



Dude Breitbarth

January 1, 1962 - December 17, 2023

With fond remembrance and a bit of sorrow, we mark the passing of Dude Breitbarth, known at birth as Darren Thomas Breitbarth, who left us at the age of 61 on December 17, 2023, in Tyler, Texas. Born to Eugene and Janet Breitbarth on January 1, 1962, in Peoria, Illinois, Dude's life was an inspiring saga of adventure, love, and kindness. His journey was profoundly shaped by his lifelong father-figure, Harold Sliger. He was preceded in death by both parents and his nephew, Charley Rodgers.

Dude served with honor as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Mechanic in the Air Force, a role he embraced with dedication and pride. Beyond his military service, his talents as a gifted mechanic and his generous spirit made him a cherished figure in any community.

The epicenter of Dude's life was his deep love for his wife, Emma Jean Breitbarth. Their partnership was a harmonious blend of friendship, love, and laughter, creating a legacy of joy from Illinois to the sunny decks of cruise ships, and across the wide expanse of Texas.

Dude's enthusiasm for wrestling, particularly for the legendary "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, was matched by his love for the music of Elvis Presley, Merle Haggard, and Hank Williams. These passions reflected his vibrant and resilient spirit, and the celebratory "Woo!" for his kids and grandkids in public

and private moments.

His legacy is lovingly carried on by his wife, Emma; his children, Aaron, Daisy Breitbarth, and Greg Pari; and his adored grandchildren, Abby Rose, Arya Pari, Leonydas, Tiberius, Zephyra, Furiosa, Stella, Jamari, Elijah and Romina. The strong bonds he shared with his siblings Jan, Jane, Jeanie, Tam, Cassie, Glori, Kevin (also known as "Kelvis"), and Matthew, as well as his extended chosen family including Rick Wells and the Sligers, are a testament to his warm heart, wordless understandings, and capacity for deep connections.

In lieu of flowers or donations, we invite you to honor Dude's memory by reflecting on family, love, and the simple joys of life.

A memorial service to celebrate Dude's remarkable life will be held on Friday, December 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home, with visitation an hour before. We gather to remember a man whose life was a beacon of light, love, and laughter to all who knew him.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Memorial Service

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dude Breitbarth*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - December 22, 2023 at 01:47 PM

MD

“ *Emah, I'm so sorry to hear of dude's passing. His love for you is evident in every photo I have ever seen. All our love, MLD*

Mary Louise Davis - March 08, 2024 at 11:42 PM

LB

“ *He was a wonderful grandpa*

Leonydas breitbarth - January 19, 2024 at 04:28 PM

MB

“ Dude was always kind and friendly. A big heart for people. I was reminded just last weekend how Dude would go with another friend, James Warren, to the shooting range to practice. These times most certainly involved stories of many things, but one of James favorite subjects was the love of his life. James's wife had traveled to heaven some years past. So when I called Emma, just over a week ago, to share the news about our friend James passing away, Dude asked to say a few words to both of us on speaker. He wanted to comfort us both by reminding us that James was now in heaven with the love of his life. And that he must surely be happier than we could imagine. In that moment, sad for the news himself, he so quickly wanted to soften our sadness.

Mary A Beeler - December 21, 2023 at 10:37 PM

MB

“ Mary Beeler lit a candle in memory of Dude Breitbarth



Mary Beeler - December 21, 2023 at 10:10 PM

MB

“ My heart goes out Emma and his children. He would come in the office where Emma and myself worked and just light up the place with kind words. Dude you will be missed. Michell Ballinger



Michell Ballinger - December 21, 2023 at 09:53 PM

MG

“ *Dude we grew up together as family and you will be missed. Tell Dad when you see him I said Hi! You are in God's hands! I'm not one for words but wanted to share this song.*

https://youtu.be/EQ9RrIDkttY?si=q_Uo0J5UTj2i6IkL

Michael Gaetz - December 21, 2023 at 08:35 PM

AB

“ *My deepest sympathies to your family. He loved loved loved his family and never missed a chance to say it. He was so proud of all of you. He was devoted to being a wonderful father and husband. He gave and experienced an unconditional love like no other with all of you. He will always be at your side in spirit loving you always and guiding you. We knew each other in high school and I am glad we were able to reconnect in these last few years and I could see that he had an amazing life! My thoughts have been with you all these past few days and I will continue to pray for peace and comfort. God bless!*

April Ballard - December 21, 2023 at 03:02 PM

KS

“ *Kim Stacy lit a candle in memory of Dude Breitbarth*



Kim Stacy - December 21, 2023 at 12:20 PM

MH

“ Marie Hutchinson lit a candle in memory of Dude Breitbarth



Marie Hutchinson - December 21, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dude Breitbarth.



December 21, 2023 at 08:51 AM

TI

“ Tull Brothers Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dude Breitbarth.

Tull Brothers Inc. - December 21, 2023 at 08:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dude Breitbarth.



December 20, 2023 at 08:01 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dude Breitbarth.*



December 20, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *Dan Murphy Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dude Breitbarth.*

Dan Murphy Family - December 20, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *Love, Aunt Glori & Uncle Matt purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dude Breitbarth.*



Love, Aunt Glori & Uncle Matt - December 20, 2023 at 12:26 PM



“ *Can't believe having to say goodbye to my brother, Darren, who I love so much. One of my favorite memories is him taking my son Aubrey Daniel when he was little to the bar below Germantown Hills, sit up at the bar and have him tell the bartender beer for my friend and root beer for me. I love you Darren, and will miss you forever!*



Glori Breitbarth-Daniel - December 20, 2023 at 10:13 AM

JS

“It’s so hard to say goodbye to a brother especially one who took it as seriously as you. You were a protector to us younger ones. A support to me as I grew up in your shadow, encouraging me reluctantly even when I followed your footsteps into the Air Force. I still remember you calling me trying to make me reconsider while explaining everything in vast detail about Basic Training and recruiters promises. At the end of the call you simply said, “Beaner it’s your decision but it’s just you’re my little sister. I had to tell you.” I always knew that even this was your way of protecting me as your little sister. The only time I felt the pressure to measure up was during our cut throat summer softball games against Kevin and Jannie. To my memory we never lost! But I always knew if we did you’d never let me forget it was my fault. :) I will cherish those and so many other memories too personal to share but know that I am so thankful that I was your little sister. I will always miss our big brother, little sister relationship. Things will never be the same. I love you Dude. To Emah, Aaron, Greg and Daisy, your husband and father was larger than life as you know. I am sorry for your loss which no one can understand but you. Please know that I will be praying that God comforts you in the days ahead. All my love. “Beaner”

Jeannie Szetela - December 19, 2023 at 08:53 PM

BO

Jean, Gods comfort as you all mourn your loss. Oh the stories we made growing up. Chris and I have told several over the past few days. I’ll always cherish my time spent with you all. Dude was one of our oldest friends. Though we didn’t have much contact over the years, his loss is still a great loss to Vicki and I. Rest easy Dude.

Booner - December 20, 2023 at 10:40 AM

MM

Prayers to the entire family during this difficult time. Went to kindergarten with Dude and graduated high school with him as well. So glad that I got to see you this summer, it was so nice catching up, glad you got to meet my husband, daughter and grandkids. Heaven gained an angel. RIP Missy

missy mcwhirter - December 20, 2023 at 10:45 PM

KS

How sad it makes me to hear of Dude's passing. Ms. Emma is one of the sweetest, kindest and sincere people I have ever known. My first meeting of Dude was at the office when I worked with Emma. Dude was walking around passing out candy bars to everyone. He was always a positive and friendly person. Emma - my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you deal with this loss.

Kelly (Johnson) Seidel - December 22, 2023 at 04:12 PM