



Michael L. Duncan

February 3, 1952 - March 12, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Michael L. Duncan

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Michael L. Duncan, age 73, of Murphysboro, passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

He was born on February 3, 1952 to John and Phyllis (Sheldon) Duncan in Harrisburg, Illinois. His parents preceded him in death. On March 5, 2004 he married Laura Cates (née Whistle). Together they spent over 21 years, and she survives.

Along with his wife, survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Austin (Ambrielle) Duncan, Tyler (Melinda) Cates, and Clayton (Stephie) Cates; six grandchildren, Satyanna Cates, Conar Cates, Ruby Cates, Zach (Kaylee) Holmes, Madison Holmes, Lauryn Holmes; one great-grandson, Rylan Holmes; two brothers, Larry (Vicky) Duncan and Russell (Katy) Duncan; as

well as nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Michael, known by many as “Dunk”, was extremely proud of his service to his country in the United States Marine Corps, serving in Vietnam. While he worked in several occupational fields throughout his lifetime, including serving as a police officer for the City of Harrisburg, Illinois, he considered his final job as a Veterans’ Representative with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) to be his dream job. He took great satisfaction in helping veterans find employment and apprising veterans of benefits due to them. After his retirement from IDES, his continuing respect for fellow veterans (and their families) led Michael to volunteer as a member of the American Legion Post 127 Honor Guard. Honoring veterans at the end of their life was extremely important to Michael.

While he enjoyed dabbling in several hobbies, Michael derived the greatest pleasure from successfully executing pranks on his family and friends. Many unsuspecting people foolishly attempted to prank Michael. He made it his mission to “one-up” their feeble attempts. Days or months may pass, but eventually he WOULD find an opportunity to pull off a payback.

Michael was a member of United in Faith Christian Church (formerly Berean Christian Church) in Murphysboro, American Legion Murphysboro Post 127, the Elks Lodge #572, Carbon Lake Club and the Murphysboro Moose Lodge.

A tribute to Michael would be incomplete without mentioning the fierce love he had, and the pride he felt for his family. He looked forward to every visit with them. Many of those visits ended with Michael placing food in their hands as they walked out his door.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:00 AM with Mike Austin officiating at Crain Pleasant Grove – Murdale Funeral Home.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM the funeral home.

Inurnment will follow the service at Mound City National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to United in Faith Christian Church or to the Honor Guard.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mound City National Cemetery

Mound City, IL

Previous Events

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (cst)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (cst)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home - Old 13
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-2500
crain@crainsonline.com

Inurnment

MAR 20. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (cst)

Mound City National Cemetery
Mound City, IL

Tribute Wall

BB

“ I'll miss you Dunk. I truly enjoyed our short time together last summer while at your and Laura's house. We never got to go on that bike ride but we'll catch a trail when I get up there. Love you, Dunk.

Bill Bartimus - March 21, 2025 at 01:48 PM

MM

“ Uncle Mike always put a smile on my face every time we got together as a family. He would always say that I was named after him, and it filled me with pride every time he did. He loved to joke around, even going so far as to send my brother baby food while he was at bootcamp at MCRD Camp Pendleton. He will be missed sorely by his family.

Mykal (Duncan) MacRae - March 20, 2025 at 11:17 AM

RS

“ Ronnie and Lisa Simpson lit a candle in memory of Michael Duncan



Ronnie and Lisa Simpson - March 19, 2025 at 06:28 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael L. Duncan.



March 18, 2025 at 10:33 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Michael L. Duncan*.



March 18, 2025 at 02:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of *Michael L. Duncan*.



March 18, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *Laura Hull lit a candle in memory of Michael Duncan*



Laura Hull - March 18, 2025 at 02:10 AM



“ *Laura Hull lit a candle in memory of Michael Duncan*



Laura Hull - March 17, 2025 at 09:59 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael L. Duncan.



March 17, 2025 at 08:44 PM



“ Mike was a great friend. He could always make me laugh anytime we got together. I will miss him dearly. Praying for comfort for his family in these hard times. RIP Dunk.



Stephen Questelle - March 17, 2025 at 07:14 PM



“ I went to school with him from kindergarten thru high school. He was a nice kid and a friend. May God bless his family with healing.

Belinda (Dill) Fearheiley - March 17, 2025 at 04:00 PM



“ Dunk and I were just getting acquainted, but I still considered him a friend. He always made me happy, and we shared many jokes and political debates. Dunk, you are missed!

Barbara Dallas



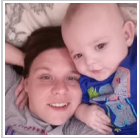
Barbara Dallas - March 17, 2025 at 01:04 PM

TR

“ *The Robinsons lit a candle in memory of Michael Duncan*



The Robinsons - March 16, 2025 at 10:31 PM



“ *You will always be remembered you was the best God dad anyone could ask for!*



Christine Patrick Flick - March 16, 2025 at 02:04 PM

KH

“ *Dorrisville Alley Rats! God bless you mike and family's ,we will miss you from hbg ll*

kim Simpson Hyers Henshaw - March 16, 2025 at 10:43 AM

LY

“ *Laura, this is SO sudden and unexpected. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you journey through this difficult time.*



Lynn - March 16, 2025 at 12:35 AM

OL

“ My wife and I recently had the pleasure of visiting Mike and Laura at their home on a return trip to the university. He was so friendly and welcoming and we sat on a sofa.

Sharing times spent with our children grandchildren and of course Laura and Joe our wives. Always here to support you Laura.
Ozzie Lomax

Ozzie Lomax - March 15, 2025 at 10:31 PM

RW

“ Mike was a great Local Veterans Employment Representative. He was very instrumental in assisting with the development of the Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program. He loved the Marine Corps and helping veterans. Rest in Peace Brother.

Richard Wuthrich - March 15, 2025 at 10:16 PM