



Duane "Butch" Dowker

December 17, 1954 - June 2, 2015

Duane "Butch" Dowker, 60, of Charlotte, MI lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. He was born in Charlotte December 17, 1954 to Max and Helen Dowker, who both preceded him in death. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1973 and went on to work for Jet Die Engineering until he started working alongside his dad at what became the family business, Dowker Engines.

Butch was a very talented fabricator, welder and engine builder. He spent most of his life building and working on race cars, it was his passion. He was always there to lend a hand, even if it was a competitor. He won many awards for his contributions to the racing world and was inducted into the Michigan Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2010. His last project would have been his own street rod, but sadly, he wasn't able to finish it. He enjoyed racing and, until his illness, attended every Sprint Car race in the AVSS circuit. He also enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling and canoeing. Butch is survived by his brother Terry (Peggy) Dowker; nephew Tony Dowker; and his special friend Marty (Bill) Tyler.

Funeral services will be Thursday, June 11 at 10:30 AM at Pray Funeral Home. Visitation is Wednesday, June 10, 3-5 PM and 7-9 PM at Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. The family suggests memorial contributions in lieu of flowers to the House of Promise, PO Box 27032, Lansing, MI 48909. Family and

friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Butch's Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Duane "Butch" Dowker



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 09, 2015 at 04:16 PM

LC

“ The Don Jardot family made a donation to the "House of Promise" in Lansing to honor the memory of "Butch" a great racing man! May Duane & his family find peace.

Linda (Jardot) Cobb - June 22, 2015 at 04:01 PM

LW

“ Rest in peace and rise in glory, Butch! Thank you for touching so many lives and blessing us with your presence! I remember your willingness to help with big and small suggestions. One in particular led to a feature win. Terry, Peggy, and family, my prayers are with you in the days to come as you grieve the loss of Butch's earthly life; my deepest and heartfelt condolences. Lisa Ward

Lisa Ward - June 11, 2015 at 03:24 PM



“ *America the Beautiful* was purchased for the family of Duane "Butch" Dowker .



June 09, 2015 at 04:14 PM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 09, 2015 at 03:57 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Duane "Butch" Dowker .



June 09, 2015 at 03:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Duane "Butch" Dowker .*



June 08, 2015 at 04:34 PM



“ *michigans version of karl kinser without a dough man could fabricate anything utmost respect for butch and his family . r.i. p. butch SHATTUCK FAMILY*

BOB SHATTUCK jr - June 07, 2015 at 08:38 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Butch's passing. I know of him from the AVSS super sprint series, when I lived in Michigan. My condolence go out to the rest of the family.*

Grace Bronkema

Grace Bronkema - June 05, 2015 at 11:45 PM



“ *Wow! Their are thousands of memories through my entire childhood and adult hood! He could be the most stubborn hot headed guy in the pits and the nicest, funniest guy when the races were over! That just showed his passion and intense focus and determination on being the best damn engine builder in the business!! He wanted to win and win he certainly did!!! There will never be another Butch!! God Speed Butch!!! Sprint cars to me, will never be the same without you!!*

Tawnie Fedewa - June 05, 2015 at 06:56 PM

MD

“ So sorry to Hear of Butch's passing.. He was a great competitor and the jet cars were always top cars.. When you get old and don't make it to the races anymore you lose track of friends.. Remembering Butch and Max May they both rest in Peace..

Mary and Willie Davis competitor and USAC Official from years back.



Mary & Willie Davis - June 05, 2015 at 06:12 PM

GF

“ You were and will continue to be an asset to the racing community. You will be missed. God Speed our friend.

Gary Sherman & family - June 05, 2015 at 04:26 PM

DR

“ If there was ever a winning combination it was Butch and #42. Gary could drive the hell out of 42 and Butch could set the car up to be first to the checkered flag. Rest in Peace my friend. - Dale Rainey.

Dale Rainey - June 05, 2015 at 12:26 PM



Dale, he sure could, what a magnificent team they were! And, we had so much fun, I will never forget any of those good times, or good people! Hugs

Lori Eastman - June 05, 2015 at 02:21 PM

MC

“ Butch was such a wonderful person and was loved by everyone. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Mike & Carol Creed.

Mike & Carol Creed - June 05, 2015 at 10:37 AM

SK

“ One of the most passionate men over racing I ever met. Huge loss to the racing industry and such a shame we all have lost him. Great guy and my condolences to the family.

Skip Konkle - June 05, 2015 at 09:12 AM

BC

“ Thanks for the memories Butch... God Speed. To his family and extended racing family, my deepest condolences.

Bob Coats - June 05, 2015 at 08:10 AM



Jennifer
Branham
Pitcher

“ Terry, Peggy and Tony I am so sorry you had to say goodbye to Butch the way you did, but you were there for him...and that probably meant so much to him. You may never know how much he truly appreciated your presence in his life. The gift of time is the most precious. Share your photos and memories of him with people and keep his memory alive. I love you guy's and I'm here for you.



Jennifer Branham Pitcher - June 05, 2015 at 05:04 AM

PD

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



Peggy Dowker - June 04, 2015 at 11:14 PM

TW

“ Terry and family. So sorry to hear about Butch's passing. Sorry I missed the visitation and funeral was out of town and just found out today. Butch was one of racing great ones. God Speed Butch

Tom Williams - June 04, 2015 at 10:58 PM

TW

As usual a day late a dollar short. Thought the funeral had already come and gone may be able to make it after all

Tom Williams - June 09, 2015 at 02:38 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Duane "Butch" Dowker .



June 04, 2015 at 04:46 PM

RC

“ *It was a long hard struggle during his illness, but Butch was always there at the races with his smile. He will be missed by all the racers. My condolences to his family. Thank you to all who made trips with Butch to all his hospital visits.*



Rose Calabrese

Rose Calabrese - June 04, 2015 at 02:35 PM

GF

“ *RIP MY FRIEND, YOU FOUGHT LONG AND HARD AND I AM PROUD TO BE ONE OF YOUR MANY FRIENDS. I HAVE ALOT OF GOOD MEMORIES*

gary fedewa - June 04, 2015 at 01:05 PM

CF

"Im so sorry to hear about your brother, was sad to hear. I knew your mom and dad and terry well didnt spend much time with butch. Sorry charlotte (spencer)freel

Charlotte freel-spencer - June 05, 2015 at 05:58 PM

WK

Terry, We are so sorry for your loss. We will be thinking of all of you. Wally and Karen Krumm

Wally Krumm - June 07, 2015 at 09:18 AM