



Ross Duane Lake

September 27, 1937 - June 25, 2020

Ross Duane Lake, 82, of Bonita Springs, Florida, passed from this life on June 25, 2020. Ross was a wonderful man, hard worker, family man. Ross was born in Kincaid, Illinois, on September 27, 1937, to Ross Cyrus Lake and Francis Opal Buckles Lake. Ross was raised in Taylorville, Illinois, where he delivered newspapers for the Taylorville Breeze-Courier. He graduated from Taylorville High School in 1955 and received a degree in Industrial Engineering from Millikin University in 1959. Ross married Phyllis Ann March in 1958. After college, Ross and Phyllis moved to Berwyn, Illinois, where he worked for Western Tire. Ross and Phyllis then moved to Decatur, Illinois, where Ross worked many years for Wagner Castings Company. In 1984, Ross and a group of fellow employees purchased Wagner Castings from the Wagner family, and Ross served as CEO. Later, Ross served as COO, then CEO, of Sudbury Inc. Ross and Phyllis retired to the beach in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Ross touched many lives during his time here. He coached little league baseball, taught neighborhood kids how to tell time, served on several boards, received recognition as a foundryman, met with President Reagan, loved to watch boxing matches, made his family have a push-up contest on Thanksgiving mornings, doted on his wife, children and grandchildren, stuck to his values, and lit up the room when he entered. Ross and Phyllis spent their later years in Bonita Springs, Florida, played tennis (tennis at 9, beach at

noon, happy hour at 5, and dinner at 8), had pillow fights with his grandchildren, and was full of life. Ross' children and grandchildren won the Dad and Grandpa lottery. Ross was a life-long die-hard Cubs fan and enjoyed very much the extra inning game 7 victory in 2016 when the Cubs finally won the World Series.

Ross leaves his sons, Steven D. Lake, of Hollywood, Florida, and Douglas S. Lake (Stacey), of Mt. Zion, Illinois; daughters, Elizabeth "Lisa" Hoffman (Keith), and Melissa "Missy" Butts (Steve), both of Bonita Springs, Florida; grandchildren, Stephanie Coneybear, Stacy Kump, Sadie Lake, Rachel Henderson, Emily Marchione, Riley Kraus, Hannah Lake, Scott Lake; brother, Terry Lake; sisters, Debbie Howard and Fran Muller; as well as 6 great grandchildren

Ross was preceded by his parents; sister, Delores; wife, Phyllis; his daughter, Marcie; and his son, Gregory. Words cannot describe how blessed this world was and is by his time here. He even started a family cheer, "We don't, we don't, we don't mess around, Hey!" Services are private, which breaks the family's heart even more.

Memorials to Alzheimer's Association of America.

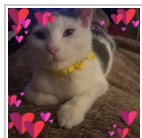
Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ross Duane Lake*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *To Steve, Doug, Lisa, Missy and Terry, Fran and Debbie and families,
We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Duane. We know he was deeply loved and will be so deeply missed by all of you. Take comfort in knowing that you have so many happy memories and also know Duane is at peace now and hand in hand with his beloved Phyllis.
God Bless all of you,
Your cousin,
Ernie and Linda (Lake) Irwin and family*

Linda Irwin - July 04, 2020 at 07:59 PM

TC

Please accept our sympathy for the death of Ross. We have many great memories of Phyllis and him while living as neighbors for many years. Matthew remembers Ross teaching him how to tie his shoes, since both were left-handed. God be with your family at this time. The Cordts Family

Tom Cordts - July 05, 2020 at 10:31 PM

NM

“ *Worked for Ross at Wagner Castings always admired his intellect and grasp of business. My condolences to the family. Admired the job he did in raising his children. Worked and know Steve and Doug,, great men.*

Nelson Mosley - July 03, 2020 at 08:04 PM

JP


“ R.I.P my friend. You were always the funniest person in the room. No matter who you were or what age, you would always learn something from a 5 min conversation with you. You were a roll model to so many of us young men out there. Not just a mentor but a teacher in the hard subject life and you excelled at that my friend. To all Rosses family I'm so deeply sorry for your loss. He was such and huge force in your family and I know he will be so missed. My heart goes out to you all. A hui hou mākou (till we meet again) Aloha my friend.

Jeremy Abney (sneaky pete's) - July 03, 2020 at 07:09 PM

JR

“ Will always remember the great example he was to me as a kid growing up. Prayers for the family at this time. Jay Reiss

jay reiss - July 03, 2020 at 05:55 PM

 Paul Muller

“ There are so many memories to choose from. Its truly hard to pick one from times in Bills Toasty's in Taylorville Illinois, to open ground Boccie ball games. Why its even been rumored that he wrote to the Pope to get the official Boccie ball rules. After all my Father in Law Ross Cyrus Lake couldn't have trusted anyone more than the Pope for honesty. And of course the ever infamous " Grandma Monster" rumored to have appeared on several occasions in Taylorville. Or when he would take a car load of the youngsters to McDonald's and try to order a steak, and question the drive up worker on why they didn't serve any. I can go on for hours, but there is not enough space here for me to tell the stories. It would take a book. He was a fine, smart, gentle, and caring man. If there were more of him in this world It would be a far better place. Rest in peace. I'm sure God has taken you on as one of his consultants. Paul Muller

Paul Muller - July 03, 2020 at 12:08 PM

RM

“ Steve, Doug, Lisa & Missy, I just want you all to know that I have been praying for the Good Lord to give you peace and comfort in this time of grief. I have fond memories of your Dad and Mom from my teenage years of hanging out with you all. Sending you all my love and hugs! Robin (Jones) Monroe

Robin Monroe - July 03, 2020 at 08:55 AM

CC

“ Dear children and grandchildren, Ross was so good to my dad during his many years working at Wagners. Sending our sympathy for your loss. Carol Trolia Condon, Montana

Carol Trolia Condon - July 03, 2020 at 07:11 AM

LB

“ I spent many years working with Ross Lake atWagner Castings Co. he was always very positive and helpful I have lost a friend.We are thinking of a few boxing matches together including the Roberta Durran and sugar Ray Leonard second flight lots of fun you will be missed my friend.

Lee Bond - July 02, 2020 at 07:29 PM

EL

“ I am sending my condolences to the Lake family on the loss of Ross Duane Lake. Ross's family and my family were neighbors in Decatur, and our children grew up together and went all through school together. The kids were friends and still keep in contact. My son David Leonard and my daughter Rebecca Leonard were also deeply saddened about the passing of Mr. Lake. He was a great man, a great husband, and a great father, and I am sure he will be greatly missed by many. I live in Naples, Florida now. You all are in my prayers. God bless you.

Sincerely,

E. Beverly Leonard

E. Beverly Leonard - July 02, 2020 at 05:03 PM

P.

“ My deepest condolences to the family members. I had the privilege of working with him at Wagner Castings, Decatur, Illinois for many years. He had a very positive attitude, always upbeat and cheerful and wanted the best from those who worked at Wagner.

P.H.Mani

P.H.Mani - July 02, 2020 at 03:46 PM

JM

“ To Lisa (#?) , Steve, Dog, Missy, and the entire Lake family,

I just learned of Ross's passing late last night. Please accept our condolences, thoughts & prayers during these tough times. Ross was fantastic as Dad, family man, corp. pres., leader, mentor, friend and one who respected everyone regardless of position or status. Many of us owe Ross for big first chances in our careers. Ross will be missed by many. God Bless, Jim and Sharon Mason 941-544-1621.

As soon as I learned of Ross's passing I called Steve and also attempted to send messages of condolences to you & entire family via " voice, messenger"--not sure it was received. Please excuse if this is duplicate--great picture of Ross in Decatur H & R.

James Mason - July 02, 2020 at 12:26 PM

SH

“ *The suffering is over for Ross and there can be a sense of relief for the loved ones he left behind. Now they can remember him as he was before the sickness. Now they can have comfort in knowing that as he took his last breath here, his suffering ended and the next breath he took would be there. When he closed his eyes here, the next time he would open them, it would be there. Ross will never cease to be, He simplimpy went from the land of the dying to the land of the living eternally. He will be at peace forever. My sincerest sympathy to the loved ones he left behind.*

Your friend, Sharon Blazer

Sharon - July 02, 2020 at 10:35 AM

CS

“ *Our Dad , Gene Oldfield, was foreman of the Pattern Shop @ Wagner's for many years. He spoke highly of Mr Lake. I'm sure he would've been saddened by your family's loss.*

Cyndee Oldfield Schuster - July 02, 2020 at 12:21 AM

PD

“ Ross was truly a gentleman. Always polite, generally smiling, never a cross word.

Truly unfortunate that his services will be private. I'm certain a LOT of folks would like to be with the family to pay their respects and share their remembrances..

Pastor Tim Deaton

Pastor Tim Deaton - June 30, 2020 at 08:13 PM

DC

“ Rest in Peace Duane. We were friends for many years having gone 12 years to school together and sharing many classes. You will be missed by many. I offer my prayers and condolences to your children.

Diane Lewis Clark

Diane Clark - June 30, 2020 at 07:40 PM

CP

“ I grew up in the same neighborhood, Ross I didn't know real well but every time I saw him was a pleasant experience, Phyllis was an incredible person too, condolences to the whole family and friends. I write this as I just watched a man walking in my neighborhood, looked like Ross , made me think of him.

Chris Pride - June 29, 2020 at 09:14 PM

DC

Rest in Peace Duane :) We were friends for many years having gone to school together for 12 years. You will be missed by many, Diane Lewis Clark

Diane Clark - June 30, 2020 at 07:34 PM

RP

*To the family of Ross Lake,
Sorry to hear about the loss of Ross.
Ross and his wife Phyllis always made me feel very welcomed and
they were always very upbeat, personable, and very positive people.
Their family and close friends could not have asked for better role
models. I am sure Ross will be greatly missed by his family and all that
knew him.*

*R.I.P. Ross
Bob Pinkerton*

Robert Pinkerton - July 02, 2020 at 09:12 AM