



Merlin "Duke" Busch

July 6, 1939 - November 14, 2023

** A Celebration of Life for Duke will be held on April 13th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Paulding VFW, 214 N Waters St, Paulding, Ohio.**

Merlin "Duke" Busch, 84, formally of Paulding, Ohio received his heavenly wings on Tuesday November 14, 2023 at 9:15pm surrounded by his loving family at home. He was born at home on July 6, 1939 in Malinta, Ohio to the late Merlin Busch and Eileen Eisaman. He graduated from Malinta High School in 1957. In 1960, he proudly enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country for 4 years. He married the love of his life and forever soulmate, Connie Sue Rohdy on June 3, 1961 in Malinta at Trinity Lutheran Church.

In 1964, he received an honorable discharge from the Navy and started working at General Motors in Defiance, Ohio, as an Industrial Electrician until his retirement in 1989. He owned the Famous Busch's Bike Shop on Route 127 North of Paulding in the 1980's. For 34 years, they spent their winters in Palmetto, Florida where he enjoyed working on 3-wheel bicycles. He was well known as "The Bike Man". He was a jack of all trades and master of many. There wasn't anything that he couldn't do. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, going to the casino, playing cards with family and friends, and spending time with family and friends.

Duke is survived by his loving wife, Connie; children, Bret (Theresa) Busch of Oakwood, Brenda Busch of Antwerp, and Brian Busch of Ayersville; 9 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Larry, of Toledo, Ohio.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Sunday, November 19, 2023 from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM. Interment will take place immediately after calling hours at Hoy Cemetery, where military honors will be accorded by the Napoleon American Legion Post 300. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to the American Heart Association. Online messages and condolences may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com.

We want to Thank Everheart Hospice for the loving care that he received these past few weeks. You ladies were absolutely amazing, and we couldn't have been more blessed.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

No formal service at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Military honors will be presented at the cemetery

Celebration of Life Service

APR **13**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Paulding VFW
214 N Watters St
Paulding, OH 45879

Tribute Wall

LA

“ Duke will always be "cous " to me, always a loving hug and a "hi cous" when ever we would run into each other. He was one of the good people you would on earth, if you were lucky enough. Hope you are resting in peace "cous" Lana

Lana Ankney - March 21, 2024 at 09:20 PM

VL

“ vera Lands lit a candle in memory of Merlin Busch



vera Lands - November 20, 2023 at 02:12 PM

JS

“ You have our sympathy Connie, Brenda and Family. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. ❤️❤️❤️

Jackie and Chris Strabala - November 19, 2023 at 08:22 AM

“ From the frozen tundra of Korea to fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal oppression the world has ever known. Military service demands a special kind of sacrifice. The places where you are sent to live and serve bring risk every day. From the time you put on that uniform for the first time, the interests of the nation move to the forefront and define your life. Those duties are shared by family members who make many sacrifices of their own, sometimes bearing the burden of losing a loved one. Service brings rewards as well. There is the pride in developing one’s own character, serving a cause far greater than self-interest. Every person who wears America’s uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America. That is a legacy to be proud of and those who contributed to it must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must keep the promises we have made to them. We must care for those who have been injured in the service of our country. We must honor and remember those who have died. And we must remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We fly the Prisoner of War flag on Veterans Day for a reason, to show that this nation will not relent until we have accounted for every one of our missing Americans. Thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you have sacrificed for this great nation. Thank you for being the backbone of America.

Brigadier General (Retired) Mark W. Lee, United States Army

Dr. Mark Lee, BG (Retired) USA - November 18, 2023 at 07:01 AM

JB

“ Jeannie Bennett purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Merlin "Duke" Busch.



Jeannie Bennett - November 16, 2023 at 02:51 PM

AE

“ Alan Eickholt lit a candle in memory of Merlin "Duke" Busch



Alan eickholt - November 16, 2023 at 09:08 AM

SD

“ "Duke" and Connie were my neighbors for a few short years here in Ridgewood. Duke was a kind and gentle man and yes he could fix more than just bikes...My sympathies to all the family, Sue Daidone

Sue Daidone - November 15, 2023 at 10:54 PM

CG

“ Keeping all of you in my prayers❤️



Coni Gaisford - November 15, 2023 at 08:42 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merlin "Duke" Busch.*



November 15, 2023 at 06:08 PM