



Edward "Jerry" Coates

August 8, 1939 - May 24, 2022

NORWAY- Edward "Jerry" Coates age 82 of Norway, died Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey, MI.

He was born on August 8, 1939 in Shelbina, Missouri. The son of the late Robert and Jesse (Hall) Coates.

Jerry graduated from Mound City High School in 1958 and entered the US Army as a recruit. While in the Army, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, MS. Serving in the Army was one of the proudest periods in his life. He worked his way to the rank of Major before his retirement in 1979 after 21 years of service. His military career entailed several assignments, most notable included two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he was awarded four Bronze Stars, one with a 'V' for Valor.

Early in his military career, Jerry met Garen Vigo in Washington DC and they married on January 14, 1961.

After the military, Jerry worked for the City of Norway as a Clerk and Treasurer and retired after 10 years.

Prior to working for the City, he held positions at Bacco Construction, Lodal

and Kingsford Broach and Tool. He also worked part time at Breeze Auto Parts after retiring from the City.

Jerry served on the Norway City Council and was acting Mayor for a portion of that time.

For his hobbies, Jerry was an avid gardener and had an affinity for Roundup. But nothing was bigger than Drag Racing and working on cars. It has been his passion since he was a teenager, and he was still racing just two years ago. Mopar was his brand and he had been racing his 1966 Coronet since he bought it brand new in Iron Mountain. Never one to 'slow down', he was building a new car to go even quicker at the time of his passing.

He was a member of St. Mary's Church in Norway, Norvulet VFW Post #4581 and the Hall-Dewinter Post #145 American Legion, and was a distinguished member of the 1st Infantry Division, 16th Regiment.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 61 years Garen; son Michael (Stacie) Coates; grandchildren Alexis Coates and Andrew Coates; brother Tom (Sharon) Coates; sisters Shannon Coates, and Mary Ann (Tom) Muse; Sister-in-laws Lillie Anne Vigo and Karen (Crowley) Coates, Brother-in-law Clifford Steeby, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Denise Coates; brothers Dennis and Robert (Karen) Coates; and sister Martha Steeby.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 3 from 9-11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Norway.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church with Fr. Marty Flynn officiating.

Interment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Church
401 Main Street
Norway, MI 49870

Tribute Wall

WM

“ *With Love, Doug & Carrie Muse purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.*



With Love, Doug & Carrie Muse - June 03, 2022 at 09:39 AM

PP

“ *I worked side-by-side with Jerry at Norway City Hall for 10 years. He actually hired me and was my immediate supervisor. I was a young mother of 2, and expecting my 3rd. He was a retired Major in the Army and served over in Vietnam. Oh boy!!*

But it didn't take long to realized Jerry was a warm and caring man; with a "mission" to oversee my work. Sometimes I got a "job well done" & once in a while Jerry would have to pass his box of kleenex to my desk. Needless to say, we had a good working relationship. Day after day for 10 years... you begin to feel like family.

After Jerry retired from the city, we'd bump into each other; flling in the other about ourselves, our families, and of course he loved when I asked if he was working on a car. We always gave each other a good bear hug & said "I love you".

The last time I saw Jerry was at my Mom's funeral just a few months ago. We hugged as I cried on his shoulder. And last thing we said to each other was "I love you".

There is a special place in my heart for Jerry and I will miss him. My deepest sympathies to you Garen and all of Jerry's family.

Paula Petrick - June 02, 2022 at 06:11 PM

JM

“ *What a great picture of jerry.It said so much but so little about his life,there was so much more.Hats off to that recruit on that long trail to Major,I salute you.My heart is with all the family,expressly you Garen,you been by his side through thick and thin.It's been said along side a great man is a great woman, I think that's true in this case.So long Mopar Man. With Love Jimmy Markosen.*

jimmy markosen - June 02, 2022 at 04:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.*



June 01, 2022 at 06:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.*



June 01, 2022 at 04:22 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.*



June 01, 2022 at 04:01 PM

-F

“ - Your Eaton Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.



- Your Eaton Family - May 31, 2022 at 10:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.



May 31, 2022 at 07:45 PM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Edward "Jerry" Coates.



May 31, 2022 at 12:35 PM

DR

“ When I worked for The Daily News and was assigned coverage of Norway city meetings, I learned that Jerry, as an elected official, was a solid unbiased source for me to understand issues before the board. He was the rare elected official who never wanted to misinform the electorate who put him in office. If he did not know the answer to my questions, he would say- 'Let me research that before I give you an answer.' Norway was blessed to have him working for our benefit; our communities need more Jerrys in office.

Doni-Mae B. Rauch - May 27, 2022 at 08:41 AM

AO

“GARIN, I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR OF JERRY'S PASSING.
THINKING OF YOU DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. GOD BLESS
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

AMY ORN

AMY JO ORN - May 26, 2022 at 07:59 PM