



Dalton D Holt

February 18, 1926 - September 17, 2017

Dalton D Holt aged 91 of Fountain passed away on September 17, 2017 surrounded by his daughters and family at his beloved home on Gun Lake after a long and wonderful life. Dalton was born on February 18, 1926 in Marshall, MI, the son of George LaVerne and Goldie (Jones) Holt. He loved life and truly lived it to its fullest. He served his country during World War II with the United States Navy and on August 23, 1947, he married Elsbeth "Beth" Swigert in St. Joseph. They celebrated sixty years together before Beth preceded him in death on December 28, 2007. Dalton and Beth started their family in St. Joseph and later moved to Coloma. They had a cabin in the rural Fountain area and would travel there as often as possible. They loved the area so much; they eventually built a home on Gun Lake. Dalton worked for the Whirlpool Corporation and was a draftsman by trade. With the encouragement of Beth, he returned to college and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Western Michigan University. Dalton was a beloved teacher at OJ DeJong Jr. High School in Ludington for over 20 years, influencing many young lives. He was always the "teacher" in so many ways, especially at 8th Grade Camp. Dalton served as a Boy Scout leader and taught the "way of the woods" to his daughters and their friends, and most recently, to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved the out-of-doors. After retiring from teaching, he explored woodworking and became an expert in the art of Intarja. His works of art have been enjoyed by countless people through his numerous exhibits and displays. Dalton also enjoyed volunteering countless hours at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility. He was active in the Mason County community as well, serving on the West Michigan Fair Board of Directors, was a 4-H leader for over 30 years, and was one of the founders of the Mason County Sheriff Department Mounted Division. Even with all his activities and volunteering, Dalton greatest joy came in caring for Beth, his daughters, and their families. He helped daughter Susan start the Springdale Morgan Horse Farm in Fountain, and never missed an opportunity to assist daughter Calista with her dance studio and recitals. Along with his beloved Beth, Dalton was also preceded in death by his parents, his brothers L.J., Les, and Gordon Holt, and his granddaughter-in-law Sami Jo Hays. Dalton will be greatly missed by his daughters Susan Hays and husband Richard of Fountain, Sally Reed, Shelly Bray and husband George, and Calista Swanson and husband David

all of Ludington; 12 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and many, many friends. A Memorial Service will be held for Dalton at 11:00 AM on Monday, September 25 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Scottville, with Rev. James Schroeder officiating. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Monday morning from 10:00 – 11:00AM at the church, with a luncheon and time of sharing to follow the service. Those who wish to remember Dalton with a memorial donation are asked to consider the OJ DeJong 8th Grade Camp, or the Manistee County Medical Care Facility.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

25

Our Savior Lutheran Church

765 West US Highway 10, Scottville, MI, US, 49454

SEP **Celebration of Life Service** 11:00AM

25

Our Savior Lutheran Church

765 West US Highway 10, Scottville, MI, US, 49454

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - September 24, 2017 at 11:58 PM



“ 27 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - September 24, 2017 at 10:49 PM



“ We met Dalton in 2010 after I contacted him regarding his woodwork displayed at Scottville Library. I was so impressed with his work I made my request to him over the phone. He invited me to his home several weeks later concerned he had never tried such a large project. I asked him to make an eagle to fit across the garage door for my husband's birthday present. After several conversations and visits he decided he could do it! What a spectacular piece he made. We lost our youngest son before he finished it. I informed him and he was so compassionate saying we would talk later. The day he brought the Eagle our entire family was there to watch the mounting. It is forever a day of loving memories. Dalton also made the case for our son's flag, a fish for my husband and a cutting board for my husband and me. He gave me some of his wood tools so I could complete my project. We had Dalton over several times for dinner and story telling. We loved his stories and great humor. Although our friendship was short he made a lifetime of memories for us. What a blessed soul. We will miss you Dalton, thank you for your time with us, it is our treasured honor to have known you!

Robert (Sir Bob) and Mary Kurtz - September 23, 2017 at 04:32 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Holt while he was at Manistee Medical Care. He truly touched my heart. I enjoy reading about his life and all the many people he touched. He had an amazing, loving, influential life! Praying for peace and healing for the family and friends of this wonderful man. My sincere condolences to all.
Sincerely, Gwen Nelson

Gwen Nelson - September 20, 2017 at 10:19 PM



“ I can say that Mr. Holt left an impression on me that will last the rest of my life. I was a Voyager in 8th grade camp, he taught me Gun Safety. I had him as a teacher in Jr. High for Math, Leathers, Woodland Survival etc. I remember camping with other classmates on his property, taking pontoon boat rides around Gun Lake and even helping him move firewood one weekend many years ago. I remember riding behind his red tractor he named "The Red Baron". He was truly a man that touch more lives in positives ways then anyone I know. I had not seen him in many years but he always has been and always will be in my thoughts.
My sincere condolences to the family.

Ted Koikas

Ted Koikas - September 20, 2017 at 08:08 PM



“ Mr Holt was an amazing teacher for me. I think I had all the classes he taught back at O.J. He took a small group of us to his 'Point of View' on Gun Lake and camped at his back 40. He was our Captain on his pontoon boat that weekend. What fun that was for us back then. I think everything was, in many ways, a teaching moment for him, we didn't know that at the time because he always made it fun. I definitely adsorbed what he said and still use many outdoor ideas he taught me. I became friends with his daughter Shelley and her family many years after school, and was reunited with Mr. Holt, back out camping out at Gun Lake. He would come out and visit, tell his stories, with all our kids, their eyes fixed on him and where his tales would go. A fun and one of a kind man. My utmost respect for Dalton and deepest sympathy and love to the family.

Mike Johnson

Mike Johnson - September 20, 2017 at 08:04 PM



“ What a special & caring man! I got to know him at my first 8th grade camp in 1974 at camp Martin Johnson. He walked up to me & said....you're the new kid & we have a tradition here on the night before camp starts. We meet at the NaTahKa for "medicinal" purposes. What a night that was! His Sam Magee story was always a hit. When I think of all he did for kids, I just smile. RIP

Scooter Hankwitz - September 20, 2017 at 07:54 PM



“ Thinking of you and yours during this difficult time, Sally. Your Dad leaves behind fond memories to so many. What a legacy. Penny and John

Penny and John Fort - September 20, 2017 at 10:33 AM



“ Ron & Kris Plouff lit a candle in memory of Dalton D Holt



Ron & Kris Plouff - September 20, 2017 at 07:38 AM



“ Our Lord gave your father a long life because of the love and caring he shared with others. As a parent of a "special needs" child, there are very few opportunities for your child to shine. From the first day our Jenn was in Dalton's class, he assisted her, made her feel confident, and always went out of his way to ask about her when he saw us. Dalton attended her wedding in 2007, came baring a doz. roses on her 40th birthday, and has always meant the world to her. She will be devastated (as many of us are), but it will be our job to reminder her that he loved her as much as she loved him. Rest in Peace our awesome and loving friend.

Ron & Kris Plouff - September 20, 2017 at 07:37 AM



“ Mr. Holt played a big part in my education and I will never forget him.

Christine Adams (Coppedge) - September 19, 2017 at 11:04 PM



“ Mr Holt was also a teacher of mine 30 yrs ago awesome man and teacher he will be dearly missed.

jeff tenney - September 20, 2017 at 06:49 AM



“ Mr. Holt was such a amazing teacher! I remember him always being there for us kids. Also all the help he did with Calistas school of dance always doing whatever she needed him to do. He will be missed dearly!

Sonja - September 20, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ Mr Holt was always seen with a Smile on his face while walking the hallways of Manistee County Medical Care . He brought Cheer to the Residents and staff with his Smile , Conversion and Assistance with what ever we need. God Bless you Mr. Holt and Thank You to his Family for Sharing their Dad, Grandfather with Us . Wanda G.

Wanda - September 20, 2017 at 06:13 PM