



William Dery Ritter

January 25, 1957 - April 29, 2024

William Dery Ritter, 67, of Kalkaska, passed away on Monday, April 29, 2024 surrounded by loved ones. He was born in Traverse City, Michigan to the late Fred and Marie (Dery) Ritter on January 25, 1957. Bill grew up in Kalkaska and was a lifelong member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. He moved to Bellingham, Washington shortly after graduation from Kalkaska High School to pursue his environmental Science/Conservation college degree. He was a passenger in a tragic car accident and suffered a traumatic brain injury. Bill was an accomplished drummer, and many remember the band trailering his drum set out for half-time shows and he built a platform for basketball season entertainment. He was a true “Free Spirit” who loved being in nature; hiking, winter camping and biking, and soaking in Mt. hot springs. He owned homes in Bellingham, Washington, Littleton, Colorado and Kalkaska, Michigan. Bill enjoyed travelling, once in his younger days he even hitchhiked across the country. Among the numerous classic cars he owned, his Barracudas were his pride. Bill also had a nice bicycle collection. He had an eye for antiques, oddities, and eclectic things. He loved the simple things in life – a good cup of coffee with folks, a wave, and a smile. William is survived by his 7 siblings: Judith (Ron) Eagan-Schinnars, Frederick D. Ritter III, Alice (Jeff) Nobis, Nancy (Lynn) Cross, Mary Kaye Slick; Karen (Jerry) Davis, Michael J. Ritter; and numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers-in-law Paul Slick, Michael Eagan, and Daryl Anderson; great-nephew Jake Gnegy; and

great-nephew Honor Slick. A funeral Mass will take place at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2:00 pm with a visitation prior from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. A luncheon will follow the service. Memorial contributions may be made in Bill's memory to the Window Fund at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church or you can plant a tree in his memory. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary of the Woods Cemetery

Barker Creek, MI

Previous Events

Final Visitation

MAY 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
438 CR 612 NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Funeral Mass

MAY 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
438 CR 612 NE
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I worked at the Lodge. I will always hold a special place in my heart for Billy. He had the kindest eyes and most genuine smile.

megann stroh - July 27, 2024 at 09:02 AM

SB

“ Steve & Marlene B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Dery Ritter.

Steve & Marlene B. - May 14, 2024 at 10:23 AM

CP

“ Christopher P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Dery Ritter.

Christopher P. - May 04, 2024 at 09:45 PM

SD

“ My heart goes out to all of Bill's family. May God comfort all of you. Family is so precious. 🙏

Susan DePeel - May 02, 2024 at 09:56 PM

KA

Thank you for your kind words. 💕

Karen Anderson-Davis - May 04, 2024 at 09:15 PM

MW

“ Mary W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Dery Ritter.

Mary W. - May 01, 2024 at 10:25 PM

DN

“ Deborah Newell lit a candle in memory of William Ritter



Deborah Newell - April 30, 2024 at 11:09 PM

KA

Thank you Deb! 💕

Karen Anderson-Davis - May 04, 2024 at 09:16 PM