



## Duane Delorey

May 14, 1937 - February 9, 2020

Duane Delorey, 82, of Kalkaska passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2020. He was born on May 14, 1937 to the late Benjamin and Beatrice (Smith) Delorey in Detroit. Duane proudly served in the United States Navy. He enjoyed fishing, playing poker and pinochle with his friends and telling a good joke or two. He was a Ham Radio operator and liked music especially playing his guitar. Duane never met a stranger and was well-liked by everyone.

Duane will be lovingly remembered by his children: Theo (Rachael) Delorey, Anthony Delorey, Frank Delorey and Lisa Delorey, grandchildren Aiden, Lillianna, sister Marvelle Vannest. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Geraldine Haggard and son Alejandro Delorey. Visitation for Duane will take place on Monday, February 17, 2020 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Kalkaska Funeral Home.

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 05:00PM

**17**

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Kalkaska Funeral Home

152 S. Cedar, Kalkaska, MI, US, 49646

# Comments

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Duane Delorey.



Yesterday at 09:07 AM

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“ Marvelle purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Duane Delorey.



Marvelle - February 15 at 02:17 PM

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“ What a wonderful friend to lose. I met the Duane Delorey family after becoming best friends with his son Alejandro in about 1962. Alejandro died of cancer. In spite of our age difference we stayed in touch tho our lives went in different directions. I was drafted, Duane, Esther and Frank moved back to California. One day my wife told me The Delorey's are back in Redford, Mi. From that point on we spent many wonderful times together. Duane and I went into a short lived towing business that we later sold. Esther was our dispatcher and Frank Delorey our best driver. My brother Bob and I were surprised to be invited to Duane's to learn to play guitar by the legendary classical guitarist Jean Agopian. One problem Jean didn't have "the feeling" for country music. Jean was kind enough to introduce us to Mr. Bill Obright. Well we played music at Duane's every Wednesday for about 15 years! Duane, Bob Brooks and I became the Moonlighters band and played at small venues occasionally over the years. We changed our name to The Three Amigo's. We truly were. I also spent many nights at Duane's playing various card games. Sometimes his Dad would be in attendance. A sneaky and ruthless competitor, but all in great fun. Duane had many interests and always pursued them in a BIG way. Playing music, bowling, also photography CB radio, and ham radio. Duane had a motto, not stated but learned by observation. If you're gonna go, go BIG. Big guitars, big radios, big cameras, and most of all BIG friends.

Duane was also my best friend and me one of his. I'm not good about sending greeting cards but Every Christmas I would get a card from Duane. Really mushy ones. (Don't mistake the meaning).

One year Duane gave Bob's and my mother a beautiful quilt he had made and a wonderful letter to her explaining what a great job she had done raising her sons and

was happy to call them his best friends and tho not brothers in blood, we were brothers in heart. I mean who writes to their friend's mother? My buddy Duane that's who!

I always assumed Duane knew how we felt toward him but really didn't provide the "Documentation" that he had. I told him so. An opportunity eventually presented itself to make that happen.

The 3Amigos were at a music session in nearby Springfield and Duane saw a carving in wood of a feather. It was, you guessed it. BIG. In Indian culture I'm told, presenting someone with a feather is a symbol of high honor and friendship. He said he really liked it I said you want that. He said I don't have room for it. I made up my mind, too bad and devised a plan to spirit it out of there. I took it home to Detroit to have a brass plate inscribed and attached and Bob and I presented to him on behalf of us and our mother.

That feather had the desired effect. All that would see would from that day forward need no further documentation.

Duane wrote a letter of thanks. It is a perfect example of what a loving, caring, wonderful, and a humble man.

Duane will be sadly missed by his Family by blood and family by heart and all his many friends.

Hope to see you in heaven my friend

Love eternal. Tom Brooks

Tom Brooks, Detroit Mi. - February 15 at 01:52 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Duane Delorey.



February 15 at 12:00 PM

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“ 39 files added to the album Brother Duane



Ben Vannest - February 14 at 04:02 PM

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“ Duane was my uncle. My strongest memory of Uncle Duane is that he was always good and kind to me. A favorite memory was the times he took us out fishing on Lake Michigan; quite a thrill for a young kid. One of my favorite things about Uncle Duane was whatever he did he did it with skill and great enthusiasm. I will always remember him playing the guitar and singing, and how he sent me a CD with songs he had written performed by his friend Bob. My lasting memory will always be his kindness and the booming laugh he would unleash regularly. We are all sad to lose him, but happy in knowing of his salvation and that he is now up in heaven.

**Ben Vannest** - February 14 at 03:55 PM

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“ My first full time job out of school was in the Tower at Pat Milliken Ford with Duane. The two of us were crammed in that small space for several years. Even though we were separated in years he always treated me as an equal. He was so patient as he taught me how to price out the orders. He was one of the most sincere and kind men I have ever known. My sympathy goes out to the entire family. I am certain that he is in heaven smiling down on all of you.

**Marilyn Godfrey Sgro** - February 14 at 03:45 PM

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“ Duane was my Uncle. In all of my memories he was always good and kind to me. One thing I always liked was that whatever he did in life he always did it well and with great enthusiasm. A favorite time was when he took us fishing on Lake Michigan, which was quite a thrill for a young kid. I remember him playing the guitar and singing, and sending me a CD of songs he'd written. When I think of Uncle Duane, I most remember his kind spirit and the booming laugh he unleashed regularly. We'll all miss him, but my happiest thought is knowing he was saved and is now up in heaven.

**Ben Vannest** - February 14 at 03:32 PM

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“ Duane was my step-dad for many years. He was one that no matter how hard I fought to be a stubborn pre teen and have an attitude, he was there keeping me straight. He was always there if I picked up the phone to just talk about how things were and gave solid advice about things. Over the years, I hadn't kept in touch as I should have but I will always remember him and how good of a person he was and how great he was as a dad/step-dad.



**Victoria Layton** - February 14 at 05:50 AM

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“ I have lost my best friend of 50 plus years that was more like family than friend. Many good times were spent together. Even when separated by location at times we always remained best of friends. We both eventually ended up in the Kalkaska area where we shared company again. I believe he was liked by everyone he met and will be sorely missed. I am sorry for everyones loss of him.

**Bob Brooks** - February 13 at 10:20 AM

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“ I'm very sorry for the loss of Duane. I only knew him from playing pinochle online, but he was so kind. He'd send me messages with jokes that always made me smile and laugh. He was a true gentleman when we were able to play cards together and my husband and I will miss him. My sincerest condolences to his family.

Terri Leary

**Terri Leary** - February 12 at 07:58 PM

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“ D - as I called you! I know you're playing pinochle in heaven! If not cards it will be music! The Angels will love your voice and those special songs! We will truly be missed by your family and friends. It was such an honor to know you.... Your wings will take you far... Miss you, My Friend!!

**Nancy Ostapow** - February 12 at 04:20 PM

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“ Duane was one of the kindest men I have ever known,he was the true definition of a Gentleman. He was a great friend and a wonderful mentor. He will be missed by all who knew him especially my family. We had some very fun times playing music together. He sat in with his keyboard at many of my shows and I can't say enough great things about him.

Jenise E Root - February 12 at 03:48 PM

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“ I worked with DUANE at Stark Hickey Ford and at Pat Millikan Ford always a good friend and when I traveled to Travis city I would stop in Kalkaska at the grocery store he work at . He was always smiling and joking, he was a good friend I will miss him.

Fred langley - February 12 at 02:44 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Duane Delorey.



February 12 at 08:04 AM

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“ I worked with Duane at Northland for several year's, it was such a joy, he always made us laugh and was such a gentle soul, when I no longer worked and he still did I would always look for him at the registers so he could wait on me. He would always say " Hey Barbie, hows it going " and then give me jazz about something. He gave me plenty of rides to and from work when I was without a vehicle. Your work is done my friend, rest easy in joy with our Lord.

Barbie Abramczyk - February 11 at 07:29 PM

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“ When I lived in Michigan and worked at Northland he was always a committed worker and went in whenever they called them. Carol Norris.

Carol Norris - February 11 at 05:30 PM