



## Duane Kirk Briski

October 10, 1972 - February 1, 2008

Duane Kirk Briski, age 35 of Jenison, passed away February 1, 2008 at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, where he had been a patient for several days. Duane was born October 10, 1972 in Southfield, the son of Paul and Gloria (Lassila) Briski. Duane grew up in Westland, where he attended the Wayne Westland schools and graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1990. Throughout his childhood, he loved sports and played on many local teams.



Duane was united in marriage to the former Cheryl Brown on June 7, 2002. He lived in Ypsilanti and Spring Lake, and since 2003 made his home in Jenison. Duane was employed by Carter Lumber for eight years and also Johnson Controls. Most recently, he was employed by Plastech, where he worked as a mold changer. Duane was passionate about carpentry, enjoyed working on his house and dreamed about one day building his own home. He continued to enjoy sports, county western music, deer hunting and debating politics and religion with anyone willing to take on the challenge. However, his most loved activity was being the proud father of his two children, Jessica and Brandon, whom he cherished more than anything else in this world.



Duane was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wilbert Lassila and Elaine (Lampinen) Lassila Maatta: his grandfather, Anton Briski, Jr., and an aunt, Rose (Lassila) Perala.



Duane is survived by his wife, Cheryl, his children, Jessica and Brandon, his parents, Paul and Gloria Briski of Garden City, three brothers, Stephen Briski of Dearborn Heights, David Briski of Garden City, and Brian (Gina) Briski of Westland. His grandmother, Lucille Briski of Garden City; two nieces Katie and Angelina Briski, both of Westland; an aunt, Patricia (Dick) Yates of Lacey, Washington; three uncles, John (Joyce) Lassila of Las Vegas, Anthony (Kay) Briski of Janesville, Wisconsin, and Curt Briski of Pontiac, an uncle-in-law, Peter Perala of Twin Lakes; two great aunts, Evelyn Kuopus of Hancock and Mary Lou Howard of Houghton, his parents-in-law, Kenneth and Barbara Brown of Garden City, and numerous cousins, friends and co-workers.



Following cremation, a Memorial Service for Duane will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 North Newburgh Rd., Westland. Family and friends may call at the funeral home from 4:30 PM until 9:00PM. To share a memory with the family, please use the view and send condolence link on this page.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Duane Kirk Briski*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Paul, all the hockey guys were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of your son Duane. We all took it to heart because most of us have older children his age. It must be terrible to have to bury one of your children. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Be strong my friend. Hope to see you at the rink soon. God bless.*

**Larry Roman** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM



“ *STEVE  
DAN AND I ARE SO SORRY TO  
HEAR ABOUT YOUR BROTHER PASSING AWAY. OUR  
PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND ALL YOUR FAMILY.  
LOVE TO YOU AND CRYSTAL*

**DAN AND LELA BROWN** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM



“ *Steve and family: Words cant express the grief you are going through. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. If anyone needs anything, a shoulder to lean on Im here. We will all miss him.*

**Jennifer G** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

JF

“ *To the Briski Family,  
My condolences go out to your family for your loss. God Bless You  
and Take Care.*

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**Janel Riggs (Co-worker at FedEx)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

JM

“ *Dear Paul, Gloria, Steve, David and Brian, I am so sorry for your  
loss. May God be with you in this hard time. I was very glad to be  
close to your family in my teenage years, Duane was always taking  
care of all the kids on the street, he loved to pick on me too. He was  
a wonderful and caring spirit, he will be truly missed by many  
people. I will be thinking of your family in my prayers....Love Jen*

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**Jennifer Manley** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

TM

“ *Cheryl, Jessica, and Brandon, We just wanted you to know how sorry  
we are for your loss and we will keep you in our thoughts and  
prayers.*

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**The Michael's** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

CH

“ *Paul, Gloria and Briski Family,*

*What do you say at a time like this but I am truly sorry about your  
loss. We haven't seen Duane in a long time and he has turned into  
a handsome young man from the lanky young boy we knew when  
he used to bury hot wheel cars in our yard along with Jeff, Donny,  
Artie and Scotty. You must be very proud to have had such a loving  
and caring son. Our prayers and thoughts will be with you forever.  
You are truly our friends.*

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**Carol & Steve Hupert** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

PA

“ Our dear Jessica & Brandon, we lost our dear son and we will miss him very much & love him dearly forever. He did so many things for us, some little and some big, but most of all he gave us both of you. There is some of him in both of you. Jessica, you have his kindness, sweetness, silliness and so much more. Brandon, you have your daddy's love of sports, fixing things, being stubborn and also of being a joyful & goofy kid. We hope you both will always know that you were the love of his life and he will always be watching over you from Heaven above. We both love you forever. The Lord be with us & with Daddy.

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**Papa & Ammie** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

SB

“ Duane, I'm sure going to miss talking RedWings Hockey with you. You were such a great friend and father to Jess and Brandon. I'm glad I had the opportunity to be your friend and coworker at JCI. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.  
Your friend...Scott Boom

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**Scott Boom** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AN

“ Gloria, Paul and Family  
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your son. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Annie(Matson)Fraki** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

SH

“ just wanted to send a note to let you know you all are in my prayers sorry for your lose but just remember u will meet again in heaven... so your not saying good bye your saying cya later...

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**sandra humbarger** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

BL

“ Cheryl, Jessica, and Brandon, my heart goes out to you. May you always hold all the special memories you have of Duane close to your hearts. You are in my thoughts and prayers each day.

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**Betty Lathrop** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

UC

“ Duane, it's so hard to think of you not being here with us. You have been a part of my life for so many years, from that first Christmas in 1972 when your mom put you in that stupid Santa Claus suit when Grandpa, Grandma & I visited you on Beaverland, to this past Christmas when we were all together in Garden City. You were always such a great kid, and grew into a man that I was more than proud to call my nephew. You will always be missed, but never forgotten, and you will always be in my heart. Thank you for Jessie & Brandon, and most of all, for being you. I love you very much.

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**Uncle Curt** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

SK

“ Paul & Gloria,

*I am so sorry to hear about Duane. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Sharon Karppinen** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

ST

“ Duane, I love you very much & I will miss you with all my heart. Thank for times we spent together & for the 2 kids to remember you by. Rest In Peace & i will see you soon. To my Mom , Dad , Dave , Brian , Cheryl , Jessica , Brandon i love all you.

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**Steve** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

DS

“ DEAR GLORIA AND FAMILY WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR SON DUANE MY HEART HURT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. THIS IS THE HARDEST THING ANY PARENT COULD GO THRU. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS AT KOHL'S ARE THINKING ABOUT YOU, AND PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR WHOLE FAMILY. LOVE, DEBI

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**DEBI STEPHENS** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

DA

“ Cheryl, Jessica and Brandon, I am so sorry that Duane had to leave you. I can't imagine your heartache. Just know that all your running friends are out here, keeping you in our hearts. This you don't have to do alone, you have us.  
Love, Dawn

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**Dawn** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

TF

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. If there is anything we can do please email at [dhalis@aol.com](mailto:dhalis@aol.com).  
Diane, Ronnie, Debbie, and Shelly Halis

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**The Halis Family** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

KL

“ We were very sorry to hear about your loss. This is to let all of you know how we feel and to express our sympathy at this time. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you.

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**Kay & Christine Lahti** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

PR

“ Gloria & Paul, we just can't imagine what you and your family are going thru right now with the loss of your son, especially so soon after losing our Rosie! Our deepest sympathy to you, If there is anything we can do please don't hesitate to call us. As friends, you will always be in our hearts and minds.

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**Pam & Roger** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

RM

“ We all grew up and away from each other but the memories we shared kept us in touch even though we didn't see each other much. Duane, like all the rest of the Briski boys, was like a brother to Randy. We were honored to have him as one of the groomsmen in our wedding - he was so skinny then - it is nice to see how he turned into such a handsome man. He was a good, kind soul and we enjoyed having him in our lives and will miss him.

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**Randy Renee & Ricky McCoy** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

DL

“ What a privledge to have been able to be a part of Duanes life. What fun we had going to the lake and having Duane drive Dave and me around the lake while we took naps. God truly must have needed another carpenter. Paul, Gloria, Steve, David, and Brian we love you very much.

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**Dave and Sherry Lindholm** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

KH

“ Paul, Gloria, Steve, David and Brian. Sorry for the loss of your son and brother he was a great frend and a great man I will never forget him.

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**Ken Horner** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AB

“ *My prayers are with you all. I worked with Duane at JCI/Plastech for several years. He will truly be missed by all of us that were blessed to know him.*

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**Amy Bazan** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AC

“ *Paul and Gloria  
I don't know what to say that would really comfort you, except I'm sorry.*

*Al*

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**Al Virenius - Jeffers classmate** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AN

“ *Although we have never met Duane sounds like a wonderful person who will be missed by all of us. Our sympathy and prayers go with you all.*

*His cousin Roselyn and his great aunt Flo*

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**Aunt Flo Nekervis and Roselyn Nekervis** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

KF

“ *Duane was a great employee and teammember @ JCI, we were fortunate to have him for the time we did! Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Katina Ferrell** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

MP

“ I worked with Duane as a mold changer. He was a hard working man whom always spoke of his children. He is, and will be missed at work. Your family is in my prayers. God bless. Mike

Mike Pagan - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

DK

“ Gloria,Paul and family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you from the Karvonen family. How sad it is to loose such a young family member. We all send our condolences.

Diane Karvonen - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

JH

“ I've nevre lost a friend before it hurts just as much as loseing a family member so I guess you were like family to me l'ts not fair you died so young you will always have a special place in my heart I'll miss you and I'll never forget you thank you for being a wonderful friend and person. LOVE ALWAYS'S Jennifer Horner

Jennifer Horner - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

NH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I had the pleasure of working with Duane at JCI/Plastech. He was a great and hard worker and also very kind. He will be missed by his friends here at work.

Norma Hemmeke - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

TS

“ Paul, Gloria, Steve, David & Brian we are so sorry for the sudden death of Duane. He truly enjoyed life and loved the people around him. He will be greatly missed by all including his Fairchild family.

Tim & Kathy Sloan - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AB

“ It's hard to express what we're feeling right now. We've lost our childhood friend, Protector, and Brother. Every memory we have growing up has Duane in it. Driving us to play Putt-Putt, to the movies, NKOTB concert (as embarrassing as that may sound), Flashlight Tag, Softball at Kettering, coming to watch us play softball for Dad's Club, taking & teaching us to ice skate, sliding into our shed while playing ball in the backyard, swimming in the summer, to throwing "Ice balls" at us in the winter (and yes they stung something terrible). But more importantly he cared for us and loved us so very much and wasn't ashamed to show it. We have so many more memories, too many to write down. As we all grew older and moved away; we always kept the memories we have shared close to our hearts and looked back on them fondly. Nothing can replace what we all had and shared on Fairchild. We weren't only neighbors, we weren't only friends...we are family, and nothing can change what and how we feel for each other, not even death. We love you Duane and will always carry your memory in our hearts forever.

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**Amy, Elena, Kevin, Colleen, Tiffany, Nick, & B** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

AT

“ Our hearts are broken for all of you. He leaves so many fond memories for everyone. Bless you all and we love you.

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**Art & Sharon Teran** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

DI

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. He would love the picture it looks like Lake Superior. I truly believe he is looking down on all his family and friends. Take care.

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**Dianne** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

A(

“ Gloria, Paul, Steve, David, and Brian, I am so sorry for your loss. Duane was such a sweet and kind person, who will be forever missed by everyone. I love you all.

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**Amy Gomersall (Teran)** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

GL

“ Paul, Gloria, Steve, David and Brian, Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Duane was a wonderful person, he will be missed greatly by all who knew him.

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**Gary and cyndie lombardi** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

BR

“ I have no words to say how much I'll miss you. Thank you for being my friend and most of all my borther. You will forever be in my heart!!

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**Brian** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM

MA

“ We are so sorry Duane passed away. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Take care of yourselves and let us know if there is anything we can do to ease your pain.

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**Matt,Darcie,Sarah,&Noah** - December 12, 2014 at 10:26 AM