



## Duane Lee Stemen Jr

October 31, 1931 - January 15, 2024

Duane Lee Stemen, Jr., 92, a resident of Columbus for 64 years, passed away on January 15th. Born October 31, 1931 in Elida Ohio, he was the oldest child of Duane, Sr. and Esther Paul Stemen. Duane is survived by his wife of 63 years, Janice, his daughters Lisa (Paul) Grutsch and Carrie (Andrew) Narcelles and his five grandchildren Benjamin, Lindsay, Joseph, Nathan, and David. He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Marlene Follas. Duane graduated from Elida High School in 1950 and served his country as a staff sergeant in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He graduated from Tennessee Tech University, with bachelor of science and master's degrees in education. Duane worked for the Columbus City Schools for 35 years. He touched countless lives as a sixth grade teacher, elementary principal, and administrator. Duane's greatest joy was spending time with his five grandchildren and supporting them at all their activities. A lifelong optimist with a keen sense of humor, Duane approached life with a spirit of adventure and could always be counted on to cheer you up. He was a self-taught accomplished artist and painted dozens of vibrant oil paintings in frames that he constructed himself. His paintings won awards at the Westerville Art League shows and were cherished gifts to friends and family. He loved the arts and spent many hours at the Columbus Museum of Art and the Ohio Theatre attending symphony, ballet, and Broadway shows. A lifelong, avid Buckeye football fan, he cheered on the Buckeyes as a season ticket holder for many years and had hoped to see them beat Michigan one more time. He

was a young adult when he discovered his love for travel. Throughout his life he visited most of Europe and the US. A favorite destination was Paris which he returned to often. Friends will be welcomed on Saturday, January 20th at Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 N High St 43085. Calling hours begin at 1pm. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2pm and a reception will follow the service. If donations are desired, Duane preferred donations to Miracle League of Central Ohio, [www.miracleleaguecentraloh.org](http://www.miracleleaguecentraloh.org)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Worthington United Methodist Church  
600 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085

## Service

JAN 20. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Worthington United Methodist Church  
600 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085

# Tribute Wall

IR

“ You have my deepest sympathy! I'll miss seeing him in the yard when I go for a walk.  
*Irene Price*



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**Irene** - January 22, 2024 at 12:35 PM

KN

“ Those we love never leave us. Was always a joy to hear Duane relating his most memorable adventures. Prayers for healing.

*The Roger Norrod Family*



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**Kathy Norrod** - January 19, 2024 at 12:38 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Duane Lee Stemen Jr., give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Air Force Veteran, Duane Lee Stemen Jr., is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - January 19, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of  
Duane Lee Stemen Jr.*



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January 18, 2024 at 10:44 PM



“ *The Narcelles Clan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Duane Lee Stemen Jr.*

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**The Narcelles Clan** - January 18, 2024 at 10:44 PM

TL

“ Duane ... you brought joy to my life like you did for countless others. You gave great caring love to your family witnessing to me in the process God's sacrificial love. You modeled the love of the Godman Jesus. I always was happy to interact with you. Duane had alot of wisdom delivered with a smile. If there is a heaven, a final place of rest and reward as our churches teach, you deserve a front row big mansion. I think I saw you last six years ago at my wife's funeral ... Lorna a great lady who also appreciated and loved you and your family ... Carrie Stemen married to Andy = son of Lorna... were blessings to me the step-dad for 26+ years .. I treasure the memories of always happy interactions with Duane and Janice and all the Stemen family. I'm living in Florida now in January like Duane taught me to do so can not be at the funeral. However I'll respectfully pray often for you all. 🙏 RIP

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**Thom Lisk** - January 18, 2024 at 08:47 PM

JR

“ Mr. Stemen was my 6th grade teacher at Huy Road Elementary School in 1963/64. He created a great learning experience for us and was always helpful and kind. We need more teachers like him. Sorry for your loss. He was a good man. John Ross, Columbus, Ohio.

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**John Ross** - January 18, 2024 at 01:37 PM