



Stanley Duane Walker

December 10, 1931 - October 2, 2019

A celebration of life for S. Duane Walker will be held on October 12th, 2019 taking place at Hubbard's Mountain Cupboard, Laramie Peak Wyoming with final rest at his beloved "Eighty".

Duane passed October 2, 2019 at the VA Medical Center in Cheyenne, WY receiving an honored Veteran's salute. Born to John Bradley Walker and Della Mae (Ryals) Walker in Wheatland, WY on December 10, 1931, Duane was 87 at the time of his passing.

Duane attended school in Wheatland and Torrington, WY for a short time, before he moved with his family to Everett, WA. He also worked different odd jobs while in Washington. At a very young age, he quit school, sold his bicycle to pay for a bus ticket back to Wheatland, and hitched a ride with George Lock to his Grandfather's homestead West of town, on Bearhead. He then went to work for Bromley's Lumber Mill, and local rancher Jack Atkinson at his Cottonwood Ranch.

In 1950, Duane entered the United States Navy, and proudly served from 1950-1954. Most of his time was spent on the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard, serving during the Korean Conflict, and crossing the Pacific Ocean 7 times.

Upon leaving the Navy, Duane returned to Wyoming and his job at Atkinson's, and later back to the Bromley Sawmill. In 1958 he joined a 4 man crew that was employed by the United States Forest Service to construct Black Mountain Fire Lookout Tower in Northern Albany County, WY. The road to the lookout had to be carved, and 69 steps that had to be welded to make the staircase to the top of the rock pile where pieces of an observation tower had to be winched up by hand and assembled together to make what still stands there today. Upon completion of this project, Duane was hired by the Forest Service, and continued to work for Bromley Sawmill in the winters until it closed in 1966.

In 1962, Duane was involved in the construction of the trail and heli-pad that are both used today to access Laramie Peak. This involved hanging from cables and drilling rocks with jackhammers to set the supports, and cutting many trees to make a trail. Over his 22 year career with the Forest Service, Duane developed springs, thinned timber, prescribed burns, fought wild fires, and built roads North of Douglas, WY in the Laramie Peak District of Medicine Bow National Forest. He was a mechanic and all around Jack of All Trades, with very little he couldn't do or find a way to get it done. In 1965, Duane was a founding

member of the Laramie Peak Fire Zone when it started.

Duane also built his own home, as well as several others in the Laramie Peak area. In 1976, Duane purchased his own sawmill from Art Fawcett, and began a small side business of receiving timber sales from the Forest Service, and filling lumber orders with his crew of wife, children, and other family members.

Duane married Sharon "Tiny" Bromley on December 10, 1960. He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, three children, Wade (Dot) Walker, Tim (Leah) Walker, and Ronda Walker. Five Grandchildren, Kim Britton, Kristi (Jamie) Rietz, Vern (Karen) Jones, Logan Walker, and Kelby Walker. Five Great-Grand Children, Layne Eike, Jhett Eike, Brittony Rietz, Kayla Jones, and Kasey Jones. Sisters Betty Hanson of Everett, WA and Marilyn Kidd Briar of Redondo Beach, CA. Sisters-In-Law Denelda Branscom, LaJoy Anderson, Marietta Posten, Jeannette Hohnholt, Billie Eggleston, Faye Hanks, Carol Bromley, T. Joann Bromley and Jenny Cundall. Brothers-In-Law Joe Bromley, Tuff Hanks, and Duane Jacobs, as well as many, many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, paternal grandparents Lee Palmer Walker and Etta Belle (Gallaher) Walker, maternal grandparents William Milton Ryals and Lulah Emma (Shaul) Ryals. Parents-In-Law Frank & Marie Bromley, and honorary parents Jack & Billie Atkinson. Sisters Etta Foote and Johnette Jacobs, and brother William (Bill) Walker. Nephews Dick Hanson, Roy Buckner, and Terry Hanks. Brothers-In-Law Robert (Bob) Hanson, Bob Foote, Sonny Bromley, and Frank Jr. Bromley.

Duane loved to work, having worked hard all of his life, and never was without a long to-do list. He enjoyed time spent with people in general, never knowing a stranger, and always enjoyed a beer and B.S. with them. He was a beloved mentor to his friends and family, and left us all with much of his wisdom. Just a few of the Duanisms we have heard often and remember well:

"Hindsight is 20-20", "It's better to have it and not need it, then to need it and not have it", "Never make a plan, as plans are made to be broken", "Can't never did anything but sit on a fence and die, say I can and figure out a way", "Make sure you take time to learn something new every day, and remember the body is made to move, not sit", "Nip it in the a**, before it nips you".

His wisdom and knowledge of the Laramie Peak area history will be hugely missed.

Memorials may be sent to the Laramie Peak Fire Zone, 1836 Cottonwood Park Rd., Wheatland, WY 82201,

the No Veteran Dies Alone, General Post 319 Chaplain Services, Cheyenne VA Medical Center, 2360 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82001, or to a 4-H club of your choosing.

Comments



“ Ken Rohlff, Shawn Daly, Travis Wills CCR fire purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Stanley Duane Walker.



Ken Rohlff, Shawn Daly, Travis Wills CCR fire - October 10, 2019 at 04:28 PM



“ I always liked dropping in unannounced at Walkers to visit a bit. I miss those conversations and the Peak will not be the same without Duane. My condolences to Tiny and the family. Charlie Bradshaw

Charlie Bradshaw - October 09, 2019 at 12:30 PM



“ My family lived at Hubbard's for a few yrs when I started 7th grade..halloween day tim, my younger brother Todd and myself were on our way to milk the cows on the " beloved 80"
As we drove past the school house..everyone was there decorating it for the party soon to come..well on our way..tim was driving the "ol' jimmy" ..and ended up on its side..as we climbed from the truck..tim grabs a rock..."you gotta hit me in the head..cuz dads gonna kill me...well..duane later says...at least he lived up to his last name...he always had this easy way about him...i will never forget this strong family...and tiny you will always be my 2nd mom...love to you all..kipp yackley

Kipp Yackley - October 09, 2019 at 06:01 AM



“ One of the finest men that I have ever known, and one who influenced me in ways that are still with me today. From fire zone meetings and activities to the fires themselves, Duane reinforced that hard work pays off but one should be able to enjoy it at the same time. The brandings were SO much fun with him picking on us young'uns and encouraging us to try just a little bit harder at everything we do. A truly great man, a man known for his strength, not only of those powerful arms but more importantly a strength of character that will be remembered by all who were blessed to know him. Rest in peace, Duane, and God bless each of the Walker family.

Randy Joe Svalina - October 08, 2019 at 10:23 PM



“ I have known the walkers and the Bromleys most of my life Duane Joe Burney Lester Bromley Guy Newell Raymond brown all worked together for the forest service they called there group the five amigos building fences painting signs maintaining roads all for the F.S. But most of all they fought fire saving trees and homes preserving the land Lester was the first one to be called to heaven then Joe in 1972 my dad guy Newell lost his battle with cancer Ray and Duane were the only 2 left Ray went to heaven March 1,2019 and Duane was the last amigo He was just called home my sincerest sympathy to Tiny and his family to all his friends Rest In Peace Duane one of the neatest people I have known

kathy newell wolf - October 08, 2019 at 10:05 PM



“ So many memories of Duane at the Hubbard's Cupboard dances, but most of all, his calf bawl. The dances will not be the same without "bwaaah" ringing out.

Donna Britton Harvey - October 08, 2019 at 09:27 PM



“ Tiny,

My condolences to you and your children and extended family.

I am so saddened at the loss of someone who contributed so much to others in his life time! You two made an awesome team that I am proud to be related to! I wish I had more time together with both of you.

Since last visiting with you, I have had some health challenges and other situations that prevented me from being back up in your "neck of the woods" since the family reunion.

I am so grateful that I had the pleasure of staying with you and my first cousin, Duane, a couple of times in these past few years and enjoying your hospitality. I still have hope and plans of visiting you again.

It meant a lot to me to feel part of my extended family that I had really never gotten to be part of. You made me feel "at home" and I enjoyed hearing family stories and experiencing the great qualities of service, kindness and especially the humor that were apparent in my heritage. Being Duane's Aunt Mildred's daughter, born later in life, I kind of missed being a part of things in this region of the country.

I am thankful you have your children close by and am assuming you will carry on in his absence.

Unfortunately, my husband is recovering from a serious car accident and I, too, am recovering from a separate injury that prevents both of us from driving any distance right now, so we sadly will be unable to celebrate Duane's life with you. Our family really wanted to be there with you and other friends and family.

When my phone died, I lost your phone number. When convenient, please call or text me your phone number, so, I can call sometime when hopefully we can "drop by to see you" in the future

My contact info is Anita Keeler - 303-588-5532 and
2450 Airport Rd. Apt. D-132, Longmont, CO 80503

In lieu of flowers, we will contribute to your local Fire District. I will try to go through that sight.

With love and comfort, Anita Games Keeler

Anita Keeler - October 10, 2019 at 09:07 PM



“ Genuinely great human being, with a quick wit and great sense of humor

Mike Bromley - October 08, 2019 at 08:51 PM



“ I really enjoyed his stories, the hummingbirds flying around the porch and yes we drank a few beers. RIP my friend
Scott Obertal

Scott Obertal - October 08, 2019 at 08:00 PM



“ One of the Greatest I have ever met, always had time for you one of the hardest working people I have ever met and probably one of the toughest. I want to send along my most sincere condolences to all of the family. I will miss our conversations even though they weren't as often as I would have liked. Tiny and family thank you so much for sharing him with all of us. God Speed My friend.....

Gary Hobbs - October 08, 2019 at 05:49 PM