



## Duane Franklin Enns

June 27, 1956 - December 11, 2025

Duane Franklin Enns, age 69, passed away on December 11, 2025, after a year-long battle with esophageal cancer mixed with complications from a previous heart attack in 2022.

A memorial service will be held on January 24, 2026, at Grace Lutheran Church, 460 75th Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432, where Duane was an active member and lent his carpentry knowledge and skills to help with numerous projects. A visitation will start at 10:00am, followed by a memorial service at 11:00am. A lunch will follow the service.

Duane was born June 27, 1956, in Billings, MT. His mother and brothers relocated to the small town of Sleepy Eye, MN, in 1962, where Duane spent his childhood. Baseball held a special place in Duane's heart, but he truly loved all sports. He had many friends and extended family in the area, including the Wotschke family farmstead, where his maternal grandparents and family resided. Many stories and fond memories. His upbringing was often described as a classic "Leave it to Beaver" lifestyle of a small town farming community.

Duane is survived by his wife, Mitzi (Malin) Enns; daughters Tessa Enns and Anna Enns-Broz; sons-in-law Federico Ocampo and Austin Broz; grandchildren Zariah Enns and Levi Broz; and his older brother, Dale Enns.

Duane is preceded in death by his mother, Adeline (Wotschke) Enns; his younger brother, Dean Enns; and his father, Frank Enns.

After high school, Duane attended Austin Vo-Tech in Austin, MN, to study carpentry and become a journeyman carpenter. Upon graduating, he founded his own homebuilding company, Enns Construction, which built residential homes from the ground up. Eventually, when his first daughter was born, he joined the Carpenters Union Local 322 for more stable working hours and income. His lifelong career was spent as a union carpenter employed by a local contracting company until he retired in 2016. Duane loved working with his tools and saws to build furniture or tackle remodel projects. He was adept at performing repairs and rebuilds as needed, to the delight of his wife and appreciated by his daughters, family members, and friends throughout the years.

Duane enjoyed family and always looked forward to family events. He led an active lifestyle that included playing softball for many years of his adulthood alongside several of his childhood friends, many of whom are close to this day. As a lifelong sports enthusiast, he was an avid fan of the Twins, Vikings, and Timberwolves, and studied the game as though he were training to become their next coach.

During his oldest daughter's hockey playing days, which were throughout grade school and high school, Duane took on the role of the St. Louis Park Girls Hockey program coordinator, helping to facilitate players and coaches for his daughter's hockey team. He helped to recruit and build the program, bringing much success, which led to an achievement award presented to him by the hockey association - something he was very proud of.

Recently, however, he was the biggest fan of his basketball-playing granddaughter, Zariah, and his grandson, Levi, who played in a toddler soccer

league this fall. Chronic pain and his illness did not stop Duane from managing to attend many of his granddaughter Zariah's games over the past year and most of his grandson Levi's "games" this fall. He was and will always be their number one fan.

Much of Duane's life was spent at the family cabin, which he helped build and develop from a woodsy lot to a beautiful, lofted lake home. Weekends were filled with boating, visiting neighbors, enjoying the natural beauty, and tackling cabin projects. These moments were cherished highlights of his life, and he will be deeply missed by his lake cabin friends.

One of his favorite hobbies was gardening. Every summer he would plant tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, squash, and an array of peppers (including several hot varieties). He enjoyed using them to make hot sauces or adding them to his meals or cooking creations. Most of them were too hot for anyone but him to consume - except for his daughters, who were fed these peppers from childhood and developed a taste for them.

Duane's daughters and grandchildren were the joy of his life. He was a devoted father, loyal husband, and a good friend to many. He traveled through life with an easygoing, fun spirit and always made a point to include and think of others when coordinating events. He was a friend to many. His generous heart, sharp insights, and big smile will be missed by all who knew him.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

The family appreciates your love and support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, please make your donations out to the Enns family.

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ *My deepest sympathy to you Mitzi and your entire family. Duane was one of a kind. He had the ability yo make everyone smile! He will be sorely missed but will be in our thoughts and prayers forever! Love you guys Bob and Deb Horne*

**Bob Horne** - December 19, 2025 at 02:18 PM

BS

*I'm so sorry for the family' loss. My name is Brad Schottle and I was a classmate of Duane's in Sleepy Eye. In elementary school we played baseball together. I helped him many times on his paper route delivering papers in the early morning. I am also a father and grandfather. I love watching my grandkids participate in sports. Duane's grandkids have a wonderful grandfather that was a fantastic role model. They will carry his torch during their lifetime. May Gods peace and comfort support you through these coming days. Brad*

**Brad Schottle** - December 20, 2025 at 01:17 AM

KM

*Duane was such a thoughtful and kind man whose loss will forever be felt by the family. He was full of life's spirit and enjoyed every adventure presented to him. When he laughed it was contagious and his stories were both interesting and entertaining. He is loved and his presence missed greatly. Sending love to you all during this very difficult time ❤️*

**Katie Malin** - December 20, 2025 at 10:09 PM

TT

*My sincere condolences go out to your family. I was a classmate of Duane's and remember him fondly for the kindness he shared with everyone.*

**Teresa Torszell** - December 31, 2025 at 06:32 PM

CF

*My deepest condolences . My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Chris Foss*

**Chris Foss** - January 05 at 10:03 PM

MT

*Mitzi & daughters, We were so sorry to hear of Duane's passing. He was such a gifted athlete when the guys played on the Free Agent softball team. His warm smile and outgoing personality will be missed by the many lives he touched.*

**Mary & Joel Tauer** - January 09 at 02:30 PM

CD

*Hi Mitzi so sorry to learn of the loss of your husband. He sounded like a great guy from his obituary and I know will be greatly missed by all.*

**Christian Donovan** - January 20 at 10:17 PM

JT

*Dear Mitzi, Tessa and Anna you had a husband and dad who is remembered for his kindness and for his laugh. You couldn't help catching the vibe and becoming joyful yourself. I truly miss those days of softball and volleyball ( remember valley of the collies 😊 before we became the free agents). I know Duane will be missed. He will live on in the memories and may you all find peace  
Janet Tauer*

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**janet tauer** - January 23 at 04:33 PM

JT

*It is vollies. My phone is warring with me*

**janet tauer** - January 23 at 04:35 PM

JN

*Very Sorry to hear the news... I only knew a small sliver of Dewey's life, decades of Tuesday night softball at NEAF#2, first as an opponent (Free Agents) and later as a teammate (White Horse). Win or Lose, Dewey was his jovial self over postgame beverages, and an occasional cigar. Here's a tip of the cap to you Dewey, as it was my sincere pleasure to share the field with you. Rest in Peace my friend, -The Bird, White Horse Pipe*

**John Nevison** - January 24 at 09:06 AM