

One Chair

On a whim I made the buy
 A set of 3 stools, why wouldn't I?
 We knew they wouldn't fit the kitchen
 To make them fit we were on a mission
 Only one would end up there
 In the space of so many memories; only one chair
 The others we tucked away
 We'd try to make them fit another day
 The place we danced all night long
 Drinks we made way too strong
 Song after song, the hours would fly by
 So I bought new chairs, why wouldn't I?
 We seen many suns go on down, to meet us again the next day
 Here we were in this room talking all night; still so much to say
 We'd always find "one more song"
 In this room, you and I just belonged
 Those old stools would just sit while the new is so lonely all alone
 You're still here yet but only one new chair has made a home
 Our shenanigans ended; this room seeing some of the best and
 some of the worst
 Having seen our love, our fights; sad and lonely is this chair
 This long goodbye, a blessing and a curse
 If these walls could talk, they wouldn't say a thing
 They know the sorrow ahead this one chair will bring

- Melonie Westly

IN LOVING
Memory
 Duane Westly



Funeral Service

Friday, October 6, 2023
3:00 PM

Peace United Methodist Church
Pipestone, Minnesota

Officiating - Rev. Velda Maine

Eulogist - Dale Westly

Scripture Readings

Mark 7:34 Isaiah 40:29-31
Philippians 4:13

Music Selections

"Almost Home" as recorded by MercyMe
 "Dancing In The Sky" as recorded by Cas Dusee
 "Scars In Heaven" as recorded by Casting Crowns
 "Desert Road" as recorded by Casting Crowns

Casket Bearers

Isaac Westly Nate Latham Austin Westly
 Trevor Erickson Jimmy Theel Mitch Polchow

Honorary Casket Bearers

Marlon Sherva Matt Heitdke Pernell Christian
 Jeff Enger Billy Fulton Dave Rolph

Arrangements Entrusted To
 HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

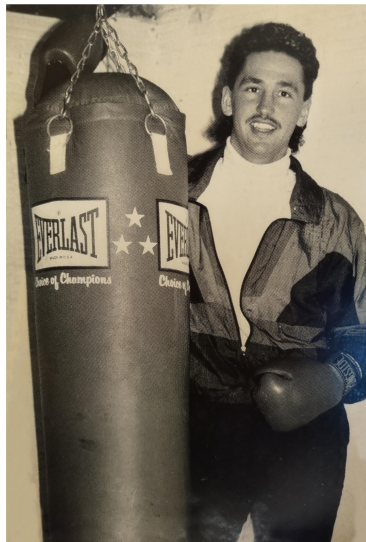
Celebrating THE *Life* OF
 Duane Westly

April 10, 1966 - September 29, 2023



IN Remembrance

Duane Lyle Westly was born on April 10, 1966, to Hiram and Marileen (Koopman) Westly in Pipestone, Minnesota. He grew up in Pipestone as the youngest of eleven children. As a child Duane spent a lot of time with his friends outdoors, riding bike, playing games and learning how to be a card shark. He developed his lifelong love for boxing at the age of 13. When he was older, if he wasn't boxing, you'd find him hanging out with friends, often going to the Hatfield Hollyhock Ballroom dances. He graduated from Pipestone High School in 1984 and then moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota to study Criminal Justice at St. Cloud State University. While living in St. Cloud, Duane worked as a bartender at the Best Western Hotel at the age of 18, beginning a 39-year bartending career. He graduated with his Bachelor's degree in 1989. In 1990, Duane was married to Linda Smidt. In 1991 he moved back to Pipestone to be close to his ailing mother, and began working for Southwest Mental Health Center, as well as several other facilities, as a youth case manager. In December of 1998, Duane and several friends opened the Wildwood Steakhouse in Pipestone. In 2001, the Wildwood was sold, but Duane stayed on as a Bar Manager at what would then be named Sharkee's Bar. During this time, Duane also worked at Pipestone Systems as a preg-checker for confinement hogs.



In October 2002, Duane met the love of his life, Melonie Viney while bartending together at Sharkee's. In 2003, he moved to Ihlen, Minnesota. Duane began working for New Horizon Farms as an ultrasound technician and preg-checker, as well as bartending part-time for Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls, SD. On October 15, 2005, Duane took Melonie's hand in marriage. In 2006, Duane began bartending part-time at the Legion, along with his other full-time and parttime job. In 2009, he moved to their beloved home in Jasper, Minnesota. He proudly continued to work for both New Horizon Farms, and the Ramkota. He cherished having the opportunity to work alongside his wife, as a great team for most of their years together. In April 2022, Duane was saddened to give up his work career, as he was diagnosed with Esophageal Adenocarcinoma. That same year in September, his wife, Melonie, was diagnosed with two forms of breast cancer. The couple worked together to "tag team" their treatments and operations taking care of one another. Duane endured nine months of some unresolved symptoms until January of 2023, when it was discovered to have metastasized to his brain. Following the removal of the tumor, Duane had 4 wonderful months where he finally was able to feel normalcy and enjoy life. In May of 2023, symptoms returned, and a couple of weeks later he was declared terminal. On Friday, September 29, 2023, Duane passed away peacefully in his home in Jasper at the age of 57.

Duane was proud to be known as the most sought after bartender around. He was competitive, a trait that helped him become a very talented boxer. In 1981, he earned Silver Gloves, and Golden Gloves in 1983, at those boxing tournaments. Duane had a firm belief in God and grew his faith immensely over the years. He was a humble and kind man. He was always great with kids and had dreamed of opening a boxing gym someday to be able to teach and work with kids. He enjoyed watching sports, especially the Minnesota Vikings, but also always rooted for the Minnesota Gophers and Minnesota Twins. He had many interests including travelling, cooking, finding new recipes, playing pool and darts, card tricks, fishing, campfires, boxing, UFC, reading devotionals, and sharing his knowledge and skills of boxing.

He always enjoyed being with family. One of his most cherished places was enjoying the peacefulness of his acreage, sitting on the porch (especially the top porch) with his wife just listening to the trees and birds. His most favorite place he had ever traveled to was the Black Hills, especially the Badlands. He loved playing darts which he was very good at. Most recently, he really enjoyed Wing Wednesdays in Hatfield and Friday night Crab Leg Buffets. Duane was well known by so many, and had a very quick, witty sense of humor. He could walk in and light up a room. His coworkers would often find funny poems or notes left by him. He was a hard worker in every sense, never losing that strong work ethic. He could get along with just about anyone and appear to stay cool under pressure. He appreciated staying busy with his jobs and enjoyed working hard, but always took the time to acknowledge the beauty in the sunrise and sunset. Duane remained a true fighter, he never threw in the towel throughout this entire journey.

On his behalf, Duane would want these words carried on, "GO VIKINGS!....SKOL!" and the memory of him doing his "Happy Dance" enjoying life.

Duane is survived by his wife, Melonie Westly from Jasper, MN; children, Austin (Samantha) Westly of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Nate Latham of Sioux Falls, and Isaac Westly of Jasper; grandchildren, Josie Westly, Motley Latham, Opal Westly, and Eli Westly; siblings, Janice VanRoekel of Pipestone, MN, Dale (Linda) Westly of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, Tammy Thompson of Sisseton, South Dakota, Teresa (Matt) Mattson of Sisseton, and Mark Westly of Houston, Texas; as well as many nieces and nephews; and his beloved family pets; Bella, Tubby, Jack and Alice. He was preceded in death by his parents, Conrad and Mert; brothers, Darryl, Dennis, and David; sisters, Janet and Debra; and his father-in-law, George Viney.

