



## Duane "Du" Wender

June 27, 1960 - October 31, 2009

Duane "Du" Alphonse Wender, 49, of Upper Pine Creek Road, passed away, Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009, peacefully at his home with his wife and his mother at his side after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Duane was a lifelong resident of the Pine Creek area and lifelong dairy farmer.

Duane was born June 27, 1960, the son of Henry Wender and Lois Langsford. He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1978.

He married his best friend and love of his life, Cindy Wells, on May 2, 1987, at his brother Don's house in the Upper Pine Creek area. He always said that "Cindy was the best thing that ever happened to me." They shared a love and respect for each other that was apparent by everyone who shared time with them. He would always leave her notes, and she is still discovering ones that he had left for her.

Duane raised sons, Shawn and Ryan, since they were small children. He was a great father and mentor to them. He loved them with all of his heart and soul. They have many fond memories of the time they spent with Duane, especially the times they got caught sneaking back into the house when Duane was leaving for milking early in the morning.

Duane also loved farming since he was a small child, and he worked side-by-

side with his father, Henry, at the family's Edelweiss Dairy Farm since he was "knee high." He was instrumental in the dairy farm's success. He helped develop their Holstein herd and was very proud of the fact that their dairy cows were all homebred. Duane carried on the family tradition which started in 1928 of showing their dairy cows at both the Escanaba State Fair and the Norway Fair. With his outgoing personality and friendly demeanor, he made many friends at the fair. He was largely responsible for making Edelweiss Dairy farm well-known throughout the U.P. and Northeast Wisconsin for show-winning Holsteins. He was a very knowledgeable and ambitious farmer. He had the ability and determination to fix or repair anything he set his mind to.

Duane lived and breathed farming and loved every minute of it, except maybe bailing hay in 100-plus degree weather! His love for the farm and farming was evident by the fact that he worked the farm every day of his life, milking cows every morning and evening and completing all of the chores involved with farming during the remainder of the day. He worked tirelessly, without complaint, and never took one vacation. It was a wonderful gift that he had such a passion for his profession. Duane loved to share his vast knowledge of dairy farming and animal care with young farmers and mentor them along the way.

Duane had a special bond and shared his love of the family farm with his granddaughter, "Mac." He loved and nurtured her since she was a small child, and they spent many hours in the barn taking care of the cows and milking. Duane hoped that she would carry on the family tradition and be the next generation of the dairy farm. He also shared his love and knowledge of farming with her and taught her showmanship. She was also his partner in crime, and they spent many hours together going out for lunch with Henry and various other friends. His two favorite places for lunch were the The Thirsty Whale and the Pasty Oven. He was also mentoring his granddaughter Savannah, "Savannah Banana," in dairy farming. She also loved sharing time

with him at the farm. Duane also enjoyed going to the Norway Speedway with his cousin Jean (who always had a Mountain Dew ready for him) to watch his nephew Ryan Wender drive car Number 00 for M & D Mobil and nephew, Tony Wells drive the Total Car Care race car. He loved all kinds of music from rock and roll to country. Duane loved watching episodes of Gunsmoke and thought of himself as a modern day cowboy.

Lois and Duane spent many hours together constructing handmade saunas. They worked together as a team and enjoyed the time they spent together. Duane also built his family home, a handcrafted log cabin house from scratch. He cut down each tree, skidded them from the woods, skinned them with love. If building a house wasn't enough of a project, Lois and Duane also built a beautiful camp together.

Duane will always be "Grampy" to all of his granddaughters. He loved all of them and enjoyed sharing a bowl of ice cream with them. He was quick to smile, a good listener and always looking for the right opportunity to play a practical joke on you. Duane was kind, compassionate, caring and enjoyed and talked with each and every person he met.

Duane had a great love for his 100 Holstein "Girls" and his family pets. He loved his dog Hannah who is curled up at his feet in heaven and his horse Dancer that made a trail for Duane to follow him earlier this month to heaven. He leaves behind two dogs, Abby and Gracie, and two horses, Adrianna and Morgan, one house cat, Ella, and a barn cat, Stormy.

Duane and his hunting buddy, Dale Allen, spent many hours at his camp enjoying each other's company. Duane was a mentor and good friend to Ty-Ty Bal who is also a dairy farmer. Gerry Weinert and Duane spent many hours laughing at each other's jokes and Gerry often had Duane crying tears of

laughter. David Oman was generous with his friendship and always eager to assist to Duane. He also maintained a close relationship with his high school friends Todd Cerasoli and Keith Johnson. Duane also had many other friends, too numerous to mention.

Two of Duane's mentors were Uncle Fran, who was a builder and Uncle Si who was a maintenance engineer. Duane's cousins, Tommy and Jimmy Wender, were also special friends. Not many people are allowed to call them Tommy and Jimmy, and they in turn called

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him Duaney.

Duane loved life and fought hard to not let his body overcome his spirit's desire to stay here and spend more time with his family and friends. He was very optimistic and hopeful that he would beat the cancer, and he shared his encouragement with other cancer patients. Duane's mother Lois shared the past two months at home with Cindy and Duane and was an extraordinary caretaker.

Duane shared a special bond and friendship with Dr. John Loewen. Dr. Loewen took exceptional care of Duane and was instrumental in helping him fight this battle along with Dr. Mercier from the Marshfield Clinic. Dr. Loewen shared a helicopter ride with Duane earlier this month. Gina, Lisa, Beth and Brenda at Dr. Loewen's office were very kind, compassionate and caring during his visits. Their kindness will never be forgotten.

He is survived by his loving wife, Cindy; sons, Shawn (Kim Fox) and Ryan (Krissa Stenfors) Ellis; his mother, Lois Langsford; father, Henry (Sheila) Wender; brothers, Don (Susie) Wender and Brad (Lisa) Welko; grandchildren, Ciara, Brianna, Savannah, Nicole and Macala "Mac" Ellis and Tyler Schuls; brother-in-law, Bob (Mary) Wells and sister-in-law, Jody (Glenn) Edlund; nephews and nieces, Ryan (Nikki) Wender, Amber Cotterman, Ben and Katie Welko, Tony (Missy) and Jason Wells; and great-nephews, Anthony Duane Wender and Nathan Cotterman. He is also survived and will be greatly missed by all of his family, friends and fellow dairy farmers.

Many dear family members and friends including his father-in-law, Bob Wells Sr. and his mother-in-law, Sadie, preceded him in death. Bob and Sadie loved and respected Duane. Bob and Sadie always said that they couldn't have picked a better son-in-law themselves.

Pallbearers will be Don Wender, Shawn and Ryan Ellis, Ryan (Little Ryan) Wender, David Oman, Ty-Ty Bal, Dale Allen, Brad Welko and Gerry Weinert.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Duane's love for his family, friends, the farm, hunting and music will always be remembered and carried in our hearts as a special memory of time spent with him. Duane would want the tears we cry today to make room in our hearts to remember fondly the joy that he brought to each of us individually in his own special way.

Duane was a wonderful and attentive husband. I will miss his sense of humor, his laughter, his voice and his touch. He was my best friend and my soul mate, and I will always cherish the time we shared together. He also was the best thing that ever happened to me. I will love him forever and ever. Love always, CJ (Cin)

Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain.

Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. on Tuesday at St. Mary Catholic Church in Norway. Fr. James Roetzer will offer the Mass of Christian Burial.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Duane Wender online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted Duane's good friend, Tom Nash and the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the funeral arrangements.

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# Tribute Wall

KL

“ To the Wender family, seeing Duane's picture after all these years brought back memories of when my grandfather, Henry Paquin, would bring my siblings and I to the farm. Like others, I remember how funny Duane was and how nice he was to us. My grandfather thought the world of the Wender family and I am grateful that I had a chance to know such a great family. May the Lord be with you in this difficult time and I will keep your family in my prayers.

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**Katie ( Balkum) Lairson** - November 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Cindy, I was saddened to hear of the sad news of Duane's passing, after I returned from out of town. Duane was one who always had a smile and brought a smile to the faces of those around him. I am sure sorry that the world has one less like him.  
Prayers and thoughts are with you during this time of grief!  
Cheryl

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**Cheryl Wender-Menghini** - November 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ To the Wender Family. May your faith and God's Spirit sustain you through this difficult time.

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**Richard & Cindy Fuller** - November 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ I wish to express my sincere condolences to your family. My name is Nancy McKendrick and my mother was Ida Holbrook. I now live in my mom's home on Grandview Drive. I just want to say I still remember the day my mother and I took my 2 nieces from Detroit over to the farm and Duane showed them the barns and calves and talked to them about how the farm was run. That was many years ago, in the 70's, and Duane was young himself, but I never have forgotten that day. Whenever I drive by the farm I think of him and how very sweet he was that day. I know my mother thought a lot of him too. He will always be remembered in my heart for the kindness he showed on that day at such a young age.

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**Nancy McKendrick** - November 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ My deepest condolences to Duane's Family for your loss. The world may be a little emptier without Duane; but, oceans are filled with his spirit. Duane was a special person who always made you feel good to be around. I feel blessed to have known him. Although I am saddened at his passing I rejoice at the glory and peace he shall receive from our Father in Heaven. I know he lives on and that through God's plan will see Duane again and what a sweet and joyful reunion it will be.

*May God bless you all and may His Holy Spirit comfort you.*

*Sincerely,  
Michael A Thompson  
Lafayette IN*

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**Mike Thompson** - November 04, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Cindy (and Wender Family),

*Although its been far to many years sense we have seen one another I send my deepest and most heartfelt condolences your way and to the rest of the Wender family. I have to say that I am quiet sad I don't live closer to home otherwise I would be with my Mom and Dad at the funeral. There wasn't a day which would go by that I would hope the best for you both through his tough battle. I also would check in with my Dad to see how things were going. You both have touched my life in more ways than I could even count. There was quiet a few times how I would tell people how I was able to play around on the farm and feed the calves whenever we would go for a visit as a kid. To this day (and years will go by) that I won't go past a farm and not think of all the fun time I had with the two of you at both the farm and your beautiful home. Even when we got to play with those baby raccoons you guys found so many years ago. Not to mention letting me visit Rosie (my favorite cow) while she was still alive. I know that he is still plowing fields and reuniting with all the 'Girls' that are up in heaven as well. Duane will be missed by us all. Although words will not help, we all share in your grief.*

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**Maggie Weinert** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *I would just like to extend my deepest sympathy to the Wender family for the loss of your loved one Duane. May god grant you peace at this sorrowful time.*

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**Bruce Tippett** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ *Dear Cindy, I am so sorry to hear about your husband. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.*

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**Vicki Waterman** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ We were so sorry and shocked to hear about Duane. We didn't find out until we got out paper and, by that time, it was too late to attend the funeral or we most certainly would have been there. Our most sincere condolences to Cindy and the rest of the family.

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**David White & Jayne Collins** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Dear Wender Family,  
You will all be in my prayers. Duane was a man of great worth that taught us all to live life in happiness. I will always look back on my days on the farm with fond memory, and I will miss him very much. I cannot say how sorry I am for your loss. Sometimes our lord picks the prettiest flowers.

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**Eric Ahnen** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ Dear Cindy and Entire family of Duane: Please know that we were saddened to get the final call on Duane. I met Duane years ago when I was an employee at a local farm. Everytime he walked into their warehouse he always had a smile and story and ready to share a laugh. Over the years I was fortunate to get to know the two of you more when you took my nieces and nephews under your wings to show them the ropes of being "at the Fair"...and then when Hungie moved to the Pine Creek area you welcomed him as a neighbor and a friend and we have always appreciated that. Everytime we were invited to someone's house or party we would always say ..."I hope Duane and Cindy are there!!" ...you are both a tribute to what true happiness and love is.

To Duane's parents you must be so proud you have raised such a kind, hardworking, sincere man! He will be missed. God Bless you during this difficult time.

Sincerely, Duane Hongisto and Mary Oman

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**Hungie and MO** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ We would like to express our sincere condolences for your family's loss. Moose has known the family for many many years and is saddened by this terrible struggle. I am grateful that I got to meet Du on a couple occassions and wish I would have known him longer, as he really seemed like such an awesome soul (Sue). God bless all of your family!

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**Brian (Moose) and Sue Ellis** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Cindy, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear husband. You two were so happy together and my thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

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**Michelle (Floriano) Schneider** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ Cindy,  
I am so sorry to hear about your loss. After losing my Steve I thought how am I going to get through this. Just know that it will get easier as the time goes by, but he will ALWAYS be with you in your heart, and soul.

Your Cousin,  
Leeanna

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**Leeanna Eithun** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Dear Wender Family,  
I'm sorry to say that I will not be able to come home for the services. Duane was the best guy I have had the pleasure of working for. Working out at the farm was by far the best part of my summer. Duane will be greatly missed and never forgotten by all who knew him including me.

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**Nick Harris** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

M(

“ Sorry I couldnt make it to the funeral. He will always be with us.

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**Melissa Gatien (Grondine)** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I graduated from high school with Duane and would run into him from time to time. He was always so pleasant. I will miss his smiling face. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

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**Mary (Pucci) Bruen** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I wish I had words that would provide more comfort to you. But know it was a priviledge to know him and will miss that smiling kind face.

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**Donna & Dave Farragh** - November 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ So sorry to hear of Duane's passing. He was always so friendly and upbeat. We will miss seeing him in the barn at the UP Fair. We have watched him show cattle since he was young. He was a great competitor and knew and loved those cows. God Bless you and give you comfort.

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**John & Julie, Jim& Toni Kronemeyer** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Dear Cindy, Lois, Henry and family. We are so very sorry for your loss. Duane will always be remembered in our hearts..he was a good man. Our deepest sympathy.....God Bless the memories of those we love.....if there's anything we can do, please let us know.....love to all.... God Bless

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**Steve, Deb & Ken Cheney** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I was so sorry to hear of Duane's passing. He was a classmate of mine in Catholic School at Immaculate Conception and I would bump into him from time to time. I had not seen Duane for quite some time and saw him this past summer at City Sales on the North Side. We were both filling our gas tanks and recognized each other. We had a nice little chat. I'm so happy I got to see him. He was always such a nice guy. My sympathies to the whole family. I am so sorry for your loss. You will all be in my thoughts.

*Lori (Ganz) Mellon*

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**Lori (Ganz) Mellon** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To the family of Duane:

*I would like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences for your loss. Duane was truly a man to be proud of. I remember Duane as a young boy down at the fairgrounds with the dairy cows in the dairy barn, I was across in the horse barn. I remember Duane as he passed by my farm so many times through the years. We would catch each others eye while baling hay and give each other a wave, I looked forward to seeing him each time. We were always busy working but every now and then would meet up and get to say hello. He was always willing to help me in some small way and I appreciated his genuine kindness every time.*

*He was a true Farmer. I say this with a great deal of respect. I grew up on a small neighboring farm and have always had the blood of a farmer in me as well. It is the long days, the hard work that make most men run from a job this demanding. You have to be of a special breed of man to love a farm as much as I am sure Duane did. I distinctly remember Duane telling me once how he loved the farm, the land and as he put it ? I would never quit or sell, if I made \$1.00 of profit I would keep going.?*

*I feel proud to have known Duane and will truly miss seeing him ride by on a tractor or his truck and his friendly wave. I have had cows all my days here in Pine Creek and will remember him with the fondest memories, especially when I am out in the hay field. Pine Creek was lucky to have had him for the time he was here.*

*May God?s blessings and peace be with you,  
John Haigh*

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**John Haigh** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Ryan, Cindy & Family, Our hearts break for you. We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. There has never been a time that I saw Cindy & Duane that I didn't walk away saying "They are the nicest people that I have ever met." Be strong for each other. May his memory live on forever.

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**Tracy (Marshall) Rizzi & Family** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond's glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn's rain  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there.

{{~j~"Du"~j~}}

Fly with the ~j~Angels~j~ Dear Soul  
Namaste'

Cindy~Louis~Henry & Family...  
In the quiet moments  
when the hurt is hard to bear  
may ~Love~ become your shelter  
And may the beauty  
of precious  
memories be your comfort.

much Love & Light to your Family

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A friend - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Henry, Lois, Donald and family  
I am saddened to hear about Duane. I am so sorry for your loss. He was so kind when I knew him when we were youngsters at the farm. God bless.  
Donna Kustic and family

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**Donna (Maycunich) Kustic** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers, we feel blessed to have known Duane. May all the wonderful memories you have help you all at this difficult time.

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**John & Anne Tikkanen** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Our thoughts are with you Cindy and your family.  
We send our love to all of you

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**Bernie (Draxler) and Jeff Laurich** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ SO VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS .GOD BLESS  
YOUR FAMILY

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**LORI AND GREG MAAS** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ Cindy,  
Words, however kind, can't mend your heartache: For some moments in life there are just no words.

*May you find strength in the love of family  
and in the warm embrace of friends.*

*You have our deepest sympathy!*

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**Naida and Gerry Weinert** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Sorry that I will not be able to be there. Duane will always live in our memories and he will never be forgotten. He will be missed so very much.

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**Kelly Grondine** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Shawn, Ryan & Families, Very sorry to hear of your loss of your dad. He was an amazing person and will be dearly missed by many. Your in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

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**Bob & Shelly Kaminski** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ The Wender Family,  
My heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow; I know Duane experienced a great deal of suffering since he was diagnosed with cancer. I pray that you will find comfort in knowing that he is no longer in pain, but in a better place. I regret that I cannot be there to pay my respects, but know you our in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Ed Dierkens** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Dear Cindy, Lois, Henry, Shelia and all of Du's Family,  
My heart breaks for your loss. I know too well that at this time there  
are no words to take away your pain. Please know we are here  
should you need anything at anytime. You will continue to be in our  
hearts, thoughts and prayers. I wish I had more to say to comfort  
you. With deepest sympathy...

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**Missy (Dierkens) Spade** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ We are deeply saddened to hear of the loss of such a great man.  
He will live on in the hearts of all that loved him so much. You have  
our sympathy and will be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**The Board Members of DCRA/Norway Speedway (Past and Present)** - November  
02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To Duane's family, I don't believe I ever waiting on him when he  
wasn't smiling no matter how much he was hurting. I agree he was  
the modern day cowboy and loved his family & friends more than  
one will ever know. Please find faith & comfort in the fact the Duane  
is free of pain as he has entered into the gift of eternal life. He was a  
great man that will be greatly missed. With my deepest sympathies,

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**Jennifer Flynn** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Cindy, I am very sorry for you loss. I did not know Duane as well as  
others may have, but I knew him well enough to tell he was a great  
man, and he loved you very much. It was apparent to anyone who  
saw you two together or the way his face lit up when talking about  
you. Take comfort in the fact that he is in a better place and you will  
one day see him again. God Bless. You are in my prayers.

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**A friend** - November 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM