



Duane Francis Briggs

June 5, 1940 - December 26, 2025

Duane Francis Briggs, 85, of Rochester, New York, passed away peacefully on December 26, 2025. Born on June 5, 1940, in Canton, New York, Duane lived a full life defined by service, laughter, and an unwavering love for his family.

Duane proudly served in the United States Air Force for eight years along with an astounding thirty-year career at Kodak. A lifelong and honorable hunter, he carried a deep respect for the outdoors and the traditions that came with it. Known affectionately to many as “Snake,” Duane was a comical character and truly the life of the room. His quick wit, stories, and infectious humor could light up any gathering.

More than anything, Duane was caring, nurturing, and giving. He always put others before himself, offering help, support, and love without hesitation. His presence made people feel welcome, valued, and cared for, and his absence will be deeply felt by all who knew him.

Duane is survived by his loving and caring spouse, Clara “Bear” Briggs; his sister, Debbie; his children, Melanie (Richard), Charlene, and Duane Briggs Jr.; his cherished grandchildren, Brian (Ashley), Danny (Amber), Tabitha, Justin, Cheyanne, Gavin, Michael, Duane III, Daniel, Douglas, Thomas, and David; and his beloved great-grandchildren, Ava, Bayleigh, Elijah, Raeven, and Danny’s and Amber’s baby girl due in February 2026.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy and father Francis, his sister Diane, and his children, Tommy and Katherine.

Regarding the caring of Duane, the immediate family greatly appreciates the assistance of Sam, Maurice and Robert.

A special place in Duane's life was held by his best friend and hunting partner, Tim Osier, with whom he shared countless days in the woods, meaningful conversations, and a bond built on trust, laughter, and lifelong friendship. In accordance with his wishes, services will be private and held for immediate family only.

Duane's legacy lives on through the countless memories, laughs, and love he shared with those around him. He will be remembered always for his big heart, generous spirit, and the joy he brought into every room he entered.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I was privileged to work with Duane in Bldg 6 at Kodak Park. I was glad to call him my friend and will miss him.

John Bearden - March 03 at 04:04 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Linda Tenz Parker - February 21 at 03:09 PM

LP

“ Duane, loyal friend. Clara truly loved you. Your friends miss you

Linda Tenz Parker - February 21 at 02:57 PM

MR

Thank you for sharing this picture Linda and for the beautiful one you sent me. My mom & dad are missed so much. My life will never be the same without them here.

Melanie A Ralston - February 27 at 08:24 AM

AC

“ Uncle Duane, You surely will be missed you and auntie Clara. Your calls, your laughter the joy you brought to all of us here in New Mexico. Hearing you call and say Ja-Ja, what are you doing shorty and hows that old man of yours doing? :(May you and Auntie Clara (Ralphalita) RIP.

Angela Cordova - February 06 at 02:56 PM

MR

“ Dad....Words can not express how much I miss you & mom. The pain I feel hurts so bad. Thank you for being such a wonderful father and for all you ever did for me. I know we will be together again one day but until than my life will never be the same. You & Mom will be watching over me I have no doubt. I will continue to make you proud. I love you both with all my heart. ❤️, your Squirrel Melanie
xoxoxoxoxo

Melanie Ralston - January 31 at 12:47 AM

CM

“ Uncle Duane...
It was the light of our lives, to see you in October. Chris and I love you so much. Chris will never forget the knives you so gracefully gave him.
We can just picture you telling the apostles (clean jokes)?. We want to thank you for all that you that you are...and especially being the light of your family's life. Love you!

Chris and Linda Montoya - January 13 at 09:30 PM

BH

“ Had not seen Duane in a long time but all my memories of him are good. He was the first friend I had when I moved to Canton in 1950 and we graduated high school together in 1959. My condolences to all his family. Bruce Houston

Bruce Houston - January 08 at 10:08 AM

MR

Thank you for the kind words Bruce. He is deeply missed. Life will not be the same. My mom went to join him in Heaven on January 21st This has made it extra hard.

Melanie Ralston - January 31 at 12:51 AM

DD

“ Duane was the best brother anyone could ask for. I will forever miss him. See you on the other side. Say hi to Mom, Dad & Diane for me.

Debra Daoust - January 07 at 04:31 PM

RI

Duane was a lot of fun always made me laugh and he grew the best tomatoes in NY. I looked forward to them each summer. We had a lot of fun time with him and Clara. Love the whole family. RIP Duane

Rita - January 07 at 05:10 PM