



Duane Fred Lilja

September 6, 1932 - January 17, 2025

Duane, age 92, passed away on January 17th, 2025.

Duane was born on September 6th, 1932, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated from De La Salle High School in 1951 and went on to proudly serve in the Marines through the Korean War, after which he attended the University of Minnesota. On August 25th, 1956 Duane married Ardelle Swenson. He and Ardelle together raised their five children in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Duane is survived by sons Mark of Coon Rapids, Matt (Sharon) of St. Francis and daughter Deanna Chuba (Steve) of Ham Lake, granddaughters Nicole, Candice, Brittany, Ashley, Amanda, and Morgan, grandsons Jake, Derek, Nathan and Tyler, along with 15 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife Ardelle, son Mitchell and daughter Denise Landrus.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 AM Thursday April 24th, 2025, with visitation prior at 9:30 AM at Epiphany Catholic Church 1900 111th Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Interment at Hillside Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 24. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 24. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Graveside Service

APR 24. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)
2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

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“ Duane, my friend who is full of wisdom and love! I will forever cherish the many stories you told and the life lessons you gave over the many meals we shared over the years at Perkins and Keys. You are always humble and kind! You came to every theater production I directed - I knew if no one else showed up, you and Paula Brown would be there! I wish I could have said "Thank You" and "See You Later", but you know that I Love You! May your Yellow Suspenders brighten up Heaven like your love brightened our Hearts! I Love and Miss You My Friend! Please give Addie and Mitch my Love! Your Forever Friend, Cornelius Rish

Cornelius Rish - May 13, 2025 at 09:24 PM

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“ Duane you were the kindest man I knew. I am so grateful to have met you, become friends with you and to have worked alongside you in the fight for unity within our communities. Give Mitch and Ardie a BIG hug for me. I will cherish all the memories and lessons you taught me over the many years of our friendship. Thank you Mitch for bringing your father into my life and thank you Duane for being such a champion for breaking down walls and building bridges. You will be missed. Sending prayers of comfort to the family and all his friends. Love you my friend.

Karrie Schaaf - May 01, 2025 at 08:03 AM