



## Douglas J. Decker

March 28, 1947 - May 3, 2025

Douglas J. Decker, age 78, of Fond du Lac (Byron), passed away unexpectedly on May 3, 2025, in the arms of his loving wife at their home.

Doug was born on March 28, 1947, son of Keith and Garnet (Moon) Decker in a snowstorm in Wild Rose. He was a 1965 graduate of Wautoma High School and a 1967 graduate of Wisconsin Rapids Technical School Auto Mechanics Program (Mid-State Technical College). He was united in marriage to Cynthia Arentzen on August 15, 1970, at Church of Our Saviour, Fond du Lac. He met Cindy at Carl's Grill in Oshkosh while he owned/operated Doug's Standard Station and she was attending UW-Oshkosh. After marrying, they moved to Fond du Lac where he was an auto mechanic at Deising Pontiac, then a journeyman machinist at the Chicago/Northwest Railroad, and retired as a garage mechanic at Alliant Energy after 27 years.

In the 1970s, he built and raced his 1939 Dodge Coup drag car. Doug was very mechanically gifted and liked to keep busy. He enjoyed riding horses and horse camping throughout the Midwest with Cindy and friends, traveling together to many countries, working on their Byron farm, and spending time with his family, especially his grandsons. He was an active member of Church of Our Saviour and of Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association, and a past 4-H Byron Badgers project leader. Doug was proud to be a multi-gallon blood donor. He will also help others as a registered tissue donor. He felt his

loving daughters were his greatest accomplishment.

Doug was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was very much loved and will be missed by all who knew this sweet man. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; daughters Heddy (Glen) Pahnke of Fond du Lac and Katie (Shivaraj) Bhandare of Verona. He is further survived by his grandsons Hayden and Layton Pahnke, Siddharth and Sameer Bhandare; sister, Daphne Decker; brother, David Decker; sister-in-law, Joan (John) Brown; brothers-in-law, William (Tuyet) Arentzen and Charles Arentzen; and nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his AFS Exchange daughter Catalina Espinosa-Saenz, Cati's daughter, Ana Julia, and grandson, Nikola, of Costa Rica. He was preceded in death by his parents, Keith and Garnet Decker, his in-laws, William and Adele Arentzen, and sister-in-law, Deanna Decker.

The Doug Decker family extends their heartfelt thanks to the Fond du Lac EMTs, County Sheriff's Department, and the SSM Health St. Agnes Hospital Emergency Room staff for the compassionate and professional care provided to Doug.

Visitation will be held Thursday, May 15, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Church of Our Saviour, 363 S. Main, Fond du Lac, followed by Doug's funeral service at 6 p.m. at the church with Pastor Crystal Lee officiating. Fellowship at church to follow. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers or plants, the family kindly encourages you to honor Doug's memory through an act of service in your community, a donation to Church of Our Saviour, or a contribution to a charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 15. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

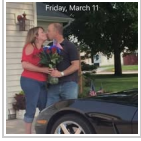
Church of Our Saviour  
363 South Main Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

## Service

MAY 15. 6:00 PM (CT)

Church of Our Saviour  
363 South Main Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

# Tribute Wall



“ I was 17 years old when i First met Doug . I was in a school program called EBCE . The year was 1977 . I met him at Deising Pontiac where i met him and learned from his experience ! He was a great guy to learn from ! My deepest sympathy to his family ! I will never forget his kindness and thoughtful recommendations's ! RIP Doug

Raymond Mueller - May 16, 2025 at 01:07 AM



“ My dear host dad, always smiling and with good vibes ready to help, you will be missed. 💕🙏🌸

Catalina Espinoza - May 15, 2025 at 10:58 AM

DH

“ Picking rocks from the field, touring the bigger than life windmill, brushing horses, sharing a boat ride, our “fishing” trip to Wild Rose last summer - all special memories. The places you have visited, the people you have met along the way, the family you have loved and nourished...a life well lived, now at peace in God’s loving arms.

Bob and Donna H.



Donna Havemann - May 09, 2025 at 06:16 AM

TB

“ Doug and Cindy welcomed us to their lovely home when we visited WI. Doug showed us the town and his trail camera which he was very proud of and the animals it captured, we now have a trail camera in our back yard.

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**Tina and Simon Braunstein** - May 07, 2025 at 11:34 PM

AS

“ We first met Doug and Cindy in 2000 at the wedding of Heddy and Glen, and again in 2005. From the very beginning, there was a natural connection. We discovered we had much in common—both families with two daughters, and both opening our homes to students from different countries and cultures.

*We also shared similar values, especially when it came to caring for those closest to us.*

*I will always remember Doug as a gentle, kind-hearted man—quietly strong, going his own way, and never unsettled by the three wonderful women in his life. Some of my fondest memories are of those early mornings, sharing a cup of coffee before he headed off to work. Those quiet moments remain close to my heart.*

*I have lost a dear friend. My heartfelt thoughts are with his loved ones—may you find strength and peace in the days ahead.*

*With love,  
Alie Scheffer*

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**Alie Scheffer** - May 07, 2025 at 03:26 PM

JJ

“ *John & Joan lit a candle in memory of Douglas Decker*



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**John & Joan** - May 07, 2025 at 09:31 AM

JM

“ *We met briefly at your daughter Katie's house. You did a tremendous job of raising an incredible person! I can see where Katie gets her kind spirit. I know you will be dearly missed.*

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**Joanne Mueller** - May 06, 2025 at 09:51 PM

RC

“ *Doug was the best!*

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**Romaine Conner** - May 06, 2025 at 06:21 PM

RR

“ *RANDY REDLIN lit a candle in memory of Douglas Decker*



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**RANDY REDLIN** - May 06, 2025 at 05:50 PM

SK

“ So many good memories ... Cindy and I met, in a class, at UW-O. We were, many times, the only non-traditional students in the class. After graduation, we continued to meet, often for breakfast or lunch. That’s when I met Doug, who would sometimes tag along to one of these meet-ups. He was the sweetest fellow, kind, helpful, with a ready smile. I adopted him as my “boyfriend”! I remember he offered me wood that he had chopped, for my fireplace, one year.. all he wanted was for me to drive to the farm and help him load it into my trunk. Some of the best wood I ever had for the fireplace. I may not have seen either of them recently, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t close to my heart. Rest in peace my boyfriend - I’m going to miss you 💕💕

Susan Kirkham - May 06, 2025 at 04:46 PM

SK

“ 2 files added to the album tribute Wall



Susan Kirkham - May 06, 2025 at 04:34 PM

CB

“ Cindy and family, we send our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time. We are so glad you were able to visit us in Arizona and the trips we took to NASCAR races. Doug will be missed. Love to you, Bob and Char Bohnsack

Char Bohnsack - May 06, 2025 at 04:04 PM

HM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May the Lord grant Doug and your family peace and the angels watch over him. Howard and Pat Majerus

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**Howard and Pat Majerus** - May 06, 2025 at 03:54 PM

AG

“ Heddy, Cindy, Hayden and family  
We only met Doug and Cindy once at Hayden's graduation party and felt instantly welcome. Such a pleasant man. So sorry for your loss. Sincerely,  
The Guse;s (Pierce's grandparents)

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**Ann and Bob Guse** - May 06, 2025 at 03:52 PM

AS

“ Dear Heddy and family, we are so sorry for your loss. It must be so hard for you all that all of a sudden your husband,father, grandfather has passed away.  
We sincerely wish you all the strength you need in this difficult time - now and in the future. Warm regards, Annette - Daniel, Zoé & Anna.

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**annette scheffer** - May 06, 2025 at 03:33 PM

RR

Nancy an I are sorry to hear of Doug's passing. the Lord needed him for a special assignment. R.I.P good an faithful servant.

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**RANDY REDLIN** - May 06, 2025 at 05:49 PM