



Don Pulju

January 26, 1954 - October 7, 2008

Donald Lee Pulju was born January 26, 1954 in Wadena, MN to Melvin and Darlene (Zentner) Pulju. He passed away unexpectedly, at the age of 54, on October 7, 2008 at Tri County Hospital in Wadena. Don, known as “Duck” to all who knew him, attended Wadena Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1972. Duck was united in marriage with Laurie Kopischke on July 7, 1990 at St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Wadena. He was a lifetime member of the community and belonged to the Wadena Elks Club. He will be remembered for his many years at Merickel Lumber Mills. Duck was an avid golfer, and enjoyed deer hunting and baseball. Duck was preceded in death by his father, Melvin Pulju, Sr. He is survived by his loving wife, Laurie Kopischke-Pulju; his mother, Darlene of Wadena; sons, Michael (Ashley) Pulju of Lakewood, CO, and Brandon Kopischke of Wadena; daughter, Megan Kopischke of Brainerd; 2 grandchildren, Logan and Liam; brothers, Mel (Pegi), of Wadena, Joe, of North St. Paul, Larry (Candace), Keith, and Gary, all of Wadena, and Terry (Karen) of Las Vegas, NV; and sister, Sheila (Grant) of Ham Lake. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Wadena with Father Donald Wagner officiating. Interment was in Wadena Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers were Mark Wynn, Dan Sartell, Dick Wirta, Rich Stuntebeck, Denny Rude, Steve Johnson, members of “The Shack,” Huntersville Horseflies, and Duck’s golfing buddies. Active pallbearers were Lindsey Gustafson, Scott Gustafson, Jon Frolander, Mike Baron, Gary Tastad, and Bruce Busing.

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Laurie, Mike, Megan and Brandon: Know that your husband and dad was a well respected man and had positive impact on others. May memories sustain you, may a smile come across your lips as something sparks a memory and may your tears turn into laughter with passing of time. Your dad was always laughing; may his spirit be with each of you now and always!

Know there are many out here to help support you during this really difficult time!

Mike & Nancy Cunningham - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ To Lori and family

*We are so sorry to hear about Duck.
Wadena will be missing one great guy!!
Our thoughts and prayers are with you
and your family.*

Bruce and Penny McManigle

Bruce and Penny McManigle - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Duck was one of the most friendly people I ever knew. He always was smiling and laughing and always had a quick thought and remark. I will miss him. So long good buddy.

Eif

Mark Eifert - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Don's family--I am so very sorry to hear about Don's passing away. I will miss his friendship, as he was a one-man welcoming committee at the Nite Owl during my semiannual trips back to Minnesota. I still have memories of time back in rinky-dink baseball watching Don hit long line drives just short of the rightfield curb. He couldn't quite get them there, but nobody else could get them even close.

Don-I will miss you.

Jim

Jim Krause - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I remember 'Duck' as being that big smiley guy...in fact the last time I saw him I was watching one of my sons play baseball at Hubbard and he made sure to invite me over to visit for a while....and he made me feel like it was just yesterday(although it had been a long time since we'd visited)that we'd played ball together and had so very many good times... I know he will be missed by all...I had not seen him very much over the last 20 years ..but I will miss his laughter and friendship as I know that it was so very genuine!!!!!!

You were loved by many people...Don

Jeff Johnson - Badge

Jeff Johnson - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SV

“ Don was always a pleasure to be around. Love'd his personality and will miss him!!

Steve Villwock - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. I remember Duck as a very kind and fun classmate...Deetsy

Deetsy Bergman Ellis - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Although I have been out of touch the past few years, I wish to express my deepest sympathies to Duck's family. We had a lot of laughs and he will be missed.

Bernie Dague - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

T(

“ Laurie, Megan, Mike, and Brandon - I wish we could be there with you during this time - but we are there in our thoughts and prayers. Don will be missed so much! We love you!!

Tina Schiffman (Kopischke) - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Laurie and Family,

My deepest sympathy to you. Duck was the friendliest and most positive guy I knew, he will leave a big void at the golf course as well.

Take care

kevin

kevin and sara ross - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *Don...
What can I say.
He was one of the all around nicest guys I know. He always greeted you with a big white smile, never had anything bad to say about anybody, and would do anything for you.
I loved him like a brother!*

Peggy - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *The happiest man I ever knew--God must have needed him up there.*

I think of my uncle Melvin, Don's dad during this time. Melvin and Don were alot alike--always happy. Melvin was also taken from us way too soon.

Dear Toby--I wish I could give you a hug right now. I know this will be so hard on you, but know how much we all love you and hopefully time will ease some of this terrible pain.

Dear Lori and kids--hopefully good memories of great years spent with Don will help you through this terrible time.

Love and Prayers,

Brenda Kent

Brenda Kent - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Brandon and Family ~*

So sorry to hear of the loss of your dad and husband. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers through the tough road that lay ahead. Stick together, family and friends are what will help you get through.

Christie & Bryant - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Don's friendly smile will be missed.*

Ray and Dorothy Beyer - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ *Loved hanging around Duck, his laugh alone would crack me up. Fun loving guy and helped out at many events. He had a huge heart. The one that sticks in my mind is the hoop shoot, he was so great with the kids and calmed their nerves so they could do their best. I'll miss him.
My thoughts and prayers are with the Pulju Family*

Kevin Lillquist - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *Duck was a fixture at Merickel's where I first met him. I worked with him the year I worked at Wadena Builders Supply. (about 1989) A great guy, and one that was always willing to lend a hand. He loved to have fun. I was so sad to hear of his sudden passing. May God grant the family comfort during this very difficult time.
Bob Dabill*

Bob Dabill - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Laurie...Duck always had a smile on his face and ready to laugh with you. Deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Mike & Alice Carr - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ Duck...always with a smile, a laugh and a little crap. You will not be forgotten! Duck...simply the best!

Mike - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ We are so sad to have lost an amazing man and wonderful uncle. He will be dearly missed. All our love to our family.

Josi Schultz - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Duck was the best neighbor and always eager to help us at Merickels. He had great ideas and was a great BINGO buddy at the Elks. He will be greatly missed.

Dan, Shannon Riggle - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Michael and Ashley,
So sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Connie Dalton - October 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM