



Donnie Wayne Scates

December 6, 1943 - December 2, 2009

St. Joseph – Donnie W. Scates, 65, of St. Joseph, formerly of Coloma, passed peacefully away Wednesday morning, December 2, 2009, at Royalton Manor in St. Joseph.

Funeral services celebrating his life will be held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, December 8, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, 1053 E. Napier, in Benton Harbor, with Pastor – officiating. Burial to follow at North Shore Memory Gardens. Visitation will be held Monday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Donnie was born December 6, 1943, in Benton Harbor. He was one of six children born to Homer and Bertha Scates. Donnie was known for his music. He began playing at local nightclubs at the age of 14. He particularly enjoyed Rhythm & Blues in addition to Country Western music. Donnie will be remembered as the “first to help others in sponsoring benefit programs.” In his leisure time, he enjoyed watching country westerns on television including Gunsmoke, Bonanza, and John Wayne movies in addition to the Three Stooges. Most of all, Donnie cherished his family – particularly his daughters and grandchildren.

Donnie is survived by his daughters, Kelly (Alfanzo) Chavez of St. Joseph,

Kami (David) Milnickel of Coloma, and Kassie (Dennis) Thomas of Benton Harbor; eight grandchildren, Isabella, Alessandra, Bianca, Jonah, Kloie, Addyson, Jacob, and Ava; brother-in-law, Joe Judice; several nieces and nephews; and by his faithful dog, Football.

In addition to his parents, Donnie was preceded in death by his siblings, Doyle Scates, Jerry Scates, Dorothy Broadwater, Shirley Judice, and Rosa Judice.

Cemetery Details

North Shore Memory Gardens

5027 M 63 N
Coloma, MI 49038

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Service

DEC 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service
1053 East Napier Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(269) 926-7222
staff@florin.net

Tribute Wall

RB

“ I knew Donnie when he was a little tyce and a member of our butternut alleycats club. He was the youngest. I still have a picture of that gang with him that i took. Rusty I was hoping to touchbases with him but the Lord is not going to let that happen yet!

RUSSELL BREWER - December 24, 2023 at 06:41 PM