



Devon "PeeWee" W Bates

September 2, 1940 - May 25, 2022

Devon "PeeWee" W. Bates, 81, of Huntington, passed away at 6:00 am Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN.

Devon was born on September 2, 1940, in Huntington, IN, the son of Floyd Bates and Ruth (Houston) Bates. He graduated from Huntington Central High School in 1959. He married Bonnie Bates on March 25th, 1960; She preceded him in death on June 3, 2021. He retired from ITT Aerospace in Fort Wayne, IN after 20+ years of service. Devon was also a MAC college football referee for 20+ years.

Mr. Bates was a lifetime member of S.A.S.S. (Single Action Shooting Society), Deer Creek Regulators, and Auglaize Rough Riders. For 20ish years Devon and his wife, Bonnie, and their beloved dogs, Cali and Keesha, traveled the U.S.A. with their cowboy families. Dressing in period style clothing (made by Bonnie) and putting on Wild West Shows. Dad's favorite parts were traveling with Mom, shooting targets, and being with his friends at End of Trail. Devon's hobbies in life were leather working, remote controlled race cars, roller-hockey, motorcycles, horses, train sets, CB/HAM radios, softball, racket-ball, camping, candle-making, and reading (5-10 books a week).

Dad's love for his family has been his strength over the past year. Just recently 2 great grandsons were born. He loved having them visit and he said

he is "so happy to hear laughter and children playing in the house again."

Survivors include his three sons, Paule D. (Julie) Bates of Santa Cruz, CA, Allen (Diane) Bates of Murfreesboro, TN, and James (Kim) Wood of Roanoke, IN. Three daughters, Diane (John) Walker of MI, Andrea (Peggy McCune) Bates of Columbia City, IN, and Robin Jones of Sacramento, CA; Five granddaughters, Brooke (Justin) Bates-Kubin of San Francisco, CA, Kaitlin (Caleb) Jones-Hurst of Huntington, IN, Halle (Brandon) Blount of Fishers, IN, Gillian Bates of Nashville, TN, and Brittany (Terry) Garland of Columbia City, IN; Thirteen grandsons, Aron Brown of CA, Daymond Bates of Nashville, TN, Griffin Bates of Nashville, TN, Jerade Stephan of WI, John Stephan of Warsaw, IN, Josh Amick of WI, Justyn Amick of Andrews, IN, Jordan (Kimberly) Amick of Warsaw, IN, Joel Amick of Andrews, IN, Jayden Walker of MI, Dwight Pence of Fort Wayne, IN, Ryan Pence of Markle, IN, and Josh Wood; Two great grandsons, Titus "Pudge" Blount and Jamie Jones-Hurst. He is also survived by several "grandpups and chaos". He is preceded in death by his Wife, Bonita "Bonnie" R Bates, Father, Floyd Bates, Mother, Ruth Bates, Daughter, Teresa Bates, Granddaughter, Carolyn Brown, Grandson, Jacob Stephan, Grandson, Lee Bates, and their beloved pets, Cali, Keesha, Zach, and Ebony.

Visitation will be from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Saturday, June 4, 2022, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 12:00 pm Saturday, June 4, 2022, at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Denise Schwabeow officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington.

Family and friends are invited to a gathering at the Bate's family home after the burial services. Catered BBQ at the request of our dad, Devon.

Preferred memorials to the Huntington Humane Shelter, in care of Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN, 46750.

Please sign the online guest book at www.baileylove.com.

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Devon W. Bates.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Service

JUN 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Burial

JUN 4 (ET)

Mt. Hope Cemetery
1700 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Sorry to hear of Padre's passing. He was always such a "hoot" and enjoyed his smile and laughter when talking with him at our Western Store or the shop at the trailer sales. We will miss him. Jane & Janet/Zahm Trailer Sales

Janet Gordon - June 08, 2022 at 12:02 PM

TW

“ Tom & Mary Weisenberger purchased the "On An gel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send f or Funeral Or Memorial for the family of Devon "PeeWee" W Bates.



Tom & Mary Weisenberger - May 31, 2022 at 05:46 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Devon "PeeWee" W Bates.



May 31, 2022 at 10:31 AM

MG

“ The day PeeWee came to work (ITT) wearing those cowboy sneaker boots was the most I laughed in my life. Only PeeWee could pull that off. I was blessed to have known and worked with him and pray he is at peace. May God bless PeeWee and his family.

Myles Gerardot

Myles Gerardot - May 30, 2022 at 10:02 PM

CA

“ I worked on the production floor at ITT while Devon was there. What a great man he was - he was so kind to me. I have a special needs daughter and during that time he would let me use his phone to call doctors and others, rather than try to get one of the two phones at break. He cheered me up and made me smile. I am so sorry for your loss. 💔

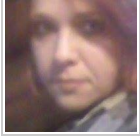
cathy - May 30, 2022 at 10:22 AM

BT

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



bill therklelsen - May 28, 2022 at 02:40 PM



“ Love you Dad. ❤️

Robin Jones - May 28, 2022 at 12:54 PM



“ Yemi Adesanya purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Devon "PeeWee" W Bates.



Yemi Adesanya - May 28, 2022 at 12:41 PM



“ I first met Devon when I went to work at Memcor in Huntington. That was in 1983. And we became friends. Wasn't long after that two more friends joined Memcor, Ron Rugh and Bob Bohney. The four of us became good friends, partied together. Those were good days. Then Memcor went down hill. I ended up at ITT and so did Devon, Ron and Bob. Back together again.
In 1987 I met my wife to be, Jan who was from Huntington. I told her I worked with a guy from Huntington, Devon Bates. She said your Kidding me, I know Devon. He was one year ahead of me in high school and he dated my best friend Cindy. Small world

Bill Therkelsen

bill therkelsen - May 28, 2022 at 12:03 PM



I remember Dad telling many stories that involved you Mr. Therkelsen! Thank you. ❤️

Robin Jones - May 28, 2022 at 12:53 PM



*I first met Devon when I went to work at Memcor in about 1973. We continued working together after I joined ITT a year after him. In 1984. Throughout the years we shared a lot of experiences both work and personal. Some are still talked about to this day. While at Memcor PeeWee was sent all over the world to deal with the military radios we built there. Once his travel took him around the world, traveling east until he arrived back home. Wherever he went, problems were solved and the customers were happy. Once, at his insistence, we traveled to Peking China as guests of the Chinese government. For a few days they took our airline tickets and passports. Things worked out but we never forgot that trip. Reaching retirement, we ended our working careers a month apart. Devon retired a month before me. After retirement whenever we got together the old times and 30 plus years of memories were re-lived and enjoyed again as old friends often do. Rest easy my friend, enjoy your rewards,
Ron Rugh*

Ron Rugh - June 03, 2022 at 03:10 PM

BT

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



bill therkelsen - May 28, 2022 at 11:35 AM

BT

“ I first met Devon when I went to work at Memcor in Huntington. That was in 1983. And we became friends. Wasn't long after that two more friends joined Memcor, Ron Rugh and Bob Bohney. The four of us became good friends, partied together. Those were good days. Then Memcor went down hill. I ended up at ITT and so did Devon, Ron and Bob. Back together again. In 1987 I met my wife to be, Jan who was from Huntington. I told her I worked with a guy from Huntington, Devon Bates. She said your kidding me, I know Devon. He was one year ahead of me in high school and he dated my best friend Cindy. Small world

Bill Therkelsen

bill therkelsen - May 28, 2022 at 11:31 AM

GS

“ He was a great contributor to the SASS origination, in setting up Indiana State SASS Shoots , and regional SASS shoots , and monthly SASS shoots in Grant County , was always a gentleman and Johnny on the spot if you needed help . He will be missed for sure. By George Rhoads , sass handle, Pa Derringer , and many more , RIP Padre

George Rhoads (as Pa Derringer) SASS - May 27, 2022 at 08:49 PM

KK

“ As many of the cowboys and cowgirls know, we didn't win anything of value in our sport. I often said to Pee Wee, "we don't win a car" or anything like that... The next shoot at Deercreek P W called me up as shooter number 15 to come up as I had won a car....PW handed me a Match Box car and told me I could no longer say we never win a car...lol. he wore "cowboy" tennis shoe boots...he TG'd for a lot of clubs, he was a force in our sport and I will miss him, but I know he is happy to be reunited with Miss Bonnie. I loved them both.

Korupt Karl

Korupt Karl - May 27, 2022 at 07:48 PM

AN

“ Andie lit a candle in memory of Devon "PeeWee" W Bates



andie - May 27, 2022 at 07:31 PM

DG

“ Cowboy events with Padre PW, he made work fun.sensitive, most caring person I ever met



Doug Drago Gillespie - May 27, 2022 at 07:01 PM