



Lt. Walter "Bruce" Shelton

December 4, 2022

Lt Walter "Bruce" Shelton, age 71, passed away on December 4, 2022.

Born on June 12, 1951, to Jim and Ruth Shelton and raised in Chagrin Falls. Bruce enlisted in the Army National Guard after high school and served for 6 years. He started his Fire career first with the Chagrin Falls Fire Department then East Cleveland. In March of 1981, Bruce started working for Cleveland "The Big City" Fire Department where he stayed for 30 proud years of service. He spent most of his career at Station 31, Fire Training Academy and the B.E.A.R.S. unit. During a blind date in 1978, Bruce met Diane Collins. After years of dating, they tied the knot on May 7, 1983 and soon became residents of Willoughby. In February of 1993 they became parents to Kevin.

Bruce made the transition to parenthood very simple as Kevin became another person to teach and enjoy his hobbies with. His goal was to show Kevin how to make the best of life. Whether it was the weekly homemade test or teaching skills to become an NFL kicker. These were the skills and knowledge he felt were needed to reach his full life potential.

Bruce was a man of many several hobbies and interests. Boating in Regattas on weekends at Pymatuning. He rode his bicycle across Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Wisconsin, and Ohio. He skied throughout his life and even learned to speed skate. He was an active

outdoorsman, liked to camp and was a member of the hiking club. Enjoyed watching and photographing Great Lakes ships. Bruce's love of history and ships came together when he and Diane helped restore the William G Mather. Also, he was a model train enthusiast. His love of model trains included going to train shows and collecting different model trains and transformers.

Through his career, hobbies or just being somewhere, Bruce was able to strike up a conversation with anyone. One would never know whether it was someone he knew or just another friendly face. In 2016, Bruce's life started to change and the man everyone knew him as started to disappear. Bruce was diagnosed with an inherited form of FTD (Frontotemporal Degeneration with Parkinsonism). While suffering from this disorder his independence and ability to do things slowly diminished. His gift of being a conversationalist slowly left him, progressing from being able to understand him to then becoming nonverbal. In addition, the ability of walking also progressed from needing assistance to becoming wheelchair-bound. While this disorder overtook his body, he never gave up and accepted all changes that took place over what became the last 8 years of his life.

He was a member of many local organizations: Cleveland Touring, Hiking Club, Chagrin Falls Alumni, Model Train Association, Eagles of Chagrin Falls and Willoughby, Willoughby United Methodist Church, and a lifetime member of the Historical Society of Willoughby.

Bruce was survived by his wife Diane (nee Collins) of 39 years; son Kevin (Rachel); sisters Nancy (Gerry) Farrow and Linda (Leigh) Woodall; sister-in-law, Debby Collins and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Jim and Ruth, and siblings James and Sharon (Harr).

A celebration of life service will be held in the Spring of 2023.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration; online at www.theaftd.org

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Mentor, OH. Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Tribute Wall



“ My family moved in next door to Bruce when I was 12. He made friends with everyone in the family in addition to brothers his age. We kept in touch over the years and resumed our conversations the way one does with longtime friends. He was a joy to see when I returned to the village where we grew up. I'd phone him up and he'd come out for a visit. We'd roam the streets and talk about anything and everything. We enjoyed a quiet appreciation for our shared history as we talked about our lives and careers. I was and am impressed by his love of epic bicycle rides and love for his family. May he rest in peace. May his family be comforted by his abiding love.

Barbara Leach - January 07, 2023 at 10:47 AM

ME

“ Bruce was a loved and popular classmate from childhood through Chagrin Falls High graduation. The old phrase of never having an enemy was actually true for Bruce. He radiated good cheer and friendship and I valued every moment I shared with him. He will be remembered and missed. PEGGY ENGEL

Margaret Engel - January 03, 2023 at 04:44 PM

FF

“ Bruce made you feel like you were old friends even though you may have just met him, always pleasant friendly and kind, he taught me how to sail a small boat around Edgewater back in the mid 80's, and took me under his wing at CFD Bears Unit when I was Injured. A friend and Brother to all of us at Cleveland Fire. May you Rest in Peace Bruce. Frank Faulhaber

Frank Faulhaber - December 17, 2022 at 11:15 PM

EW

“ *“There is no such thing as death. In nature nothing dies. From each sad remnant of decay, some forms of life arise.” Condolences to the Walter "Bruce" Shelton family. May his LIGHT shine on !!! Always a Gentlemen*
Edward Whatley (CFD class of 1981)

Ed Whatley - December 16, 2022 at 06:26 PM

JM

“ *Godspeed my friend from ECFD to CFD. Seamus McGrath Ladder 4.*

Jimmie McGrath - December 16, 2022 at 05:36 PM

 Mary Huey

“ *Diane -- deepest sympathies to you and your son. It's hard to lose part of yourself. Bruce was always so friendly and always spoke when he was out riding through the neighborhood. Blessing as you move through this time.*
Mary Huey

Mary Huey - December 13, 2022 at 05:17 PM

CF

“ *Diane - we were so sorry to hear about Bruce's passing. You wrote a beautiful obituary which describes so well the vibrant and energetic man we knew. Our experiences were through church but also the GOBA tour - he was so good with the kids!*
Carol & Daniel Fishwick

carol fishwick - December 13, 2022 at 01:55 PM

LH

“ Diane I was so sorry to read Bruce’s obituary. It’s been a long time since we worked together but you are never far from my thoughts. Seeing this today brought back a flood of memories. May God Bless you and your family during this difficult time.

❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏. Linda Brodzinski Horvath

Linda Horvath - December 11, 2022 at 09:30 AM

MV

“ Bruce was so kind to me as a new firefighter in 1974. He assisted me in learning to drive stick shift, double clutch apparatus, and more importantly how to pump. He always remembered me at Blossom and was always so humble and kind. What a wonderful person. RIP Bruce. Mark Vedder

Mark Vedder - December 09, 2022 at 07:32 PM