



Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr

September 6, 1966 - December 20, 2023

Daniel Edward Darnstaedt Sr "Big Dan" of Mooresville, NC, formerly of Westbrook, CT passed away unexpectedly at 57, on December 20, 2023. Big Dan was currently working as a Foreman for James River Equipment in Charlotte, NC when he passed away. He loved his job and the work family he had acquired there over the last 8+ years.

Prior to moving to NC from CT in 2015, Dan had worked for Bell Power Systems. He enjoyed all of his John Deere education and felt he could never know enough about them.

Big Dan was always passionate about racing. He raced for many years at Waterford Speedbowl where him and his team helped build a division and went on to win a multitude of races. His team motto of "get by with a little help from your friends" became a way of life. Big Dan was well respected by many fans, fellow racers and friends at the "Bowl".

In 2005, Big Dan and his family joined Silver City Quarter Midget Club where he loved nothing more than watching his kids, Dan Jr and Raegan, as well as ALL of the other kids on the track. It was never about the politics of racing, or the competition, his focus was always about the kids making memories that would last forever. He worked on everyone's car, he helped out anyone he could. Big Dan loved playing football in the infield after the races were over, he listened to stories the kids told and they listened to his stories about his racing. To know him was to love him and to love him was to be loved by him. Big Dan touched so many lives with his kindness, support and his "Big" heart.

He had an infectious smile and laugh and was truly "One of the Good Guys"

Big Dan was preceded in death by his parents; Judith Marion Carter (Parsons), and David Spencer Darnstaedt, and Nephew, William Miller.

Big Dan is survived by his Wife, his Soulmate, his Best Friend Lori Darnstaedt (Miller), Son, Daniel Darnstaedt II (Alexandria), Granddaughters Valerie and Terra Darnstaedt, Daughter, Raegan Olmsted (Andrew Foreman), Brother, William Darnstaedt (Tina), Nieces Rebecca Miller Duval (Andy) Great Nephew AJ Duval, Niece, Jessica Darnstaedt , Brother, Robert Carter (Mindy), Nieces Megan and Carry Carter, Sister in law, Leanne Gnyp (Mark), Nephews, Matthew Dahlmeyer, Frank Dahlmeyer (Valerie), Great Niece, Faye Dahlmeyer, Great Nephew, Miles Dahlmeyer), Brother-in-law, Ronnie Miller(Kelly Zito) and many more loving family, and friends who quickly became family.

Visitation will be held for friends and family on Thursday, December 28, at Cavin-Cook Funeral home in Mooresville from 4pm to 7pm. We will also be holding a celebration of life for friends and family in Connecticut at a later date, details to follow.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you make a donation to a charity of your choice in honor of Big Dan.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Darnstaedt family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

DEC 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Tracey Fuller Morin lit a candle in memory of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr



Tracey Fuller Morin - December 30, 2023 at 10:19 AM

CC

“ Christine Calkins lit a candle in memory of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr



Christine Calkins - December 29, 2023 at 05:04 PM

JO

“ Joe lit a candle in memory of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr



joe - December 28, 2023 at 04:43 PM

TJ

“ Dan was one of the first to introduce himself when I started at JRE he was always willing to help the new guy Dan will be greatly missed RIP Big Dan

Terry Johnson - December 28, 2023 at 04:23 PM

MA

“ *Michael Annunziata lit a candle in memory of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr*



Michael Annunziata - December 28, 2023 at 04:09 PM

JF

“ *Jeremy Merrick & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.*

Jeremy Merrick & Family - December 28, 2023 at 01:20 PM

JF

“ *Jeremy Merrick & Family purchased the Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin for the family of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.*



Jeremy Merrick & Family - December 28, 2023 at 01:20 PM

JM

“ I worked with Dan for 7 years, 4 of which we worked together every day as Shop Foremans. Dan was one of the kindest, friendliest people I have met. Always willing to lend a hand and help out. He was terrific to work with and I am grateful to have worked with Dan for so many years. He was a super hard worker and wasn't one to complain about getting into his work. Tough as an ox. He loved racing and you could tell it was in his blood. He never missed an opportunity to goose the throttle in his truck or spin the tires and have his truck sideways for some good ole' fashioned red-blooded fun. I was speechless when I heard the news. He was the last person at JRE I talked to that night and it just seems unreal. Dan's absence will be greatly missed, he was part of the fabric of JRE Charlotte. Thank you Dan for your friendship. I will miss you. - Jeremy

Jeremy M. - December 28, 2023 at 01:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.

December 28, 2023 at 11:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.



December 28, 2023 at 11:47 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.*



December 27, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.

December 27, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Rose Impression Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.*



December 27, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.*



December 27, 2023 at 07:11 AM

AP

“ Adam P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Edward Darnstaedt, Sr.

Adam P. - December 24, 2023 at 09:06 PM

SP

“ Lori, My Work Mama- I am here for you always and I want you to know that I am sending you all of my love and condolences. I only met Big Dan in brief instances when he came to the office but when talking to Lori about the love that they shared and Getting all the updates on his treatments I felt like I knew him forever. To the family and friends affected by his passing, know that he is with you everyday in your heart and will be your guardian angel. His memory will live on forever and be cherished to no end. May you rest in peace Big Dan. ❤️

Sophie Powell - December 24, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MS

I worked with Dan for many many years at Bell Power Systems..he is a great guy that will be greatly missed....RIP Big Dan

Mark Swiridowsky - December 24, 2023 at 09:02 PM