



## Duane A. Whaley

July 29, 1940 - October 19, 2012

Duane Whaley, age 72, passed away Friday, October 19, 2012 at home. Duane was born July 29, 1940 in Cadillac, the son of Lawrence and Elva (Gibson) Whaley and graduated from Cadillac Public Schools in 1958. He served in the US Navy from 1958-1960 on the USS Compton during the Cuban Conflict, and from 1960 to 1967 he worked for V. M. Corporation and the Benton Township Police Department. In 1967 he started for Du-Wel Metal Products, Inc. in Bangor through 1984 as paint, pack & personnel manager, from 1984 to 2000 he owned and operated the Bangor Freeze. In 2000 he started Rock Harbor Painting. Ken, who still runs it today, joined him in 2010. Duane loved the people, making great friendships as he worked and always strived to give them the best paint job possible, and handiwork was included as needed. He took great pride in every job he did and every friendship he made. Duane was a scout leader in the Benton Harbor area & also taught Geneva Wrens 4-H Woodworking for many years. He was friendly, loved people & always had hugs to share with big smiles that warmed the heart. He enjoyed his years at Bangor Freeze watching young people become adults with good values, a quote from Barbie an employee from the freeze, "I'm so saddened to hear of the loss of a very good man. Duane had a kind heart, an amazing work ethic, and the patience of a saint. He was a second dad to many of the workers at the Bangor Freeze, always encouraging us to do our best and working around our crazy schedules because he knew how important it was for us to be involved in things outside of school. He gave

good advice, was very protective of his Freeze Girls (and boys), and truly cared for us all. Above and beyond that, he loved his wife more than anything, and my heart hurts for her loss. I hope Duane knew how special he was to so many. My love and prayers are with you Nancy.” He always liked seeing the accomplishments of his teachings, although never boastful. His favorite things were spending time with his dogs, feeding fish, being out of doors, mowing lawn, washing, waxing and driving his always clean truck, doing for and helping others topped his priority list, family get-togethers, good food and Friday Night Date Night with Nancy and special friends Mary Taie and Lorraine Nielsen, Wednesday Breakfast with the guys, working out at the Wellness Center with friends, watching Nascar, reading, candy and putting his best foot forward. Surviving are his wife Nancy Funk Whaley; 2 sons, Bradley (Amy) Whaley of Burlington, WA, Ken (Tammy) Whaley of Bangor; 2 daughters, Stephanie (Ken) Fletcher of Lawrence, Charise Whaley of Holland; 6 grandchildren, Natalie, Jeffery, Madelyn Whaley, Sarah, Jack Shriver, Alex Fletcher; special son, Durond Hampton of Harrison Township; brother-in-laws, David Funk and Larry (Barbara) Funk; cousins Tom and Susan Riemer and many close relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and 3 brothers, George, Dean and Bruce Whaley. The family will meet friends 10:30 – 12:00 Noon Thursday, October 25, 2012 at Peace Lutheran Church, South Haven where the memorial service will be at 12:00 Noon with Pastor Bob Linstrom officiating. According to his wishes cremation has taken place. The family suggests memorials be made to SHAES Paid on Call Association, B/SH Black River Heritage Water Trail Association, Peace Lutheran Church Memorial Path or Donors choice. Arrangements were entrusted to the Bangor Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

OCT **25**. 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
06321 Blue Star Highway  
South Haven, Mi

### Service

OCT **25**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
06321 Blue Star Highway  
South Haven, Mi

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Don And Myra Sager lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley*



Don and Myra Sager - December 08, 2012 at 10:04 AM

DS

*Nancy, so sorry to learn about Dwayne. When our grandchildren get together they still talk about going to the Tasty Freeze and seeing Mr. Dwayne and Miss Nancy.*

Don and Myra Sager - December 08, 2012 at 10:06 AM



“ *Joi lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley*



Joi - November 15, 2012 at 12:39 PM

DH

“ *Debra&del Hooper{ Hosier} sent a virtual gift in memory of Duane A. Whaley*



debra&del hooper{ hosier} - November 13, 2012 at 01:18 PM

DH

*Del & DEB hooper {Hooper}*

debra&del hooper{ hosier} - November 13, 2012 at 01:20 PM

CJ

“ Nancy and kids, I am so saddened by Duane's passing. I know he has been welcomed with open arms by his Lord and Savior. May God continue to give you His strength and peace.

Carol A Jensen - October 26, 2012 at 08:08 AM

JM

“ Nancy, I am so saddened at the news of Duane's death. We're out of town and won't be able to attend the memorial but please know you and your family are in our hearts and prayers. Duane was one of my dad's favorite people (you were one as well!) and I'm sure they'll reconnect in heaven.

Judy Foster Martens - October 25, 2012 at 06:54 PM



“ Nancy,  
Please know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

*I remember the first time I met Duane was in your basement as he and my dad were the leaders of the wood working class for the wrens 4-H. That was a fun class!*

*Brian & Julie Stegman*

Brian Stegman - October 25, 2012 at 01:59 PM

GB

“ Nancy,  
Dave and I are thinking of you and praying for your continual strength.  
I smile inside and out at the thought of Duane and my dad sitting at a picnic table in heaven, having a cup of coffee, sharing old stories and many laughs just like the good old days. May the many memories and laughs the two of you shared together give you comfort and peace. Love, Dave and Gail (Goodrich) Burrows and daughters.

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**Gail Burrows** - October 25, 2012 at 05:13 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

*Sharrise Brucki*

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**Sharrise Brucki** - October 24, 2012 at 02:13 PM

DR

“ Nancy and family,  
Our deepest sympathy during this sorrowful time.  
Dwight & Marsha Ransom & family

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**Dwight & Marsha Ransom** - October 24, 2012 at 12:22 PM

MG

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Nancy. He was a great man and will be missed very much.  
Morgan Gamino(Woodley)

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**Morgan Gamino** - October 24, 2012 at 04:54 AM

JD

“ Prayers for your family. I'm thankful for what he did for our town.

John Dudley - October 23, 2012 at 08:58 PM

MW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Nancy.

Michele Weemhoff - October 23, 2012 at 08:55 PM



“ Judy Rainey lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley



Judy Rainey - October 23, 2012 at 04:06 PM



Prayers and hugs for you and your family.

Judy Rainey - October 23, 2012 at 04:07 PM

CH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to all of Duane's family and I will always keep him in my heart. Nancy he will always be by your side where ever you go.



Carma Hannners - October 23, 2012 at 03:56 PM

CR

“ Chris Rigozzi sent a virtual gift in memory of Duane A. Whaley



Chris Rigozzi - October 23, 2012 at 08:41 AM

CR

“ Duane - wow what a boss you were. You and Nancy were my first "real" employers and treated me and all the other "kids" that got their start at the Bangor Freeze like your own kids. Thanks to both of you for the opportunities and work ethic you helped to install in me and many others after me. Nancy, Cherise, Ken and other family members - may you know that he is at peace and may you also find peace.

Chris Rigozzi - October 23, 2012 at 08:40 AM

RD

“ Rick Dillman lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley



Rick Dillman - October 22, 2012 at 06:54 PM

RD

Nancy and all of my Funk cousins, my deepest condolences on your loss. You are in my prayers.

Rick Dillman

Rick Dillman - October 22, 2012 at 06:56 PM

NG

“ *Nicki Grasso lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley*



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**Nicki Grasso** - October 22, 2012 at 01:08 PM

NG

“ *I'm so sorry for the loss of your husband & best friend! Duane was one of a kind and will always be remembered. My sincere condolences to you and your family.*

*Love,  
Nicki*

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**Nicki Grasso** - October 22, 2012 at 01:07 PM

NA

“ *Nancy lit a candle in memory of Duane A. Whaley*



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**Nancy** - October 22, 2012 at 12:58 PM

JT

*Thinking of you... many blessings ....The Tourtellotte Family*

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**jessica tourtellotte** - October 22, 2012 at 07:36 PM

DL

Nancy,

*There was never a time when Duane would not give one his full attention and try and make your day a little better in any way that he could.*

*It was always a pleasure to pull into your yard, see the dogs, and the beautiful setting that Duane, and you worked so hard on to keep its park like setting. Which ever of you, or both of you, that answered the door always made a person at ease, and glad that they stopped by.*

*Our prayers go out to you and yours at this time,  
Carolyn and Don Sappanos, Sr.*

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**Donald L.Sappanos,Sr.** - October 23, 2012 at 02:06 PM

DR

*Nancy, so sad to hear of your loss, May your memories give you strength, A good man!*

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**Dennis Rainey** - October 26, 2012 at 09:25 AM

DH

*Our prayers are with you and the family, God bless. and Duane will always be in your heart. God bless all of you. Del & Deb hooper {Hosier}*

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**debra&del hooper{ hosier}** - November 13, 2012 at 01:16 PM