



## Duke Snyder

April 21, 1932 - January 5, 2020

With grief we report the death of our beloved father Duke Snyder, 87 of Casselberry, Florida passed away Sunday, January 5, 2020. Mr. Snyder was born April 21, 1932 in Liverpool Township, Ohio to Roy W. Snyder and Grace Ferguson.

Duke was born in a one room log cabin, an old trapper's cabin above the Allegheny River in Wellsville, OH. He was 1 of 9 children, 8 whom were boys. He graduated from East Liverpool High School in 1950 as the state wrestling champion in his weight class. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1952 and became 1 of 7 children who were in service at the same time during the Korean War. After the service in the Army, Duke moved to Dayton OH in 1955 where he, along with 3 brothers joined the Ironworkers union. In 1957, Duke became a member of the Masonic Riverview Lodge No. 717 and eventually earned the Masonic 32nd degree through York Rite, specializing in Chapter, Council and Commandery.

Duke married Beverly Sweatt in 1964 and had 3 children, Karen, Greg and Jon. They lived on a 10 acre, gentleman's farm in Darke County, OHIO for 10 years where the family raised cows, chickens, and horses. They farmed soybeans and tobacco as cash crops. In 1980 the family moved to Maitland Florida where Duke eventually became a part of the Orlando FL Ironworkers union # 808. Duke and Beverly divorced in 1984 and he purchased a home on a golf course in Casselberry.

Duke worked a variety of jobs for a while then he worked at Walt Disney World for 10 years, making the first and last weld on the Epcot Ball structure and also worked on the Disney monorail system. After his time at Disney, he began working for a private contractor in the Bahamas building a iron and concrete mountain structure with waterfalls, slides and water pools. He then worked as a welder on a water dredge in New Smyrna Beach FL at Ponce Inlet and later traveled with the Dredge to Savannah GA and worked on the inland waterways for a few years. Duke worked as an Ironworker for over 50 hard-working years!

Not long after, Duke began working for Haley Construction in Sanford FL as a welder/fabricator. He eventually opened up his own business "Dukes-Place" in Sanford for about 12 years and eventually moved the shop to his residence in Casselberry. Importantly, Duke belonged to the Casselberry FL Sculptors Guild for many years and has been honored to have one of his iron sculptures on permanent display depicting "How Great Thou Art" in front of the Casselberry Art House. Duke was not only a skilled craftsman but a creative one! Other creations are at his family's homes, including several Kokopelli statues.

Duke is survived by his former wife Beverly, Karen and her daughters Jennifer, Danielle; Greg (Zoe) their son Davis and two daughters Paige, Morgan; Jon (Lindy) and their son Eric and daughter Abby; and numerous in-laws and by many loving friends.

#### Duke's Rules for a Good Life!

- 1 - Live a Simple Life
- 2 - Spend less than you earn
- 3 - Think constructively
- 4 - Cultivate a yielding disposition
- 5 - Be grateful
- 6 - Rule your own mood
- 7 - Give generously
- 8 - Be interested in others
- 9 - Live one day at a time
- 10 - Have a happy disposition
- 11 - Keep close to GOD

In lieu of Flowers the family requests donations be made to Saint Joseph's Indian School ([give.stjo.org](http://give.stjo.org))

Memorial Service is scheduled for Friday, January 31st, 2020 at 12:00 Noon, All Saints Episcopal Church, 338 E. Lyman Ave., Winter Park, FL



# Comments

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“ Dear Cousins & Aunt Bev,

Every family needs an Uncle Duke! A special uncle with many talents, a zest for life and one who could bring sunshine to a cloudy day. We are the lucky ones! We have many fond memories and are thankful for the love he gave to our family. He will be greatly missed. Wish we could be with you, on Friday, as you celebrate his life. You are in our thought and prayers.

Love to all,  
Don, Debi & Family

Don & Debi Snyder - January 29 at 04:21 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Duke Snyder.



January 28 at 08:49 AM

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“ I was fortunate enough to work with Duke when he generously donated a piece of sculpture to the City of Casselberry. Duke's "How Great Thou Art" now sits prominently in front of the Casselberry Art House, greeting visitors as they walk up. I was lucky enough later to be on hand when the City honored Duke during Older Americans Month in 2018. In reference to "How Great Thou Art," named so as a tribute to his mother because it was her favorite song, Duke explained how "drawing" with metal was his chosen method of creative expression: "It makes me happy to work with metal, it allows me to be me. It also helps me realize and appreciate that everyone has a gift and mine happens to be sculpting in metal." Duke, thank you, for sharing your gift with the Casselberry community, and creating an artistic landmark that says it all.

Jason Costa  
Casselberry Art House



Jason Costa - January 20 at 05:18 PM

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“ To the family of Duke,

It is with great sadness that Claude and I acknowledge the passing of my brother Duke, my only living sibling. To describe Duke as a "ball of fire" is only touching the surface, always hugs and high fives were in order. Such a fun loving guy, always giving of himself, making sure of your care and needs.

Duke created many projects, designing and building each to perfection. Surely Duke's "How Great Thou Art" sculpture is a lasting tribute to his life. He will forever be in our thoughts - until we meet again.

Lovingly,  
Brother Claude & Mary

Claude & Mary Snyder - January 16 at 09:42 AM

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“ We were so sad to hear of Uncle Duke's passing. He was such a special person and can never be replaced. He had such a way of making everyone feel so special. We will miss his kind and gentle ways. He loved his family and was so proud of all of them and was so close to his brothers and sister and loved getting together with everyone as much as possible. I know God has a special place for him in heaven. We will miss his great smile. God bless you Uncle Duke.

Love,  
Jeff & Janie

Jeff & Janie Allison - January 11 at 08:44 PM

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“ Uncle Duke was always a fun loving Uncle..He had a big heart for everyone! He always made us nieces & nephews feel like we were very special to him! I remember at a Snyder Reunion in Dayton OH at TriAngle Park when we were little, he let us "drive " his boat on the river..we thought we were really something....He always had a big hug for us! When I was little ,he made a very heavy metal welded Christmas tree stand for my family.. He put all four of our names on it.. My husband & I still use it to this day It makes me smile to see it..He also made many items for & with my Dad They are still in use today..We all love him very much!! I know there is a big Snyder Reunion in Heaven right now! He will be greatly missed...We love you Uncle Duke! All of our thoughts & Prayers are with the family We love You & send big hugs to all of You...Love always Tiana

Tiana Dayton - January 09 at 05:55 PM

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“ Duke . . . you will always hold a unique and special place in Becky's and my hearts. You always had a kind word for everyone you met and somehow you always knew just what to say to make us all feel comfortable and special no matter what the occasion.

So many great memories of times spent together over the years . . . we will never forget you and the impact you have had on our lives. For me personally, the lessons in life you taught me were invaluable and I will forever thank you for helping me become the person I am. You were as much a father to me as my own and the brother I never had. I will miss you greatly, but somehow I think perhaps you may already be sharing new stories with old friends and thinking about what your next project will be.

Until we meet again . . .  
Blaine and Becky

**Blaine Sweatt** - January 08 at 08:29 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Duke



**JON SNYDER** - January 06 at 11:01 PM



“ What a terrible loss for your family. I am so sorry to learn of Duke's passing. Thank you for such a fitting biography. Duke will always be a larger than life character in my mind - talented, creative, hilarious, and honest to a fault. Rest In Peace.

**Spencer Rhodes** - January 08 at 08:41 AM



“ We have wonderful memories of our friend Duke. What a very special man with a big smile. Prayers to family and friends.

**Sherri & Jimmy Boyd** - January 08 at 12:22 PM



“ Prayers for the family. Such a wonderful person, always a smile and a hug when I seen him. we loved him very much and will miss him greatly

**bertha norton** - January 10 at 10:48 AM



“ So sorry for the family's loss. Duke was such a big-hearted and talented person.

**Susan and Chuck Weirauch** - January 12 at 06:18 AM