



# Douglas Stuart Garvelink

## Life Story

Douglas S. Garvelink was a dedicated husband and father. He made his family his first priority and put their needs before his own. He was a man who cared for everyone he knew, and he expressed this care through his generosity and willingness to help without a second thought. Doug's deeds and actions were an inspiration to those that knew and loved him.

The 1950s were a bustling, optimistic time in American history. Neighborhoods and schools were bursting at the seams in the post war Baby Boom. Families moved from the cities to stake their claims to a comfortable life in the suburbs, where new domestic technologies promised to make the average American life easier. Stuart and Frankie (Jones) Garvelink of Paw Paw, Michigan, were one of the many Baby Boom families. Already the proud parents of daughter Shirley, on March 23, 1952, they welcomed the birth of their son, Douglas Stuart. He was later followed by his two younger sisters, Helen and Nola.

Doug spent his growing up years in Paw Paw, where he and his sisters kept a protective eye on one another. For fun, they gave each other childhood nicknames, like "Squirrely Shirley, Doug the bug, Helen Nana banana and Nola Fern the worm." Doug was quite an athlete in high school, where he played football and was a two time District Champion in wrestling. After graduating from Paw Paw High School, he joined the workforce as a general laborer at various factories in the area. The last job he held was at Two Paws Cleaning for seven years. In 2004, when his health weakened due to his illness, Doug was forced to quit working.

In 1987, a wonderful thing happened to Doug - he met the love of his life, Amanda Hook, who was dating his best friend, Mike McCormack, at the time. From the instant Doug and Amanda met, there was an undeniable connection between them. Amanda admits it was love at first sight for her; Doug was a very handsome man. Unfortunately for Mike, the two soon began dating and after a few months, they moved in together. After 18 years in love, the couple finally made their union official and was married 6 days ago at Kairos Dwelling in Kalamazoo, surrounded by their family and friends. Their good friends, Cherrie and Phil, and the best man, Robert Shelven, and Maid of Honor, Geneva Jones, were witnesses to this joyous occasion. It was very important to Doug that Amanda become his wife and take his name.

Amanda brought more than just her love into Doug's life; she had two children, Paul and Jamie. Doug welcomed these kids wholeheartedly into his life and loved them like they were his own. He was a wonderful father and would do anything for his children. If they wanted something, Doug was the first to get it for them, and if he couldn't, he always felt really bad for it. He was an old softy when it came to discipline and usually let the kids get away with the most. Though Amanda remembered on one occasion when Doug took their Nintendo away because they sassed their mom.

Doug and Amanda loved to spend time together, going to drive-in movies or simply staying home with a rented movie and cuddle up on the couch. They also liked playing Bingo at the Paw Paw Lions Club and visiting the casino from time to time. Once, Doug won \$2,000 on the slot machines, which he happily shared with his family. The couple absolutely loved cruising around town in their car listening to 70s rock and roll music, like Janis Joplin, which was Doug's favorite singer. In his quiet moments, Doug like drawing or watching a Detroit Lions game on television. But, above all else, he enjoyed spending time with his family and his close companion, Coal Butt, their family dog. Sadly, Doug died of cancer on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. His dog Coal was laid to rest the following day.

Doug was the kindest, most caring man who tried each day to share his happiness with his loved ones. He was an honest, compassionate and generous man who never thought twice about going out of his way to help someone who needed him. Although Doug will be deeply missed, he leaves his loved ones with an example of commitment and generosity.

Douglas Stuart Garvelink, age 53 of Lawton, died September 6, 2005 at Kairos Dwelling in Kalamazoo . He was born March 23, 1952 in Paw Paw the son of Stuart and Frankie (Jones) Garvelink. Learn more about Doug, view his Life Story film, and visit with his family and friends Friday from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Home, M40 South of I-94, Paw Paw, 657-3870, where a Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11:00 AM. Doug was preceded in death by his father; and a nephew, Doug. He is survived by his wife Amanda; his mother, Frankie Jones; a son, Paul (April) Hook of Harvard, IL; a daughter, Jamie (Robert) Ray of Decatur; three sisters: Shirley Ann Jones of Lawton, Helen Nana Utter of Mattawan and Nola Fern (Michael) Scannell of Marcellus; three grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. To read Doug's complete Life Story, archive a memory, order flowers, or make a memorial contribution to the Garvelink Family, please visit his personal web page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com)