



Duane Gustad

June 28, 2019

Duane Oscar Gustad was born in Volin, South Dakota on January 14, 1937. His parents were Oscar and Ellen Gustad. He spoke of his life on the farm, the snowy winters, and the many chores he and his sister, Muriel, would have to carry out. He was especially vocal about his dislike for handling the pigs who were loud, smelly and mean. Duane was a good student and enjoyed playing basketball, studying woodworking and acting in high school drama productions.

Duane attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology where he obtained his engineering degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1959. He enlisted in the US Army and after some traveling around, was stationed at Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One of his side jobs on that base was a bartender. Duane often told funny stories about his time at Frankford Arsenal and how his commanding officers didn't really know what to make of these engineer-soldiers who often seemed to try their patience.

Duane met Maryann Devine at Frankford Arsenal and they were married in 1962. Duane was discharged from the Army and stayed on at Frankford Arsenal as a civilian employee. After Kathleen was born in 1963, they moved to Delran, NJ. John was born in 1969 and David in 1971.

The family moved to Succasunna, NJ in 1977 when Frankford Arsenal was closed, the work there transferred to Picatinny Arsenal in northern NJ. Duane was actively involved in coaching various little league teams and was even the Little League Commissioner in Roxbury Township one year. He liked to go to

sporting events and even drove the family into New York City periodically to take in ballgames. He acknowledged he wasn't the world's best driver, so these trips were often full of extra thrills and the occasional bad word.

Duane seemed most happy when he had a project to do around the home. Building decks, gazebos, installing tile, working on cars, and painting/wallpapering were sources of enjoyment and pride.

The ultimate source of enjoyment and pride were his grandsons Michael, Devin, Jamie and Aidan. He relished this Grandpop role and even handcrafted a wooden cradle prior to the birth of his first grandchild. When they were infants, often it was only Grandpop who had the perfect touch to calm a fussy baby with endless walks to get them to sleep.

Duane and Maryann moved back to Delran after retirement from Picatinny Arsenal. Although he did some part time work related to his old job, Duane now had more time to devote to projects around the house and traveling. Las Vegas was a favorite destination and Duane enjoyed playing the blackjack tables. In 2003, they adopted Annie, a small Cairn Terrier, who unofficially ruled the roost. Annie loved taking Duane on long walks which helped him keep in shape.

After Maryann's death in 2006, Duane returned to his Lutheran roots and found a new church family at St. Matthews Church in Moorestown. He was a lector and became involved in Bible Studies, the Men's work group, and in the St. Matthews Players drama group productions.

Duane met Bernie Williams at St. Matthews and they were married in 2010. Duane (and Annie) moved to Bernie's house in Cinnaminson and join with her family of seven cats. He also gained two step-daughters – Vicki and Wendy and five step grandchildren – Chris, David, Kayleen, Devin and Sam.

Duane really enjoyed these golden years. He and Bernie traveled and were very involved in social group activities. He was able to enjoy the theater and music productions in Philadelphia. Some family trips with his grandsons included Ocean City, Myrtle Beach, and Williamsburg.

Although Duane slowed down over the past few years, he continued to enjoy

eating and watching Fox News and Philadelphia sports teams. Pizza, hoagies, spaghetti, cookies, and ice cream were highly favored treats... that were often best, like many things, when followed by a little nap in the recliner.

Memorial service Friday 10:30 am at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 318 Chester Ave. Moorestown, NJ.

Visitation 9:30 – 10:30 am at the Church.

Please No Flowers :

Memorial contributions to St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
318 Chester Ave
Moorestown, NJ 08057
(856) 235-2055
<http://www.stmatthew-lutheran.org>

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Tribute Wall



“ *Duane Gustad*

October 09, 2023 at 03:30 AM



“ *Duane Gustad*

November 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

DC

“ I was another Volin High School classmate of Duane's. We were a class of a "BIG" total of 12,(3 boys and 9 girls). We were the largest class in high school. We were a very close class and had a lot of fun together. Our junior year we were to have a banquet for the seniors, but the teacher in charge of us for the banquet got mad at us, (who remembers what for), and would not give us the money put aside for the banquet. That did not stop us. We got the use of the Volin Lutheran church to hold the banquet there in the basement. I was able to get big brown meat paper free from the local grocery store run by Glenn Hanson, to use for a backdrop in the basement of the church. I painted some scenes on it to dress up the basement a "wee bit" for us. Being our class was the host for the junior senior banquet, we all had to come up with some sort of food to eat for the night. We managed to pull that off and as I remember we all had a great time., The teacher was surprised when she found out we did everything without her or the money. That is just one of many memories I have of our times together. Our first classmate to leave us was Jo Anne as a young mother, then we lost Carol, and not too long ago, Marlys the one who could always kept us entertained on the piano, and now we have lost our dear classmate Duane, may they all rest in peace. If we believe in the faith we were brought up in, I can see them all together singing around the piano and entertaining the Blessed Father. I'm sure Duane made a great father and grandfather. I hope he let them all know of all the things he did in high school. Duane was in Mixed Chorus, Boys Glee Club, Class Officer, One Act Plays, Class Plays, Carnival King, Basketball, Baseball, Track, Declam, Annual Staff, Boys State, and Journalism. Duane was a wonderful friend gentleman and classmate. I send my thoughts and prayers to all of his family at this difficult time.

God Bless

VHS "55" Classmate

Deanna Coffey

Deanna O Coffey - July 24, 2019 at 07:35 PM

TM

“ To the pop pop of my children. You were such an inspiration to both your grand boys. You provided such strength and were the backbone that molded them into the young men they became. For this I Thank you. Sending love and prayers.

Tracey Matuszewski- Hovemeyer Devin and Jamie's mom

Tracey Matuszewski-Hovemeyer - July 05, 2019 at 05:18 PM

SG

“ So very sorry to hear of Duane' passing. I was one of the girls who was in his graduating class. He was very intelligent and always got better grades than me. Occasionally we fought (discussed religion). I was the only Catholic in the school. We were still friends, however. We had a very nice discussion at our 25th reunion. I also miss Jo Ann hanson who was one of my best friends. i married my husband In Oct 5, 1917 and he passed away 6 days before or 60th anniversary of kidney failure. he was on diallysis for nearly 3 years - 3 days a week.,

May his soul rest in peace.

w

sharon v griffin - July 01, 2019 at 02:16 PM

DH

“ Duane was a classmate at VHS (Volin High School) .A class of 3 guys and 9 or 10 gals.We had some fun times our Sr. year as a group,parties,picnic.Stops at the Ice House in Yankton.(Nuf said)..We (Duane,Bob and myself the 3 Norskies played some pretty mean basketball in the Volin town hall. We also went in to Yankton to see Terry's play semi pro baseall.Our class ranks are thinning and we will miss Duane along with the other departed from the class of "55.God Bless his memory. Dick Hanson,Walla Walla,Wa.

Dick Hanson - June 30, 2019 at 05:15 PM