



Dirk Tenwalde

September 11, 1957 - July 4, 2021

TENWALDE, Dirk A.

Age 63

Allegan

Went to be with his Lord and Savior Sunday, July 4th, 2021 in Kalamazoo following a short battle with cancer. Dirk was born September 11, 1957 in Grand Rapids, son of the late Ronald and Constance Tenwalde and lived in the area his entire life. Dirk was a memorable character and legend in the Allegan area and made an impression on everyone he met. At age 17 Dirk made the newspaper after taking one of the largest bucks in recent years, a massive 14 point. Dirk was in the Tough Man contest in the late 1980s where he took 3rd place. He played in several softball leagues over the years, both co ed and men's divisions and was excellent covering 3rd base. Dirk coached Little League for several years both in Bloomingdale and Allegan. Dirk was a Firefighter and First Responder with the Allegan Fire Department. In 1992 he was honored as Firefighter of the Year from an ice rescue call on Miner Lake. When accepting the high honor Dirk said that he accepted the award on behalf of all Allegan Firefighters as the rescue was a team effort.

Dirk worked for a short time for the Railroad in Grand Rapids. He worked for the Perrigo Company and also the Allegan DPW. Dirk realized he enjoyed working outside so he went on to work for HamCon Construction / Hamilton Block and Ready Mix where he retired from in 2010. At HamCon he served as

a Foreman, drove a boom truck and a ready mix truck. He was a hard and physical worker. Dirk was a fisherman, deer hunter and loved camping. After it became difficult for him to get around he loved to cruise the back roads where he would look for deer, sandhill cranes and ride on the golf cart.

Surviving is his wife Robin of nearly 25 years, Children, Crystal (Robert) Smith, Jason (Lynn) Tenwalde, Justin Tenwalde, Rachel (Brian) Ortega, Kari (Neil Gavan) Pinnell, Alan II (Jenna) Pinnell, Matthew (Aricka) Pinnell; 24 grandchildren including a special grandson, Drake; many adopted kids and grandkids along the way; siblings, Rhonda Tenwalde, Sandra (Larry) Stamper, David (Carol) Tenwalde, Scott II (Laura) Tenwalde; mother and father in law, Ed (Lynda) Crandall; sisters in law, Dawn (Dave) Taylor, Teresa (Mike) Crandall; brothers in law, Mark (Wendy) Crandall and David Crandall; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, baby brother Scott and Grandson JT2.

Following his wishes cremation has taken place. A Celebration of life will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at the Hartman Conference Center, Allegan, from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Allegan Fire Department. Arrangements entrusted to the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Hartman Conference Center
690 N. Eastern Ave.
Allegan, MI 49010

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Jessica Sparks lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde



Jessica Sparks - December 28, 2021 at 11:11 PM

GH

“ Georgiana Haner lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde



Georgiana Haner - July 19, 2021 at 10:04 AM

SS

“ So very sorry for your loss. May he RIP.



Sandra Sincler - July 12, 2021 at 09:44 AM

PP

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss sending prayers for all of u



Pam Pinnell-murvine - July 07, 2021 at 11:45 PM

TO

“ Dirk and his family were the first neighbors I remember meeting when we moved on Peony St. I think I was 5. Dirk and I went to kindergarten together. Walked to Townline school. Met so many more of his extended family that became friends. He taught me and every other kid in the neighborhood how to play baseball, and that's what we did all summer long. I was so sad when they moved to Allegan, but so happy for them at the same time. Always kept in contact with Rhonda and Sandy. Reconnected with Dirk through Facebook over a year ago and had so much fun catching up. I know he had a strong belief in Jesus Christ and that makes my heart happy. He will truly be missed. ❤️🙏

Terri Durfee Osbon - July 06, 2021 at 09:29 PM

MB

“ Just love this family. Remember when they lived on Peony St. in Cutlerville. I am talking about 50 years ago. Dirk was the cute cousin my brothers age. They had a white German Shepard i believe the name was snowball. Had so much fun over at that house. Love you all!!! 🥰❤️😊❤️🥰



Mary Beth Beyers - July 06, 2021 at 07:09 PM

RT

Snowball. White Shepard.. 🥰 Dirks Dog. ❤️

Rhonda tenwalde - July 06, 2021 at 07:30 PM

SS

“ So very sorry Robin 🙏. Sandy Scott

Sandy Scott - July 06, 2021 at 05:58 PM

DF

“ *Doug Fisher lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde*



Doug Fisher - July 06, 2021 at 04:50 PM

“ Dear Jason and Tenwalde family,

Jason, although I never met your father, I certainly would have liked to. He and I are about the same age and probably had a lot in common. I'm sure those that did meet him and knew him were the better for it. He sounds like a remarkable man.

It's obvious that he had a giving spirit, by way of his many years of coaching and mentoring youth and his service with the Allegan Fire Department. It's also apparent that he was humble, never seeking the spotlight. When praise was shined on him, he reflected the light on those around him.

His love and respect for God's handiwork is easy to see in his time spent in the outdoors. I long suspected that's how you came by that same appreciation.

It sounds like he never shied away from a hard day's work and probably relished in it. That's not lost on you, either, as I see the effort you put forth and the concern you have to make sure things get done.


His large family tells me that there's a lot of love surrounding him and shared amongst all of you. God's love is there with him and all of you, too. Take comfort in knowing that he has graduated, and is in Jesus' loving arms, restored and blessed. At this very moment your dad is rejoicing in God's great glory! And it sounds like he was blessed in life by all of you.

May The Lord bless you and comfort you as you celebrate your father's life and all the good memories along the way. That celebration is God's best prescription to temper the sadness we feel when we lose someone close.

With all my love and prayers,

Bob

Bob Hakken - July 06, 2021 at 08:42 AM

 Deana
Vickery
Hostetler

“ *Deana Vickery Hostetler lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde*



Deana Vickery Hostetler - July 05, 2021 at 05:36 PM

WK

“ *Walt & Cookie Klotz lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde*



Walt & Cookie Klotz - July 05, 2021 at 05:26 PM

DB

“ *DANA BRYANT lit a candle in memory of Dirk Tenwalde*



DANA BRYANT - July 05, 2021 at 03:13 PM