



Gary E. "Duke" Coke, 65, of Ayer

February 21, 1961 - June 6, 2026

Ayer – Gary E. “Duke” Coke, 65, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, June 6, surrounded by his loving family and close friends.

Duke was born in Groton on February 21, 1961 a son of the late Richard and Ruth (McQueeney) Coke. He was a 1979 graduate of Ayer High School and spent his career working for Ardent Mills as an Operations Specialist.

He was a familiar face at the Ayer Gun and Sportsmen's Club, where he enjoyed spending time with his friends. Above all, he treasured his family. Some of his happiest moments were spent on the annual family vacation to York, Maine - a trip he looked forward to every year.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Lonna (Saball) Coke of Ayer; children, Shayne Coke and wife Anne, and their daughter Ember of Gardner, Mary Coke of Ayer; siblings, Richard Coke of Ayer, David Coke and wife Sheri of Florida, and Linda Coke of South Carolina; sister in law, Jackie McAfee Coke of South Carolina; brother in law, Joseph Saball Jr. of Shirley; father and mother-in-law Joseph and Linda Saball of Shirley; several nieces, nephews, extended family and many close friends. Although not related by blood, he is also survived by his brothers, Brent Routhier of Ayer, Dave “Sarge” Sargent of Shirley, Chris Egan of Ayer, Larry Shorey of Shirley, Kevin Shorey of Shirley, and Craig Shorey of Fitchburg.

He was predeceased by his brother Brian Coke in 2015.

Duke's funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, June 15 in Saint Anthony Church, 14 Phoenix St., Shirely at 10:00am. Burial will be held privately at a later date. Calling hours will be held in the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd., Ayer on Sunday, June 14, from 2:00-5:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Ayer Gun & Sportsmen's Club, 255 Snake Hill Road Ayer, MA 01432.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUN **14**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Funeral Mass

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Anthony's Church
14 Phoenix Street
Shirley, MA 01464

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Lonna and Gary's family we are sorry for your loss . Gary was always full of fun and mischief during ours years at AHS and St Mary's CCD. RIP Gary . Jan and Lindsay.*



Janice Graham - June 13 at 09:36 AM



“ *Lonna and family I am so very sorry to hear of Dukes passing. I remember him back at Ayer High School for a few years. He was a great athlete in high school. I got to know Duke more after moving back from Florida. Norman and I would see Duke and Lonna quite a lot. I have great memories at the club raffles, clab bake/BBQ or whatever it was called. Camping at the club, bonfires and much more. He will be miss by the many lives he touched. Another gone too soon! I am sure Norman was close by when you arrived. RIP my friend. Lonna, I am here for your family, for you. Sending hugs. Love, Jody Davin*

Jody Wright Davin - June 12 at 08:14 PM

LM

“ *Sorry to hear of Dukes passing.He was a great friend,Good luck on your journey Old friend till we meet again. Lindsey Mullan*

Lindsey mullan - June 11 at 07:45 PM

JC

“ *I'm sorry for the loss of Gary. I had a lot of great times playing many different sports with Gary growing up. From organized sports to neighborhood sports. Always a competitor.*

Jim Cote - June 11 at 09:08 AM

TE

“ *The last time I really spoke to Duke was at his brother Brian's wake. He immediately asked if I was still driving my orange Chevy Cavalier, which had been sold a few years prior. His memory was sharp as a tack. Please accept my condolences.*

Tim Elmer - June 10 at 10:53 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Gary E. "Duke" Coke, 65, of Ayer.*



June 10 at 10:27 AM

TC

“ *Tobe Conway lit a candle in memory of Gary E. "Duke" Coke, 65, of Ayer*



Tobe Conway - June 10 at 09:31 AM

KC

“ *We are deeply sorry for the loss of Duke. His love and presence brought so much light into your family, and the lives of others. Please know that we are here for you during this difficult time. During this time of profound sorrow, please know that you're not alone.*



Kerry and Jim Cooper - June 10 at 07:30 AM

SH

“ My deepest condolences to you and your family for your loss, Lonna. Please don't hesitate to ask if you need anything at all 🙏🏻



Sue Harsh Hebert - June 09 at 08:56 AM

PM

“ I was lucky to be invited to the vacation home in York Maine and share this memory. Always made me feel welcome and loved in the Coke residence. It left a core memory that I'll always appreciate. Rest in peace.

Paul Morrison - June 08 at 10:21 PM

SM

“ Lonna & Family, You all have my heartfelt condolences. Your love for each other will remain in your hearts forever. Too young, too soon...Love & prayers 🙏🏻✝️

Sue Macomber - June 08 at 05:40 PM