



## Duane Robert Ely

May 14, 1950 - February 4, 2024

Duane Robert Ely age 73 of Walhalla passed away on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at home. Duane was born on May 14, 1950 in Muskegon Township, the son of Robert D. and Marvel V. (Eagle) Ely and graduated from Mason County Eastern High School with the class of 1968. On February 17, 1973, he married Martha M. Pitcher, (a graduate of Mason County Central High School in 1972) at the Bachelor Evangelical Covenant Church by Rev. Fred Stewart, and they would have celebrated 51 years together later this month.

Duane worked at the Great Casting Corporation before his motorcycle accident, which paralyzed him on his left side May 10th 1975. He later furthered his education at West Shore Community College earning his Associates Degree in Arts & Sciences. Duane loved to spend time hunting, whether with a gun or bow, and became a craftsman in reloading ammo to assist his hobby. He served his community by volunteering as a T-ball and softball coach for several years, and helped organize a neighborhood watch to keep their community a safe place to live. His disabilities from the accident did not deter his ability to enjoy life and fill a room with laughter. One of the things Duane always looked forward to every week was his Sunday afternoon Yahtzee sessions with his daughter Theresa.

Duane will be greatly missed by his wife Martha; his son Michael Lee Ely of Walhalla; his daughter Theresa Marie Ely of Ludington; his brother Randy

(Julie) Ely of Ravenna; his sister Sherry Whitlow of Gatesville, TX; his sisters-in-law Margaret Ely of Ravenna and Linda Bartlett of Port St Lucie FL; his brothers-in-law Roger Pitcher of Fountain, and Lester Pitcher of Branch; and his best friend Tony Wilbur of Fountain; along with many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Marvel, and his brother Douglas Ely.

Funeral services will be held for Duane at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 9 at the Bachelor Evangelical Covenant Church with burial to follow at Bachelor Cemetery. Friends may meet with his family prior to the services on Friday from 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm at the church. Those who wish to remember Duane with a memorial donation are asked to please consider the American Lung Association.

# Cemetery Details

## Bachelor Cemetery

5940 E Sugar Grove Rd  
Fountain, MI 49410

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 9. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Bachelor Evangelical Covenant Church  
5940 East Sugar Grove Road  
Fountain, MI 49410

## Funeral Ceremony

FEB 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bachelor Evangelical Covenant Church  
5940 East Sugar Grove Road  
Fountain, MI 49410

# Tribute Wall



“ I loved going to visit Duane and Martha when I was with his nephew in law, Daron. It was there I shot a 45 revolver I think it was. Duane hollered at me to move my thumb so the hammer didn't break it when it went off. He was definitely a great guy. Just lost my brother on the 22nd. My sincerest condolences 💜👍



---

**Lisa Switzer** - February 29, 2024 at 10:56 AM

EM

“ Erika Minnberg purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Duane Robert Ely.



---

**Erika Minnberg** - February 08, 2024 at 03:30 PM

EM

“ Erika Minnberg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Duane Robert Ely.

---

**Erika Minnberg** - February 08, 2024 at 03:30 PM