



## Duane A. Yager

February 23, 1930 - November 27, 2012

Duane A. Yager, 82, of Spirit Lake, passed away Tuesday November 27, 2012, at Hilltop Care Center in Spirit Lake. Duane was born in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, as the only child of William Albert and Minnie May (Hartman) Yager. Duane met his wife to be, Lois Emily Cooper, in the fall of 1947. They were married March 27, 1951.

Duane enlisted in the United States Air Force when the Korean War was underway. He was transferred to Kisarazu Air Force Base in Japan. In December of 1954, he received an Honorable Discharge from the Air Force. Duane purchased Lake Street Service in 1958. He sold live bait, fishing tackle, coffee shop, a gift shop and Christmas trees. He sold the business in 1961. In 1966, Duane became a dispatcher for the City of Spirit Lake. In August of that year he was appointed to the Spirit Lake Police Department as a Patrol Officer. In 1968, he was appointed Captain of the Police Department. In January of 1976 Duane was appointed Chief of Police, a position he held until retiring in 1997. In November of 1997, he was elected to the Spirit Lake City Council. Duane was on several boards for many years.

Duane has been a lifetime resident of Spirit Lake and added immeasurably to the quality of life in Spirit Lake. He has never turned away from a project because it was difficult or unpopular or because others told him it was unattainable. He raised his children in a fair and caring manner and spent as many hours teaching, mentoring, and caring for many other troubled children in the community. Duane has been a role model for all who have had contact

with him, children and adults alike. Duane's entire life has been in selfless community service, first in his work then in retirement.

Duane is survived by his wife Lois Yager of Spirit Lake; one son William (Samantha) Yager of Norwalk, Iowa; three daughters Kim (Terry) Hain of Paullina, Iowa, Kathy (Lonnie) Saunders of Okoboji, Iowa, and Jill (Pat) Boline of Alexandria, Minnesota; and six grandchildren, Forrest Saunders, Bridgette Hain, Amber Hain, Dillon Hain, Hadley Boline and Jackson Boline.

Duane was preceded in death by his parents William and Minnie.

Duane Yager was a husband, father, grandfather and community member who loved, protected, guided us all, with a genuine smile and warm heart. But he has left us with a brightened path his torch once lit.

We are so proud to have you as a husband, father, and grandfather. We love you so much and will miss you until we meet again.

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ *My sympathies go out to the family of Duane. I enjoyed working with him when I worked at CAASA . Great man!*

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**Mary Kay Donovan** - December 14, 2012 at 11:05 PM

MG

“ *Lois and family,*

*It was great knowing Duane as a neighbor, policeman and friend. I know he will be missed but he is in a better place. This has been a rough year. You can take comfort that he and your mother are with Jesus.*

*Sincerely Marvin Gamble*

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**Marvin Gamble** - December 03, 2012 at 09:27 PM

JN

“ *Lois & Family, I am so sorry to hear of Duane's passing. Duane was just an all around nice guy that everyone around S.L. knew. Looking back, he was kind of like Andy Griffith....Duane had a way of dealing with people without putting them down or pushing his authority. He always had a kind demeanor and it always seemed like he truly enjoyed his work in law enforcement. I have lots of good memories of Duane, Lois, the Yager kids, and Mrs. Cooper. I'm praying for you. Keep the memories of Duane close to your heart.*

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**Jeff Newell** - December 03, 2012 at 09:55 AM

MS

“ Dear Lois and Family: we send our sympathy as I remember Duane from football, basketball and sports as an Indian. When my mother, Vivian, had an accident, he got her to the hospital against her will to make sure she was well. Then he got her old car taken to her home at 8th ST. We have told this story to many over the years. God bless and keep you. Mel and Ann Struthers

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**Mel/Ann Struthers** - December 02, 2012 at 06:36 PM

MS

“ My condolences to the Yager Family on Duane's passing. I visited and played with many friends who lived in the "Yager neighborhood", where we all got to interact with Duane. I also worked as a dispatcher for a couple of summers in college and your Dad's smiling face would greet me either as I came to my shift in the afternoon or, concluded my shift in the morning! Blessings to your Family.

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**Marsha Olson Smeltzer** - December 02, 2012 at 01:02 AM

SB

“ Dear Lois and family,  
Our condolences at this sad time. We always admired and respected Duane and all he did for the Spirit Lake community. We had the privilege of knowing him personally as well as in law enforcement and city government and knew him to be a fair and gentle person of whom all of you are no doubt immensely proud. Our very best wishes to all of you.

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**Sincerely, Robin and Walt Barbee** - November 30, 2012 at 09:54 PM

TL

“ This man put faith in me. I was robbed right before Christmas. He Helped get me diapers and all the nessities, Ironically I think of him this time of YearThe blessings he brognt to me and my son.

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**Tlm** - November 30, 2012 at 09:25 PM

SR

“ I have had the great pleasure of knowing a man with an impeccable reputation as a wonderful father, husband, a mentor to fellow officers, and a great friend to the Spirit Lake community. Duane, it has been an honor to have met you and I thank you for given life to a son as amazing as you. May you rest in peace and we will see you in the pearly gates of heaven. Sammantha Ruiz-Yager-daughter-in-law

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**Sammantha Ruiz-Yager** - November 30, 2012 at 09:03 PM

SM

“ I too have fond memories of Duane. He was always so kind to the Mossman clan. If my memory is correct Duane gave me my first speeding ticket... A warning, but he had a way of making his point without hurting anyone's feelings. I always liked and respected him as a friend of our family and also as a genuinely kind man. I respected and admired Duane. I just heard about Duane's passing and so many fine memories came rushing back. I'm grateful to have known Duane and extend my deepest condolences to Lois and the rest of the wonderful Yaeger family.

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**Scott Mossman** - November 30, 2012 at 07:51 PM

CI

“ Prayers and sympathy to all of the Yager Family - Duane was a wonderful man and gave our city pride!!! It was nice being friends with the Chief's daughter ;). Maybe you all find peace in knowing that he's in a better place.

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**Cheryl Hummel Ihry** - November 30, 2012 at 03:59 PM

TM

“ I have great memories of Duane, an individual that naturally gained respect through his actions.  
He will be missed by all. My sincere condolences.

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**Terry Mossman** - November 30, 2012 at 02:36 PM

JB

“ In my 14 years as Dickinson County Attorney I worked with many law enforcement people. I would rate Duane as one of two great law enforcers with whom I worked. He was never a bully and yet got his job done with calm, methodical, and efficient workmanship. It was my pleasure to have worked with Duane. We need more men like him in law enforcement.

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**Jack Bedell** - November 30, 2012 at 11:36 AM

WY

“ I have told several stories about my dad several times over the years. My father walked softly and cared for others. He had a way of correcting individuals that was a learning experience instead of being punitive. One story that I will share again. The time of year is Halloween. He was on parole and came across some kids in trench coats up at the high school. The kids saw him drive up but they did not run. Instead they greeted him. My father asked what they were doing. "Nothing, just hanging out" was their response. My father asked them if they would do a favor for him. "Certainly!" He asked them to lay down on the ground. The look on the faces of the kids were of confusion, but they did lay down. My father now asked them to start rolling and dont stop until he said to stop. Now the look on the faces were of horror but they started to roll and roll and roll. He finally told them to stop rolling and thanked them for the favor and told them to have a good Halloween and be safe. The kids walked away with their heads down and looking kind of sick. You see, the kids had several eggs in the pockets of their trench coats and they were planning on throwing the eggs at the high school windows. He knew what they were up to. He didnt have to lecture them or shake them down but they did learn a lesson and he got his point across. I love my dad, he was a good mentor. I will miss him but I will have a lot of good memories to keep him next to my heart. William Yager-son

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**William A. Yager** - November 30, 2012 at 07:51 AM

CS

“ Dear Lois and family: I was so sad to hear of Duane's passing. The pictures posted here on the website are wonderful. What great memories you all have to hold close!! I have great memories of Duane myself since you were friends of Grandma and Grandpa (Bill and Dorcas Parks!!) and saw you frequently growing up! I'm praying for all of you in this rough time. May the Lord give you peace and comfort and great love!!

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**Casandra Struthers** - November 29, 2012 at 10:34 PM

RF

“ *Lois and family,  
I am so sadden by Duane's passing.  
I have so many memories of all of you. He will be greatly missed.  
Big hug to all of you*

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**Ramona Williamson Frederick** - November 29, 2012 at 06:19 PM

JW

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Duane led a life of service and was loved by community and family. Because life is precious, it can be hard to let our loved ones go when the time comes for them to depart this earth and go to heaven. And yet god has set a time when He plans to call us home. Psalm 116:15 tells us. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Life's greatest joy is the sure hope of heaven. Again we are sorry for your loss. Jean Ann and family*

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**Jean Ann Weymiller** - November 29, 2012 at 11:47 AM

JB

“ *Lois & Families of Duane, GOD recieved another ANGEL in Heaven. He was the most sincere and wonderful man. Always smiling, joking, laughing. I really enjoyed working for him. Lois worked for the City offices across the hall from Duane's Office as Cheif of Police. I remember them both very well. Loving, caring, concerned, community oriented people. Very proud of their children and their families. May GOD wrap his loving arms around you in your time of sorrow.*

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**Julie Ann Bannister-Lyons** - November 29, 2012 at 09:19 AM

4S

“ Dear Mrs. Saunders,  
We were sad to hear about your dad, but we have heard some very neat stories about him. We know Spirit Lake thinks he was a great man. Now he's a SPIRIT in heaven. Some of us, too, are missing people we love that are in heaven, too. Our hearts are with you and your family always. We hope your family is feeling better soon. We wish to see you at school with us, but we will understand if you're not here for awhile.

*Sincerely, your fourth grade friends from Spencer*

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**4th grade friends of Mrs. Saunders** - November 29, 2012 at 09:04 AM

TC

“ Dear Lois, Kathy, Kim, Bill, Jill, and families, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember once Owen Hurt left the office Duane became Chief. I don't remember a time though where I went to the City Hall without seeing one or both of the Yagers. It isn't every married couple that could survive working so closely together. Duane always had a story to tell. We would talk alot when I was involved with the Jaycees. Thank you Yager family for all the years of service you gave to Spirit Lake and its citizens. May God's loving embrace hold you all tight during these next few days, weeks, and the rest of the holiday season. You have two special angels to watch over you now and forever.

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**Teresa (Dean) Clark** - November 29, 2012 at 02:26 AM

C(

“ Lois, Bill, Kim, Kathy, Jill and family so sorry to hear of your loss. I can't say enough great things about your family. Duane was such a great man and will truly be missed. You all touched our lives in some way. You brought a lot of joy and laughter to our community. Thanks for all you've done. Love and Prayers.

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**Cheri Falcone (Thompson)** - November 28, 2012 at 11:54 PM

MY

“ Lois,  
Rusty, Marilyn and I so enjoyed visiting you this summer and having the chance to stop and see Duane. He touched so many lives and made me proud when I was campaigning and folks would ask if I was related to Duane Yager -- I always knew that was a sure vote and that is an accomplishment few police officers achieve.  
Milan

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**Milan Yager** - November 28, 2012 at 08:46 PM

MS

“ Dear Lois, Bill, Kim, Kathy and Jill, so sorry for your loss. Duane was a stand-up guy, he was such a great asset to the Spirit Lake community. He will be missed.

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**Mike Sorensen** - November 28, 2012 at 06:12 PM

RJ

“ Dear Yeager family: I am sorry to hear of Duane's passing. My your many fond memories help you through this difficult time. I'm sure there are plenty. Take care.

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**Rick Jaacks** - November 28, 2012 at 04:16 PM

WK

“ Dear Yager family-- We were so sorry to hear about Duane as he will be so missed by the Spirit Lake community. Duane raised lots of us "kids" as his own as we were friends of his family, so we became family to him. We have many smiling memories of our times at the Yager house! Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Many memories and smiles will be with us as we think of Duane!

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**Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen** - November 28, 2012 at 04:02 PM

JR

“Lois, Kathy, Bill, Kim, Jill and all the family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember Duane always with a friendly smile and so helpful. I enjoyed the many times I spent with your family and can still envision perfectly what your house looks like and hear Kathy's laugh as we grew up. Lois, you and Duane raised wonderful children. I pray great comfort for you all in those happy memories and strength for you all as you go through these next days, weeks and months.

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**Jill Franker Rasmussen** - November 28, 2012 at 03:06 PM

M(

“In the early days I practically lived with the Yager family, when Kathy and I were inseparable friends, just ask a certain teacher who did separate us .....anyway Duane and Lois were like another mom and dad, also Cooper. It was fun growing up with them and the experiences with the family!  
Condolences to you all, keep all those memories in your hearts and take care of each other.

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**Mary Franken (Ross)** - November 28, 2012 at 11:12 AM

SD

“Duane and Lois Yager have been a part of this community for as long as I can remember. With both of them working for the City of Spirit Lake you saw them on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Both are so kind, always had a smile and something to say. I have missed seeing them both since they have retired. I think of them both often. Duane will be missed but will always remain in my memories. My thoughts and prayers are with the Yager family. Take care my friend.

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**Sally Christensen DeLoss** - November 28, 2012 at 09:19 AM