



Lynn Howard DeGrow

December 16, 1944 - February 13, 2021

Lynn Howard DeGrow, age 76, of Charlevoix, MI passed away on Saturday, February 13 2021, surrounded by his family. Born on December 16, 1944, in North Branch, MI, Lynn was the son of the late Hollis and Edith (Seelye) DeGrow. He married Linda (Murray) DeGrow on May 25, 1968, in Sudbury, MA. Lynn was a graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, served his country in Vietnam and retired from the Coast Guard Reserve as a Captain. He was also a residential builder with DeGrow and Sons, owned and operated DeGrow's Pro Hardware, and managed the Beaver Island Boat Company. He served as a director of the Charlevoix Area Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his four children: Anne (Greg) Harmon of Mikado, MI; Darcie (Rick) Clapp of Grand Haven, MI; Brad (Liz) DeGrow of Cary, NC; Kurt (Jenny) DeGrow of Allegan, MI; eight grandchildren: Kyle and Brooke Harmon, Claire and Ian Clapp, Ella and Abby DeGrow, Max and Grace DeGrow; and two sisters: Carol Crowel of Evergreen, CO and Sharon Yale of Lexington, NC. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda, and his brother, Wayne. Lynn was an avid woodworker, fisherman, and hunter. He enjoyed sports, camping and travel. He was a Jack of all trades; there wasn't anything he couldn't fix or build. He was a natural leader who never missed an opportunity to share his strengths. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Coast Guard Foundation, 394 Taugwonk Road, Stonington, CT 06378. Per his wishes cremation arrangements were in care of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, The VanZantwick Chapel, 620 Washington, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Share memories with the family at www.sytsemafz.com.

Comments



“ To Lynn's Family,

I knew all of you back in North Branch. My father, Steve Tatar, worked for Holly during the 50's. That position was instrumental for my father becoming a finish carpenter and stone mason.

My sympathies to all of you. I know what it is like to lose your father and your sibling. My prayers for all of you.

Betty Tatar Wiseman

Betty T. Wiseman - February 24 at 11:21 AM



“ Photos from Coast Guard Academy Yearbook 1967.



Tom Greene - February 22 at 01:17 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Degrow Family. I was honored to have Lynn as a classmate, USCG Academy, Class of '67. He was a solid and reliable friend.

George J. (Jim) Sepel
Juneau, Alaska

George Sepel - February 22 at 12:46 PM



“ The DeGrow family came to visit us in Western Canada on a few occasions. One memorable visit found Lynn venturing to Alberta alone. Our daughter, Whitney was working at Rafter 6 Guest Ranch and asked Lynn if he would be interested in a dude ride or an adventure ride in the Rockies. Of course, Lynn jumped at adventure. As Sandy and I dutifully headed east to work, Lynn and Whitney went west to explore the mountains on horseback.

Later, that day when we arrived home, we saw the balcony railing covered with dripping wet clothes. "Oh, this can't be good!" Well it seems the ride Whitney had in mind included standing on top of your saddles and swimming the horses across the Kananaskis River. This is quite a feat -- the glacier fed Kananaskis River is no lazy stream. Just the opposite, it is where the Canadian Olympic White Water Kayak team train.

So what we found were two happy riders, more than willing to share stories of their riding adventure. Lynn was smiling from ear to ear, as usual. A special day in a life well lived.

Our heartfelt condolences. He will be missed!

Steve, Sandy & Whitney

Sandy & Steve Repic - February 21 at 01:04 PM



“ Lynn was a Coast Guard Academy classmate and a shipmate aboard the USCGC BIBB. He was also a friend who, despite the occasional nature of our communications, he made it feel that we could always pick up where we left off.

During the long deployment of the BIBB to Viet Nam I appreciated Lynn's professionalism and his great sense of humor.

The way that he handled the multiple challenges he faced over the past few years was inspiring and it showed his true strength of character. He will be missed.

From the Coast Guard Hymn

Eternal Father, Lord of hosts, Watch o'er all those who guard our coasts
Protect them from the raging seas And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from thy great throne above The shield and shelter of thy love.

Ron Beck - February 19 at 09:15 AM



“ Ditto to Ron Beck's comments.

Lynn was a classmate and my roommate at the Coast Guard Academy for one period during our 2nd class (junior) year.

I'll always remember his sense of humor and big smile which was his normal expression. He had a broken leg in a walking cast when we roomed together. I remember him scratching his leg with a bent coat hanger. Fond memories of such small details. One of my favorite roomies.

My sincere condolences to the DeGrow family.

Tom Greene, CAPT, USCG (ret)
Buda, TX

Tom Greene - February 19 at 05:01 PM



“ Dear DeGrow family: I am so sorry for your loss. As you know Lynn was my boss for many years at the Beaver Island Boat Company and he always spoke highly of you; rightly so. I always respected and trusted him and he was instrumental in bringing the new Emerald Isle into being. We had many good days together. I have thought of you kids many times through the years and your employment and friendship. You were all great assets for BIBCO. If you ever get around Beaver Island please look me up. Take care. Kevin McDonough Captain (retired)

Kevin - February 19 at 08:58 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ron Beck - February 19 at 08:49 AM



“ Lynn and I are cousins. My grandmother was a DeGrow and a sister to Lynn's father. We talked often about being related. A great man! I shall miss himn.

David Sweet - February 18 at 08:24 PM



“ My heart is aching some more. I was thinking the other day of your mom/dad. Was hoping they had headed south again to beat the winter. I have lost touch with old friends through the loss of Bob. I didn't hear you had lost mom and now dad. Well, what wonderful times we all spent together over SO MANY years as families. Such memories after our Boyne skiing trip each year to stop and stay at the farm for family friendship and fun. Ohio adventures here with the Whites too. Bob/I had stopped to see your mom/dad in August, 2013 with our grandkids as we were at Mackinac Island with them. You may not know that he passed on August 28, 2013. Memories will sustain you as you were always shown unconditional love and respect by that special couple. Both strong willed with a passion for life and each other. God Bless each of you!

Cheryl Montgomery - February 18 at 10:56 AM



“ Hello my family from another mother...I appreciate all the kindness Lynn showed me and lessons he taught me. Like not sticking my finger in the hole of a sail boat and that if you do said dumb thing that it is a necessity to walk the entire way back to the house with your finger in the air over your headand that you don't need to tell your mother that it happened. Another lesson learned was a bet is a bet...I have memories of coin flips for a pop from the hardware days and just because you maybe a kid you always need to keep your word. There are many more memories but those are the few that stick out for me.

Becky Hartzell - February 16 at 08:35 PM