



## Darrell Dean Whitby

August 29, 1938 - May 6, 2024

Darrell Dean Whitby, 85, of Bartonville passed away Monday, May 6, 2024 at Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

He was born on August 29, 1938 in Bellevue to William and Eleanora (Black) Whitby. Darrell married Debra Pryor on July 19, 1998, she survives.

He is also survived by his daughters, Terrie (Rich) Brown, Debbie (Kent) Benedict and Sherri (John Kubitschek) Whitby; step-daughter, Lisa (Frank) Stetler; step-son, Bud Cleghorn; eight grandchildren, David Zeller, Nichole Zeller, Justin Vogel, Jared Vogel, Jade Briggs, Hank Scrivens, Nicholas Stetler and Bethany Stetler; five great-grandchildren, Gabe Zeller, Fischer McCullough, Peyton and Piper Zeller and Cicaly Scrivens.

Darrell was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

He worked for Caterpillar, INC. in Office Management for 34 years until his retirement.

Darrell lived a life filled with passion for the great outdoors. He found excitement in activities like fishing, hunting, and archery, immersing himself nature whenever he could.

As a dedicated member of fishing clubs, Darrell not only pursued his love for angling but also forged lasting friendships with fellow enthusiasts. He also showcased his athletic ability on the softball field as a proud member of his company team at Caterpillar, INC.

Darrell's greatest joy came from spending time with his beloved grandkids and cherished family members.

Cremation rites have been accorded, Schmidt- Haller Burial and Cremation Services has been entrusted with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made in Darrell's name to Illinois Cancer Care, Peoria or Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.schmidthaller.com](http://www.schmidthaller.com).

# Tribute Wall

TP

“ Although I was already all grown up by the time I got to meet my Uncle Darrell, it didn't stop him from taking me in as just another young'in to take under his wing and give some great life's lessons and quite a bit of razzing to go along with them. I remember his huge smile and even bigger sense of humor as we sat around the counter getting to know one another that first time Dad took me over. I knew right away that I was meeting a deeply rooted All-American family man, one to admire and always be proud to call family. Although we had just met, it was like we had been family ever since the beginning. That's just how uncle Darrell was to me from day one. I even got my very own nickname right away- Ratchet Jaw, which is well-deserved according to him, and I adored it! He used to tease and say I talk too much, but I think he loved to hear my stories with such enthusiasm. I'll miss him and his perfectly groomed white beard, best grilled steak ever, all the jokes about him still having hair at his age. But most of all I will miss the warmth and love that he gave to this chatterbox from Florida. Will always wish I had more time with my dear Uncle Darrell. Until we meet again, I'll keep you in my heart always, and a smile on my face with every memory of you. ~ Tiffany ~

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Tiffany Pryor - May 16, 2024 at 03:08 AM

RB

“ Pop it's hard to believe you're gone. You were more of a father to me than my actual dad. I remember that first time when you came to my apartment to meet me, don't you lay a hand on my grandkids. As time went by we bonded more and more each time we did something together. We did woodworking together and worked on several projects not only as a hobby but things around our houses. I remember the bet we made about fishing & golf, I would go fishing with you if you would go golfing with me. That lasted for one round of golf but I have been fishing ever since. The times we spent going on those fishing trips with the Kickapoo Bass Club were really good times and great memories. After Terrie and I moved to Florida it was great that you and Deb came down to visit. The weekend cruise that the 4 of us took was what memories are made of. Also that year you came down for Christmas was a really special time because you got to play Santa for Gabe, your first great grandson. In 2006 Terrie & I moved back to Peoria and more memories were made for the next 18 years. It's hard to pack 40 years of memories into a short amount of time. I'm proud to have been a part of your life for those 40 years. Your son-in-law, love Rich

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**Rich Brown** - May 09, 2024 at 08:40 PM

JK

“ Darrell, What can I say, you retired from retiring, now you are pain free and resting in peace . I will always remember the breakfasts, you always getting Biscuits & Gravy, the Sunday visits with Sherri and I and me explaining Fantasy Football to you during the season and most of all your kind and caring ways . You will be truly missed in more ways that I can imagine. Love John.

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**John Kubitschek** - May 09, 2024 at 07:22 PM

DW

“ From his wife Debbie Whitby

*Darrell, I will love and miss you every day. You were my life. We have so many memories. All the love and life you gave me will be cherished forever. We will be together again. You fought a hard fight. Rest in peace. I love you so much. You were the best. Until we meet again your loving wife Debbie.*

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**Debbie Whitby** - May 09, 2024 at 05:51 PM

BG

*Darrell was such a nice man. He was always so friendly and you could just tell that Debbie was the love of his wife. You will be missed. Debbie hang on to those Wonderful memories. I know there were many.*

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**Betty Gold** - May 13, 2024 at 05:55 PM

KB

“ To the greatest father-in-law. Thanks for the times we went fishing, all of the great times, the many memories and laughs we shared. You will be truly missed and never forgotten. Love, Kent

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**Kent Benedict** - May 09, 2024 at 11:30 AM

JB

“ Grandpa, The world lost a great man, and our family lost a great father, grandfather, & great grandfather. We all cherish so many memories we have with you. May you rest in heaven with peace, free from pain and suffering. You put up a good fight and were so strong. I will miss your wise cracks and witty sense of humor. You were one of a kind. I love you to pieces and will miss you dearly papa. Love Jade, a.k.a Jader Rader

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**Jade Briggs** - May 09, 2024 at 11:05 AM

DB

“Dearest Pappy. Where do I start? I have so many fond memories of spending one-on-one time with you on so many different occasions. I think I was supposed to be your boy, because of my interest in your hunting and outdoor activities. I truly enjoyed cleaning out that beautiful Browning automatic shotgun each time you would come home from hunting. You taught me how to take care of it, and that's exactly what I did for you. I also remember you telling me when I got my first car that I would be responsible for taking care of it and fixing it. I have fond memories of the two of us in the driveway working on my car together when it need a repair. I also have so many memories of us spending time together walking in our neighborhood almost on a daily occasion and you coming to my house for coffee since we were both single at that time. I remember making homemade bread in my bread machine and you would come over and we would sit down and eat almost the whole loaf while it was hot with butter and having coffee together. I also have so many memories of spending time with you and Deborah when she became a part of your life. It seemed that the three of us were always together all the time. We have so many memories of going out in your boat and spending the day on the water and stopping somewhere along the way to eat lunch at a bar and grill. It was so much fun and a great way to take a good nap when you got home after being in the sun all day! I know I didn't live close enough to you in the most recent past years to see you on a weekly basis, but that doesn't mean I didn't carry you in my heart and think about you each and every day. Towards the end of your battle with cancer, Kent and I were making trips down to see you as much as possible. Kent said that he is going to miss you so much and enjoyed being your son-in-law for the past 20 years. You two are a lot alike and very ornery! Most of all, I am so happy that I was the one to set you free sitting at your side and rubbing your arm and your head and talking to you about how much I loved you and how much you are loved by everyone else. I know that everybody had told you it was okay to go, but I will have a memory forever of you opening your eye and looking straight at me when I told you it was time for you to be out of pain, and that Grandma and Grandpa and all of your

*sisters and brothers and loved ones would be there waiting for you. You closed your eyes, took a couple peaceful breaths and I saw the peace in your face as you moved on to the promised land. I had asked you to give mama a big hug and tell her that all of us on Earth miss her each and every day and love her dearly as well. Rest in peace Pappy, we will meet again someday and I will look forward to your big hug! Love your daughter, Debbie.*

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**Daughter Debbie K (Whitby) Benedict** - May 09, 2024 at 10:49 AM

NZ

“ *Grandpa,  
Today I smile because my heart is full with memories to help take the pain away. Saturday morning sassafras tea, or fun times camping and cooking out. Coffee and Pineapple upside cake will forever be a good memory, so each day I can smile thinking of you. It's never easy putting into words a lifetime of love and happiness. So today we share your memories and love with one another and take all the good you have taught us. Take care of Morgan up there, we love you Papa.  
Nikker*



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**Nichole Zeller** - May 09, 2024 at 10:16 AM

KC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss of your Dad, his memories will live on with the legacy that he built, my heart goes out to the family that will miss him so much. God bless, Kathy Call*

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**Kathy Call** - May 09, 2024 at 06:39 AM

SH

“ Dear dad, you put up a great fight. The last few years I appreciated you when I was young and appreciated you even more as i grew older. I am still processing i will not see you anymore. But you will always be in my heart. Grand kids and I will love you forever. Rest in peace, dad.

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**Sherri** - May 08, 2024 at 09:13 PM

PK

So, sorry, my thoughts n prayers are with you all,

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**Pam Kennedy** - May 09, 2024 at 01:34 AM

TB

“ I wasn't ready to lose my hero, my pop and will greatly miss seeing you. It will be hard for me to not just drive or ride my bike down the street from my house to yours to visit over a cup of coffee. We have so many happy memories of you pop that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

You can now rest in peace and be pain and cancer free pop. I love you so very much.

Your daughter

Terrie a.k.a. Lulu to you

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**Terrie Brown** - May 08, 2024 at 09:08 PM

CB

“ RIP dear Uncle. Hugs to you Deb Terrie, Sherri, and families. I will forever have lots of wonderful memories of you. You gave it your all here on earth and have earned your place in heaven. We will all see you again someday. Love Chris and Joe ☐💔

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**chris Brewer** - May 08, 2024 at 09:02 PM

SH

*Thank you, Chris and yes, he did give it us all. He was one strong man and I will miss him terribly love you*

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**Sherri** - May 08, 2024 at 09:04 PM

JS

*“ I’m so sorry to hear of Darrell’s passing. I was in the Kickapoo Creek fishing club with he and his brother Roger and several others. He was a good fisherman and was a joy to fish with.*

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**Jim Sharpe** - May 08, 2024 at 06:37 PM

TB

*Thank you Jim. I remember the bass club meetings held at our house with pop’s son-in-law Rich Brown.*

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**Terrie Brown** - May 08, 2024 at 09:11 PM