



Austin Joseph Durham

June 12, 1986 - February 8, 2025

DURHAM, Austin Joseph "Hookah Joe". February 8, 2025. Age 38.

"You can only be embarrassed if YOU feel embarrassed"

Beloved husband of Stella (nee: Genova). Loving son of Dale and Lynette Durham (nee: Wilkoff). Dearest brother of Stephen Durham (Valerie), Orion Durham (Rebecca), Connor Durham (fiance' Haven Lopez) and Andrew (Kim) Genova. Very proud uncle of Kendall & Declan Durham, Luke Genova, and Angela Abouzahr (Mohammed).

He was the most devoted dogfather of his cherished dogs Oberon and Zaya as well as the late Gunner, Spartacus, and Zatarra.

Austin proudly served in the United States Marines Corps.

Austin was simply vivacious. He challenged and brought out the best in every one he met with his larger than life personality.

He loved his family which was inclusive of his wonderful friends and countless acquaintances and he took great pleasure in cooking and hosting his famous Friday Night dinners. He enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities to include hunting, fishing, golfing and camping. He played hockey up until a few years

ago and was a huge Lions and music fan.

Austin and his wife were very passionate about their involvement in the pirate, renaissance, reenactment, convention, and ghost hunting communities. An amazing showman, 'Keeper of the Code', chief cannoneer, & frontman of the Brethren of the Great Lakes. His stage name was Hookah Joe and along with his wife 'Morgan' had countless outstanding adventures together selling medieval weapons and enjoying life. They were huge supporters of RenRescu charity as well. He had the biggest heart and would give you the shirt off his back.

Austin's greatest dream was to open a dog sanctuary to train rescue dogs for veterans suffering with disabilities like himself.

He was Stella's hero, her everything, her world and will truly never be forgotten.

Visitation Saturday 2-9pm with 7pm military honor rendered by the United States Marine Corps at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile), Sterling Heights.

Due to his father's respiratory condition, the family kindly requests NO FLOWERS BE SENT; in lieu of flowers memorial contributions to the family are appreciated. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Military Honors

FEB **15**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall

LO

“ Are you looking for a business loan, personal loan? Or have you been denied a loan by a bank or financial institution for one or more reasons? Don't give up on your financing solutions! I am a private lender who provides loans to individuals at a low and affordable interest rate of 2%. Interested? Contact us to process your loan and receive the funds within 48 hours. Contact: (Zenithloanfirmsservice[A]gmail com)

LOAN OFFICER - January 30 at 11:35 AM

MP

“ Austin helped at “Things From Rings” 4 years ago, when Judy passed away. He helped at our booth the whole weekend. I remember like it was yesterday, hearing him talk to the patrons. He was a great man, friend and will be sorely missed!

Marjorie Phipps - February 15, 2025 at 03:55 PM

BC

“ Austin Hookahjoe Durham and Stella(Morgan)were my first ever Pirate friends. I met Austin at the Pirate festival in Grand Haven Mi. Sword fight, storytelling and how to talk like a pirate at the Grand Haven Library. From there on a Pirate I became. Austin was always kind thanks for the great adventures from Ren Fair to Shiver me timbers.
You will be missed
Sending love and light to all

Bonnie Cooney - February 15, 2025 at 01:34 PM

BC

“ Sending love and light to the family. Austin and Stella (Morgan) were the first Pirate friends I made. I met Austin and Stella at the pirate festival in Grand Haven Mi . Storytelling and sword fight and how to talk like a pirate at the Library. Great times and cherished memories. All Ren faires and shiver me timbers. R I P Austin



Bonnie Cooney - February 15, 2025 at 01:27 PM

DR

“ David R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Austin Joseph Durham.

David R. - February 15, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Austin Joseph Durham.



February 14, 2025 at 02:37 PM

EC

“ It is impossible to decide which memory to share, so instead, I just want to say how very deeply he is, and always will be, missed. Austin will always be loved; never forgotten. His memory will be cherished forever.



Elizabeth Conrad - February 14, 2025 at 12:51 PM

EC

“ Elizabeth C. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Austin Joseph Durham.

Elizabeth C. - February 14, 2025 at 12:46 PM

BM

“ Austin is my friend. Still is. Feels like I just saw him and Stel yesterday. Always feels that way. Always end up talking for hours and hours after we call it a night. I did pirate weddings on my show and told Hookah Joe we were getting married. He accepted and now we're married! Still counts Stella! My sister husband. Love you both from here to the horizon and all the way to the other side.

~Captain Thee Bluebeard
Just Blue



Brian 'Blue' Daniel Miskelley - February 13, 2025 at 10:45 AM



“ I remember a long time ago when we first met I was just a Pirate at faire. We had sit and talked for a while at that point I knew he was a Great person. I could talk to him about anything and he would listen and would give me his thoughts. Over the past few years we didn't have any talks I wish we had. I became a ship Captain and did more stuff with my crew. BIG BIG BIG HUGS AND LOVE SENT to the family! Hookah was a very Good Man and Loved by all. You will be missed by everyone but I know the Lord has took you into heaven! Love ya bud!!

Tim Elswick - February 12, 2025 at 09:17 PM

SF

“ STAR Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Austin Joseph Durham.



STAR Family - February 12, 2025 at 10:12 AM

SF

“ STAR Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Austin Joseph Durham.

STAR Family - February 12, 2025 at 10:12 AM

BB

“ I remember back in 2010 when Brian Edward’s and I won the Pirate Olympics, AJ came in second. Well I was just getting to know everyone at Faire back then and over heard Lynette say: hey want to get under his skin, call him AJ. I said fair game! I shouted over the axe throwing area and said: AJ check this out. Of course I missed the shot but hey. AJ gave me the look of death, then came over and said: “okay Gary’s little baby cousin is this how we are doing things?” I said yep and always called him AJ and he always called me Gary’s little baby cousin.
Stella, Lynette and Dale, I will always miss and remember AJ

Becca Boss - February 11, 2025 at 10:22 PM

SF

“ Austin was a friend for years. Always smiling and ready for the next adventure. Austin became a member of Knyaz USA Medieval Fighting Club and he was a quick study with a sword and grappling. Without him we wouldn’t have had as successful performances at Hollygrove with the Knights of the New Order. He brought the spark back for me in the sport as he did with so many other activities for so many other people. He was a proud Marine and made me feel good about my service. He is the embodiment of positivity and I will always do my best to make him proud.



Sean Fabian - February 11, 2025 at 09:28 PM

RH

“ Austin was vivacious. He was one of those folks who just made the day better. I will never forget the day my brother (Brian) got him to intercede on his behalf to get a vendor to sell him a beautiful leather jerkin at a substantial discount.

He was outgoing and giving and always a pleasure to be around.

You will be missed. You had a big heart and a generous nature.

Richard B. Hargan - February 11, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Austin Joseph Durham.



February 11, 2025 at 09:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Austin Joseph Durham.

February 11, 2025 at 09:14 PM

MP

“ Mary Ponce purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Austin Joseph Durham.



Mary Ponce - February 11, 2025 at 03:31 PM

MP

“ *Mary Ponce planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Austin Joseph Durham.*

Mary Ponce - February 11, 2025 at 03:31 PM