you go forward through your tomorrows together. Draw strength from each other. Remember that our Father holds every tear in his heart.*

Kathy Rosty Tomczik - January 01, 2021 at 12:16 PM

DL

“ Sending our deepest sympathies to the entire Ballou family! We have so enjoyed our times spent with you & Duane will be greatly missed! He was a great "waffle maker man" & his salsa was "the BEST!"

One of my favorite sayings is: In the love that surrounds you, may you find strength...In the memories you cherish, may you find peace.

With much love-Dawn & Brad



Dawn & Brad Laager - January 01, 2021 at 11:35 AM

TO

“ Our sympathy to the entire Ballou family. May good memories get you through these sad days.
Stick and Shirley

the Olsons - January 01, 2021 at 10:38 AM

TC

“ My prayers and sympathy to Sharon and family! Duane was one of a kind. He could always put a smile on your face just by using one of his many Randallisms. He worked hard and enjoyed any time he could to play. It was always interesting to hear what he had been up to after a couple days off. He always shared his successes and failures with his wine making, apple growing and whatever other hobby or hobbies he was into at the time. With everything he did, there was always a story, one that would make you laugh. One memory was the story about how he flipped his grandson's dirt bike and ended up with a huge black and blue mark. Duane will be greatly missed by many. Rest in Peace Duane!

Tammy Casey - January 01, 2021 at 09:35 AM

WB

“ Duane's soul has found rest, and he is now with the angels above. Thinking of you at this sad time and praying God will give you comfort. Wayne and Lois Bentler



Wayne and Lois Bentler - January 01, 2021 at 09:25 AM

TC

“ Tammy Casey lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Tammy Casey - January 01, 2021 at 09:22 AM

EL

“ Elaine LeDoux lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Elaine LeDoux - January 01, 2021 at 09:21 AM



“ Sympathy to the Ballou family. May he Rest In Peace 🙏



Renae Schneider - January 01, 2021 at 08:42 AM

DJ

“ Sincere sympathy to all the Ballou families on your loss of Duane. May he rest in peace & God Bless You all.



Debbie Jelinski-Harakel - January 01, 2021 at 01:59 AM

SR

“ A really, really nice guy left us. We are so sorry for your loss. We treasure memories of sharing the hard benches watching wrestling and eating cookies and bars....while our boys could only watch! Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Sharon & Rick



sharon Radl - January 01, 2021 at 01:56 AM



“ Judy Berger lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Judy Berger - December 31, 2020 at 11:06 PM

DF

“ Don And Jennifer Fillbrandt lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou



Don and Jennifer Fillbrandt - December 31, 2020 at 09:39 PM

GG

“ *Gayle Goligowski lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Gayle Goligowski - December 31, 2020 at 09:23 PM

AA

“ *Annie Adamski lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Annie Adamski - December 31, 2020 at 09:08 PM

DB

“ *Sharon & Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Duane's passing.
Jeff & Deb Tschida*

Deb Boelz - December 31, 2020 at 06:52 PM

MA

“ *My sympathies to the Ballou family. God Bless you!*

Marilyn Anderson - December 31, 2020 at 06:45 PM

KB

“ *Our prayers and thoughts go out to you Sharon and family. Duane will be missed by many, many people. He is at peace with Riley and they will be watching and guiding you and everyone until you all meet again.*

Kathy & Lauren Bentler - December 31, 2020 at 06:14 PM

KB

“ *Kathy & Lauren Bentler lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Kathy & Lauren Bentler - December 31, 2020 at 06:11 PM



Please accept Sandy and my condolences during this sad time. Dan & Sandy Noss

Danny Noss - December 31, 2020 at 06:59 PM

DF

“ *Dan & Connie Fenske lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Dan & Connie Fenske - December 31, 2020 at 06:09 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Sandy Nelson - December 31, 2020 at 05:29 PM

DW

“ *Donna Wenz lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Donna Wenz - December 31, 2020 at 05:28 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Waltman lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Wendy Waltman - December 31, 2020 at 05:22 PM

SK

“ *Shirley Kuchinski lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Shirley kuchinski - December 31, 2020 at 05:18 PM

RS

“ *Our deepest sympathy, condolences & prayers go out to Sharon & the entire family of their loss of Duane. Duane was a great man. I knew Duane back the early 70's when we were in the National Guards together for many years. Duane will be sadly missed by all how new him. May God bless his loving family now, & May Duane rest in piece with our Heavenly Father. God's blessings on you all.*

Richard Schneider - December 31, 2020 at 05:16 PM

KJ

“ *Kathy Jenks lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Kathy Jenks - December 31, 2020 at 04:54 PM

JS

“ *Jenny Stout lit a candle in memory of Duane W. Ballou*



Jenny Stout - December 31, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SK

Prayers to family you will be missed such a great guy

Shirley kuchinski - December 31, 2020 at 04:51 PM