



## Robert Elwood Duke Jr.

September 20, 1950 - August 10, 2016

Robert Elwood Duke, Jr. was born in Bowling Green, KY on September 20, 1950 to Robert and Edna Duke. He is the beloved husband Trish Duke. Loving father of Rob (Shannon) Duke, Carolyn (Eric) Bochatyn, and Angela (Ed) Wesson. Proud PaPa of Devin (Raquel) Limestall, Olexis Limestall, Grace Bochatyn, Eric Bochatyn, Kavari Adams, Jordan Wesson, and Camille Wesson. Also proud PaPa Papa of Benny Limestall and Maddie Limestall. Dear brother of David (Leanne) Duke. Dear uncle to several nieces and nephews. Robert was predeceased by his favorite German Shepherd William. Visitation Monday 1-5 PM with a 2 PM Funeral Service at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. 49150 Schoenherr Rd. (n. of 22 Mile Road), Shelby Twp.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 15.** 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Funeral Service

**AUG 15.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall

## “ PART FOUR

*My Bobby was good at farming too. So many thoughts and memories keep tumbling out right now. He would draw for me, wonderful pictures. He was always trying to make me smile. He would give me strength and courage just by holding my hand. Together, we could take on the world, and conquer it. There was nothing that we couldn't do together.*

*I have been writing for just able six hours right now. I am going to go back to bed now and finish what I started last night in getting some sleep. Today is September 25th, 2016.*

*You're in my heart,  
You're in my soul,  
You'll be my breath,  
Should I grow old.  
You are my lover,  
You're my best friend  
You're in my soul.*

*Have I told you lately that I love you?  
Have I told you,  
There's no one else above you?  
You fill my life with gladness,  
Take away all my sadness  
Ease my troubles,  
That's what you do.*

*For the morning sun  
In all it's glory;  
Greet the day  
With hope and comfort too.  
You fill my life  
With laughter,  
And somehow*

*Make it better,  
Ease my troubles,  
That's what you do.*

*There's a love that divine,  
And it's yours  
And it's mine  
Like the sun.  
And at the end of the day;  
We should give thanks and pray  
To the one; to the one.*

*Have I told you lately that I love you?  
Have I told you,  
There's no one else above you?  
Fill my heart with gladness,  
Take away all my sadness,  
Ease my troubles  
That's what you do.*

*There's a love that's divine,  
And it's yours and it's mine,  
Like the sun.  
And at the end of the day;  
We should give thanks and pray  
To the one; to the one.*

*Have I told you lately that I love you?  
Have I told you,  
There's no one else above you?  
You fill my life with gladness,  
Take away all my sadness,  
Ease my troubles  
That's what you do.*

*Take away all my sadness;  
Fill my life with gladness,*

*Ease my troubles  
That's what you do.  
Take away all my sadness;  
Fill my life with gladness,  
Ease my troubles  
That's what you do.*

*My thanks to Rod Stewart. We loved his music. It held a life time of  
good memories, special places and times for us.*

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**Trish Duke** - September 25, 2016 at 09:30 AM

## “ PART THREE

*Bob also enjoy fishing, he never seemed to be able to get enough of it. One of his most memorable times fishing was with Angie. They had gotten to their perfect spot on Lake St. Clair for fishing one morning and water started to come into the bottom of the boat. They raced back to the landing and when they got the boat out, it seems that someone had forgotten to put the plug in the boat.*

*Bob enjoyed hunting when he was younger. He would often go with my Dad up near the Stier Cabin near Rose City. He was an excellent marksmen.*

*My Bobby would dance with me "just because." He would make up songs and sing to me.*

*Bob also enjoyed working with wood. He made me lots of hearts and other things over the many years. If he wanted to build something, he knew how to and his many projects always turned out well. He had the patience to do it well. When he was at Marine City for high school he won the award on an regular typewriter for typing the fastest without a mistake. I believe that record still stands as they eventually went to the newer electric models.*

*Bob went to Michigan State for one semester. I don't think his parents went to the orientation for parents because if they had, they would have told him that most freshmen get a C average for the first year. Bob thought that because he only had a C average he had to leave college. And no one at the college took the time to explain it to him. He worked some assorted jobs until he went to Michigan Bell in June. He took computer classes that were offered by Michigan Bell and did quite well with them. He and I took a class at Macomb in the winter semester of 1972. He also took and completed the H and R Block Tax Classes. He did quite well once again.*

*Bob was extremely good with all animals. He knew how to handle*

*them and also spent quality time with working with rehabilitating animals that had been abused by people. He just had a way with them. His favorite dog was his beloved William, a long haired German Shepherd. The best anniversary gift that he ever gave me was a short haired German Shepherd puppy that we named Nicholas. He rescued many cats, dogs, turtles, bunnies, snakes and one salamander. We had fish for at least 25 years. He also knew how to handle wild animals without getting himself hurt or hurting them in the handling.*

*What ever Bob put his hand to, it just turned out well. He just knew what to do in any given situation. I never had to worry about anything because my Bobby always took care of it. He always made me feel loved, needed, protected, cared for and wanted. He allowed me the privilege of staying home and raising our children, a luxury that most young mothers today do not have anymore. He always did big and small things just to please me. Even when he was at his weakest he would still help me with household chores. He continually did things to make my life easier. He loved his big Dodge Ram Truck. His handwriting was beautiful.*

*Most importantly, my Bobby, loved God and had faith in his promises. Bobby prayed with me when we had a problem. If I had a bad dialysis day, I would go to bed. In the morning he would ask how I was doing. And, I would be able to say, that I was feeling much better. His response would be, "I thought so, after you went to sleep, I came into the bedroom, laid hands on you and prayed over you." My Bobby was a strong man of God. Bob loved God with his whole heart and being.*

*About 8 months ago, Bob started talking about doing a 45th vow renewal. We had done one for our 25th. We were making plans for it. Bob was starting to feel better and working towards getting a new liver. His progress gave us both hope for the future. He was working with his tools once again. He was going to his barn again. He was getting stronger each and every day.*

*On August 10th, God said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant" and took my Bobby home. I miss him with all of my heart and everything that I am.*

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**Trish Duke** - September 25, 2016 at 08:16 AM

## “ PART TWO\*\*\*\*

*Bob did a lot of things to help people. Most of what he did he did not share with anyone but me. I think this one needs to be shared with everyone now. While our three kids were at Lutheran North, Bob worked for (by this time) Ameritech in the day time doing Line Work on the Construction Crew at 95 Mary Street in Mt. Clemens. He worked with many fine and honorable men. He was closest to his good friend John Myers. After work, in the early morning he would do a Free Press Paper route. This was all done to help pay for school for the kids. Additionally in the warmer weather he would do sprinklers with his friend Danny Freedman.*

*Bob drove into the Cobblestone Condo's at Romeo Plank Road and 24 Mile Road. He saw a man beating up a woman in a driveway. Without being concerned about his safety he stopped his car, got out, put the woman in his car, and talked to the man. He took the woman home and then went back to finish his papers. He came home, quietly told me what had gone down and asked me what was for breakfast. It was not mentioned again even though I had many questions. He did many other things like this but never bragged on any of it. It was all in his day and I honestly don't think it considered it that important.*

*While the children were at Lutheran North Bob did volunteer work at Lutheran North as the scorekeeper for both the boys and the girls basketball teams. I believe he was there until the end of 2003. He also was a Republican Precinct Delegate for over ten years in Macomb County.*

*Bob worked for Michigan Bell from June 2, 1969 until June 4, 1999. When he first started he worked out of the Utica Garage on Hall Road near Van Dyke. He was first trained in installation and then repair. After that he learned some 0-9ing and switching work and then some splicing. Eventually in 1985 he switched to Mt. Clemens to Construction Work. He retired from Construction and truly*

*enjoyed working with all of the men at 95 Mary Street.*

*After Bob officially retired from Ameritech he did "Ameritech Memo's" for Edison. Bob could take a tangled mess left by some of the workers and when he was done it was as neat as it could be and done correctly. Bob took great pride in doing his job safely, and doing it right the first time. It was incredibly important to him to do a job right and not cut corners. A lot of the time while he worked, he keep journals of all of his jobs including illustrations. After that he delivered vacation trailers from Indiana to all over the United States and Canada. He did this from December 2003 until November 18th, 2005. I got the pleasure of going with him several times and each and every time Bob always made it very enjoyable. Even when we were driving through rows and rows of corn and soy fields in Iowa and 4 fours of barren desert out west he still made it interesting. I never once was bored while traveling with my Bobby.*

*When Bob came home after being on the road he was starting to get sick at this time. He did some additional driving for seniors for a while. During this time he tried several different jobs. None of them really lasted for too long. When ever he would come home, after he had quit a job, he would look up at me, and just give me a big beautiful smile. And he would say, "well, Trish, I quit. It will be okay. I'll just find another job. What's for dinner?" Nothing really got him down. He always trusted in God to bring him through what ever we were up against.*

*Bob had a very strong faith in God. Many times he would correct my thinking on things if I would mis-speak words that were not faith filled. He would say to me, "Trish, you just have to have faith in God, He will take care of it." He would also remind me that any fear, contaminates our faith. Fear is doubting God's promises.*

*My Bobby wasn't a perfect man, but he was a good man, husband, father and loyal friend.*

*He loved me wholeheartedly and loved his family. Trish.*

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**Trish Duke** - September 25, 2016 at 06:43 AM

“ THIS IS PART ONE\*\*\*

*I met Bob on December 20, 1971. He had come out to my parents house to fix their phone. He ended up replacing all of the wiring within a half a mile on both sides of their home before finally finding that the bad wiring was right under the very floor boards of their home. A friend of my Dad's (Jim Tureo) had helped him with all of the wiring and had mistakenly placed his phone wiring in between the floor boards and the wood beams that held up the floor. So after a very long while, when ever my Dad walked across the kitchen floor the phone would go out and when he would walk back across it, the phone would work again. The old wiring was quickly replaced. After many hours spent on the phone every night by Christmas Day we were engaged.*

*Our first official date we went to the Windsor Race Way. Earlier in the week Bob had come over to officially meet my parents and then on Christmas Day after he had worked we went to his parents. We had a very nice visit and played pool for a while. Our first New Year's Eve we went to the new Dirty Harry movie at the theater as you come into Port Huron, right before the draw bridge. We went to dinner at the Port'O'Call Restaurant in Algonac, a long time ago it burned down. It was right next to the Harsen's Island Ferry Landing.*

*Then we went to a party at my sister Carol & Jeff's house in Waldenburg. As we were going to their house we came by the intersection of Romeo Plank and 23 Mile Road. The ditches on either side of the intersection at that time were very deep country ditches. There was a car that had missed the road and had ended up in the ditch. When Bob checked out if they were okay, it turned out to be two very drunk teenagers that wanted no help. I think we made it back to my house around 4:30 A.M.*

*Bob would often bring me roses, "Just Because." I would often come home from work and he had been through and I would find a single red rose for me on my dresser in a beautiful burgundy single*

*rose vase. I still have it today . On Valentine's Day he brought me a heart shaped,ten pound, box of chocolates and roses. I told him that I loved Corvette's and by June of that year he had gotten himself a Tornado Orange 1971 Corvette. He gave me his light blue 69 Ford Fairlane. It was a big improvement from the 58 dark blue Ford that I had been driving at the time.*

*We were married on December 1, 1972. It was a candle light ceremony that was scheduled to start at 7:30 in the evening. We had a blizzard that day and everything was delayed a bit. Our service did not start until 8:00 P.M. The service starting late allowed my brother John to be on time. We were married at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Mt. Clemens. Our reception was held at Zaccaro's Hall at 16 Mile Road and Groesbeck Hwy. I wore traditional velvet and my Bobby wore traditional full tails. I believe Father Ronald Thurner was our priest.*

*On first home was on the Dyke Road in Algonac. We stayed at our apartment until March of 1972 and then we moved into our first home on Short Cut Road in Marine City. While there we had Rob on May 9th, 1974 and then Carolyn on September 7th, 1975. After that we moved to Chesterfield Township on Dino Circle for about a year. Angie came along on September 24th, 1977. We moved back to Algonac on December 18th, 1977. We moved to Stone Road. We stayed there until December 1st, 1985 and then we spent about a half a year in Marine City on Markel Road. On May 6th, 1986 we moved to our current home on 28 Mile Road in Ray. It has been many good years with my Bobby and our family here. We have seen over 40 animals come and go too!*

*When we lived on Short Cut Road in Marine City Bob did a lot of volunteer work with the Boy Scouts. They went camping both Winter and Summer. He was also on a Michigan Bell bowling team during this time period. He also volunteered with the Boy Scouts when we lived in Algonac too! He probably worked with them from 1973 through 1985.*

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**Trish Duke** - September 25, 2016 at 05:24 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics



**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 16, 2016 at 09:24 PM

DE

“ Hello, so sorry to hear of Bob's passing I know he was special and he is now with the lord in glory God bless you all and comfort you by His spirit during this time you are in my prayers

*Denise Marsack Renee Meyer's mom*

**Denise** - August 15, 2016 at 11:33 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Robert Elwood Duke Jr..



August 15, 2016 at 08:29 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics

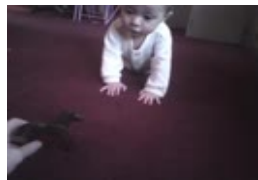


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**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 13, 2016 at 02:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics



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**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 12, 2016 at 08:43 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics

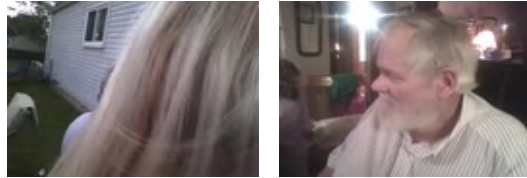


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**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 12, 2016 at 05:55 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics



**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 12, 2016 at 03:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Elwood Duke Jr..



August 12, 2016 at 03:08 PM



“ Margo Fort lit a candle in memory of Robert Elwood Duke Jr.



**Margo Fort** - August 12, 2016 at 01:40 PM



*My prayers & condolences to the family & friends of Mr. Robert Duke*

**Margo Fort** - August 12, 2016 at 01:42 PM



*God's peace and comfort for the family as Bob joins his Lord in his loved ones' welcome home celebration.*

*Viv Nichols, Norene Maness from Peace Lutheran*

**Viv Nichols** - August 14, 2016 at 05:34 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics



Rob & Shannon Duke - August 12, 2016 at 12:29 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Rob/Shannon Dad pics



Robert Duke III - August 12, 2016 at 09:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Angela Wesson - August 12, 2016 at 08:40 AM



*Dad playing with the "big toys" that he always liked. Not sure when exactly this was taken though. Late 90s feels about correct or maybe shortly after he retired in June 99.*

**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 13, 2016 at 05:57 AM

AW

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Angela Wesson** - August 11, 2016 at 11:01 PM

AW

“ 13 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Angela Wesson** - August 11, 2016 at 10:51 PM

HD

“ *Heidi Doebler lit a candle in memory of Robert Elwood Duke Jr.*



**Heidi Doebler** - August 11, 2016 at 09:54 PM

AW

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Angela Wesson** - August 11, 2016 at 09:20 PM

CC

“ *Connie Cooper lit a candle in memory of Robert Elwood Duke Jr.*



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**Connie Cooper** - August 11, 2016 at 08:19 PM

CC

*My heart goes out to the entire Duke Family. May God be with you each step of the way. Much sympathy to all.*

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**Connie Cooper** - August 11, 2016 at 08:23 PM

AW

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Angela Wesson** - August 11, 2016 at 07:43 PM



*Happy Papa...*

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**Rob & Shannon Duke** - August 12, 2016 at 09:27 PM

MA

“ *My prayers and deepest condolences to the family & friends of Mr. Robert Duke With Love Margo Fort AT&T Retiree*

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**Margo** - August 11, 2016 at 07:33 PM