



William "Will" Leroy Polen

April 12, 1968 - December 27, 2021

William Leroy "Will" Polen, 53, passed away on Monday, December 27, 2021 at 10:36 PM in his home surrounded by a loving family, after a courageous battle with plasmablastic lymphoma. He was born April 12, 1968 in Oquawka, Illinois, the son of Dale and Carol (Hainline) Polen. He is survived by his adored daughters, Brooklyn Polen and Zoé Polen; his beloved granddaughter, Aria Polen; his devoted partner, Melody Martin; his "bonus" children, Jonathon Gibson and Katelyn Gibson; sister, Connie Polen; brother, Dale Polen Jr; and his precious pets, Lulu, Daisy, and Shadow. Preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Will proudly served in the United States Navy for thirteen years. He was a member of the Black Stallions, an elite Combat Support Squadron, and served during Operation Desert Storm and the Gulf War. He always proudly said, that even though he was in the Navy, he only spent three days of his service on a ship. He was a highly decorated veteran who recalled his times in the military very fondly. Will was a Welding Quality Engineer after leaving the military, and an avid fan and collector of Star Wars memorabilia for many years. He loved sports, especially watching the Chicago Bears and Cubs, and was thrilled to see the Cubs win the world series for the first time. Will loved math and science, and diligently followed current events. People tenderly remember Will's incredible sense of humor.

Per Will's wishes there will be no service, the family will hold a private celebration of life at a later date.

If you would like to honor Will's memory, please consider making a donation in his name to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Tribute Wall

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“ I served with Will in the Navy in the world famous HC4 Black Stallions at NAS Sigonella, Sicily. Lots of people that were in the squadron together just found out about his passing. Will was well respected in the squadron . His knowledge of the aircraft systems was unparalleled. His outgoing personality and his love for music was something I Will hold in my memories forever. My condolences to his family. Fair winds and following seas my brother. From the Black Stallion family to your family it was our pleasure to serve with you.

Terry Burleyson - April 08, 2024 at 08:36 PM