



## Dean William DeVries

August 11, 1951 - April 30, 2024

Dean William DeVries, age 72, of Highland, Illinois, entered into rest on April 30, 2024, at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, with family at his side.

He was born August 11, 1951, in Staunton, Illinois, the son and first child of the late Lawrence William DeVries and Melba Lorraine (Hartke) DeVries. He graduated from Staunton High School in 1969, where he participated in FFA and excelled on the football field. After high school, Dean joined the Air National Guard, serving honorably as a Staff Sergeant. Following his service, he helped run the family dairy farm in Staunton, and he later owned a dairy farm for fifteen years in rural Mount Olive, Illinois. In 1994, he transitioned careers to become a Real Estate Broker/Owner for ReMax, later advancing to a Senior Mortgage Loan Officer with Highlands Residential Mortgage and becoming a Certified Mortgage Advisor. He loved helping his clients realize their dreams of homeownership.

On a beautiful summer afternoon in June of 1996, he married the love of his life, Miriam Diane (Hartshorn), in Staunton, Illinois, surrounded by family and friends on the family farm. Theirs was truly a match made in heaven, giving their children a model of love and selflessness to aspire to.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 27 years, Miriam DeVries; his siblings, Barb

(Dennis) Brackman of Staunton, Illinois, Glenn (Cheryl) DeVries of Staunton, Illinois, Al (Andrea) DeVries of Mount Olive, Illinois, sister-in-law Judy DeVries of Staunton, Illinois, Amy (Jim) Johnson of Livingston, Illinois, and Don (Rhonda) DeVries of Mount Olive, Illinois; his daughters, Julie (significant other Stephen Sminchak) DeVries of Staunton, Illinois and Sarah (Corey) Ferry of Chicago, Illinois; his sons, Bill (Erin) DeVries of Edwardsville, Illinois, Jacob (Brandy) Boyd of St. Louis, Missouri, Matt (Dawn) DeVries of Mount Olive, Illinois, and Evan (Kathy) Danner of Oak Lawn, Illinois; nine grandchildren, Jeremy (Olivia) DeVries, Kaitlyn DeVries, Dylan DeVries, Grace DeVries, Brayton Danner, Aubrey DeVries, Lillian Danner, Nicholas Danner, and Hudson Danner; and great-grandson, Louie DeVries, all of whom he loved more than anything in this world.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Melba DeVries; his brother, Jim DeVries; and his grandson, Alexander DeVries.

Dean's greatest joys in life were spending time with his family and in service to his church and community, and serving himself was consistently the furthest thing from his mind. Everyone who knew Dean, whether personally or professionally, knew that God gave him the gifts of hospitality and service, which he exemplified to the fullest. He sang in the First Congregational Church choir and served the church as an Elder and security team member. He was also a 3rd degree Master Mason and Past Master of Highland Masonic Lodge #583, and he served as treasurer of the Highland American Legion Post 439.

He adored his children and grandchildren and attended as many games, practices, and milestones as possible. Always a fixture at family gatherings, Dean loved and gave generously to everyone. He could always be counted on for a warm hug and a boisterous laugh, even at his own jokes, which he loved to share. His children remember him for always being a willing listener and

taking enormous pride in their accomplishments. It's impossible to quantify the depth of unconditional love and warmth he showed his children and grandchildren, and even harder to articulate how much this meant to them.

Visitation will be Friday, May 3, 2024, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland. A funeral service will be held Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church in Highland with interment at Highland City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Congregational Church, 801 Washington Street, Highland, IL 62249.

# Cemetery Details

## Highland City Cemetery

12301 Koepfli Lane  
Highland, IL 62249

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Praying for peace for you.

*Crista Davis*

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**Crista Davis** - May 07, 2024 at 01:23 PM

MM

“ My deepest sympathies to the family for your loss.

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**Mark Francis Minier** - May 06, 2024 at 04:35 PM

CH

“ My Condolences to the DeVries family. When you feel that hole in your heart of sadness, think of the Joyous time that filled your life and how his infectious smile makes you smile, and that hole will get smaller and smaller.

*I have known Dean for quite some time as an associate thru the real estate company and loan officer. And he not only was an associate he was a good friend.*

*I will miss him.*

*Cathy Huelsmann*

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**Cathy Huelsmann** - May 03, 2024 at 02:44 PM

MS

“ Terry and I want to extend our sympathies to Miriam, Jacob, Evan, and Sarah at Dean’s passing. His obituary is a perfect testimony to a life well lived, a man who loved the Lord, his family, the church and his community. We were blessed to call him a friend while serving at First Congregational.

Maurice Smith - May 03, 2024 at 12:28 PM

LJ

“ Love, Glenn & Audrey, Michelle & Jason purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dean William DeVries.



Love, Glenn & Audrey, Michelle & Jason - May 02, 2024 at 11:02 PM

SG

“ Miriam and family. My heart goes out to you all of you on the death of your husband, father, brother and friend. Losing someone so close is so very hard. Praying for you all at this difficult time. Viola Brackman and Sue Goodson

Sue Goodson - May 02, 2024 at 10:32 PM

WF

“ Wesley Wolff Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean William DeVries.

Wesley Wolff Family - May 02, 2024 at 07:00 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dean William DeVries.*



May 02, 2024 at 07:00 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dean William DeVries.*



May 02, 2024 at 03:20 PM



“ *From Your Livingston Pipe & Tube Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dean William DeVries.*



**From Your Livingston Pipe & Tube Family - May 02, 2024 at 12:50 PM**



“ *From Your Livingston Pipe & Tube Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean William DeVries.*

**From Your Livingston Pipe & Tube Family - May 02, 2024 at 12:50 PM**

PL

“ *Miriam and family. Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. It's been many years in between that we've kept up with your family but at times like this, we remember all the good times. God Speed and RIP Dean*

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**Pam & Aimee Lecerf** - May 02, 2024 at 12:28 PM

EG

“ *Equity Realty Group..Highland/Breese purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dean William DeVries.*



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**Equity Realty Group..Highland/Breese** - May 02, 2024 at 10:47 AM

JS

“ *When I first moved to Highland, I met Dean. He was so very helpful to me when I was buying my condo. He was so professional, but friendly and even caring like a close friend. I counted on his guidance so much. I later was so happy to meet him again at church.  
I am so sorry for your loss.*

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**Jeanne Solomson** - May 02, 2024 at 10:20 AM

PF

“ *Phil, Marty and Kevin Dennis families purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Dean William DeVries.*



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**Phil, Marty and Kevin Dennis families** - May 02, 2024 at 08:38 AM

BC

“ Jacob and family. So sorry for your loss but remember all the good times you had together. Beautiful obituary describing such a great life with wife, children and grandchildren.

Bill Cate - May 02, 2024 at 08:32 AM

TK

“ Tyler & Kelley Kostich purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dean William DeVries.



Tyler & Kelley Kostich - May 02, 2024 at 08:21 AM

SA

“ I remember Dean for so many reasons. Being one of the friendly faces I first saw at FCC and later as someone who came to the need of a new widow...vacuuming my rug for me, helping me get rid of an unwanted pest! Dean was always there to help. I will never forget him and I'll always be blessed to have known him. He'll be enormously missed.

Sandra Anderson - May 01, 2024 at 11:04 PM

SV

“ Dean was a very nice guy he helped me with buying my first house.He walked me every step of the way and even came to Litchfield and met with me on getting paperwork to him. He done a very good job at his work could have not asked for a better person to help close on a first home.he will be missed. Prayers for his family



Sarah vargo - May 01, 2024 at 08:32 PM