



## Douglas Mitchell Manning

April 13, 1951 - June 9, 2019

Douglas Mitchell Manning, an avid outdoorsman, hunter, sailor and connoisseur of fine colas, departed this life unexpectedly on June 9, 2019. Doug was born April 13th 1951 to Robert and Dorothy (Birdsey) Manning. He graduated from Glen Lake Community Schools and earned a BA from Michigan State University with a degree in Resource Management. At MSU he honed his skills in event organization as Resident Advisor with the "Big Empire Campout" as a prime example. MSU provided Doug many friends and co-conspirators for life. Mr. Manning entered the Coast Guard and ascended to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Being a Coastie gave Doug the opportunity to travel and live in several different areas of the country as well as the material for many great stories about sailing in freezing rain and snow and swimming rescue missions through 20 foot waves. Douglas married Beth Kaelson in October, 1987. The two formed a perfect couple traveling extensively throughout the country. After the Guard, Doug sold real estate in the Glen Lake area and sailed Lake Michigan. Doug spent the last several years as an estate manager on Glen Lake, wandering the sands with his dogs.

Mr. Manning was one of the most outgoing people in the world, making friends at every port. He knew and could tell stories about each and every one of them. He spent an enormous amount of time and effort keeping in touch with friends: many will remember getting random postcards and phone calls from him from wherever his travels led. He always had time to talk, always listened and was quick with a smile and wink.

Doug treasured his time hunting, walking in the wild in search of the ever elusive big game. He led group hunts, enlisted new recruits to his beloved sport, taught his nephews and friends the basics of gun safety and constantly shared his joy of the hunt.

His stories of growing up in Empire and service in the Coast Guard, hunting and sailing adventures will be repeated and bring smiles and laughter for years to come. He was a proud American and a strong supporter of individual freedoms.

Douglas is survived by his wife, Beth Kaelson, his mother, Dorothy Manning of Empire,

two sisters: Cheryl Manning (Empire), and Victoria Manning Brunjes (Peter) of Charlottesville, Virginia and sister-in-law, Carol Peters Manning (Empire), and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Robert H. Manning and his brother, Robert F. Manning both of Empire.

A celebration of Doug's life will be held at the Empire Township Hall, Friday, June 14th, at 1:00 PM. Bring your stories to share.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wounded Warrior Project or a veteran's organization of your choice.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Doug's family at his tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Events

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## **JUN** **Celebration of Life**

**14**

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Empire Township Hall

10088 W. Front Street, Empire, MI, US, 49630

# Comments

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“ I first met Doug when I contacted his Realty office in Glen Arbor regarding a vacant lot for sale. When he asked me what I intended to do with the property, I replied I was looking for a lot large enough to bury my sailboat which I couldn't sell and wanted to get rid of! He got such a kick out of this, ... being a sailor himself, as he confessed, and we immediately struck up a friendship that lasted through many seasons, sailing trips, and boat deliveries on Lake Michigan( a very memorable one with Ted Peterson's "Brigitta"). He later mentored me through the complexities of selling my late parents home,(by owner)for which I will be forever grateful. My wife Judith and I got out of touch with Doug and Beth the last few years but they were never forgotten. I was stunned to learn of his death, after reading a week -old Enterprise and would not have missed his memorial for the world -had I known about it in time- which I heartfully regret!

Fair winds, Mate, and may God keep you in His lee!  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you Beth, and may life be kind to you.

Bill McKinley & Judith Briggs [mckhill845@gmail.com](mailto:mckhill845@gmail.com)

**bill mckinley** - June 21, 2019 at 03:57 PM

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“ My family got to know Doug over the past few years when visiting Glen Arbor each summer. Doug and my brother Scott developed a strong friendship, and we were fortunate to get to know Doug as a result. Doug was extremely kind to my son Brandon. In fact, it's very unusual for a teenager to get up early during the summer, but Brandon didn't want to miss early morning coffee because Doug would be there. Over the years we learned that Doug was a very kind, generous and loving person. Our summer visits will never be the same. Our time with Doug will truly be missed!

Kim, Jan, Brandon and Alexis Hibbs  
St. Louis, Missouri

**Kim Hibbs** - June 17, 2019 at 10:53 AM

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“ Ralph - while I say to you how sorry I am about Doug, your best friend and to Beth, his wife, I also say it to myself. I will always have love in my heart for all of us who met at MSU and shared the special bond of being a family. You know who you are. Doug was a major character in that story of "our coming of age," Doug had a charisma along with a natural love of life and the ability to bring people together. He was bright and funny. He was decent, kind and generous. Doug introduced many of us to this piece of heaven called Empire. He was loved by everyone who came here today to honor him and by those of us unable to be there. My life was enhanced knowing Doug and I am sorry for us all who feel his absence. He will live forever in our hearts. N. Ciolek

**Nancy Ciolek** - June 16, 2019 at 02:02 PM

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“ Rest in peace old friend.



**Linda & Richard Overmyer** - June 13, 2019 at 05:56 PM

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“ From the beginning of meeting Doug he took a special interest in me. He seen past my exterior and seemed to be able to find a way to encourage me when I couldn't encourage myself.

No matter if it was a hunting trip, a big fancy special lunch or just coffee he made me always feel like an honored guest.

Right from the beginning I felt like an incredibly close friend of his that I had known for many years. And after knowing him for many years it's hard to imagine wild game lunches or hunting trips without him.

Doug taught me how to share all the things that I love and hold close to my heart. Not only how to share things I own but also how to better share myself and encourage others. And he did all that without saying a word just being a great example.

And he used many many many many words but I never felt like I wasn't involved and part of the conversation even if I couldn't get a word in.

I think just like most people that he met he made everybody feel noticed, heard and valued.

Which is an incredibly hardest thing to do coming from a man that love to hear his own voice. And yet there was no doubt that he heard and cared about every word that I said.

I miss him more like a brother then a friend. There were things that he taught me just by the way he lived his life. Things that I believe have made me a better friend, a better husband, a better father and for sure a better storyteller.

**Pete Yuresko** - June 13, 2019 at 09:31 AM



“ So well stated..Love this..

**Jan R Semple** - June 13, 2019 at 07:53 PM

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“ Like his father before him, bigger than life in the eyes of a 12 year old. Even as I grew older, he still remained larger than life. I am so happy that my sister (with help from the Lambkin girls) coaxed him to ride in the back of a truck during an Anchor Day parade. Celebrating his role in finding that anchor. Full of life, stories, laughter and a heart as big as the sky.

Maggie Bacon

**Maggie** - June 12, 2019 at 03:33 PM

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“ After more than 45 years of friendship, I'll never forget Doug. He'll forever be one of my favorite people on the planet. Rest in peace, my friend.

Mary Alice Patton

**May Alice Patton** - June 12, 2019 at 12:02 PM

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“ Beth,  
Our hearts go out to you and We wish you nothing but comfort and strength in the coming days.  
Love and prayers for you and family,  
Joel, Gail and Issy

**Gail Mars** - June 12, 2019 at 09:50 AM

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“ Kyle Dwyer lit a candle in memory of Douglas Mitchell Manning



**Kyle Dwyer** - June 11, 2019 at 12:42 PM

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“ Our Friend Doug Manning

For years our dear friend Doug anchored our morning coffee group on the patio at Leelanau Roasting Company. His outgoing friendliness made everyone welcome. Our coffee sessions were regaled with his many fun stories and he had a lot of them. Beyond the stories he shared his knowledge of so many things with us. If we needed advice on how to do just about anything, he would share his experience. He always had us laughing. We will miss our dear friend but also carry all the wonderful memories which will now be so cherished. Thanks Doug for being exactly who you are still to us, a larger than life special friend.

Mike and Greg Binsfeld

**Greg Binsfeld** - June 11, 2019 at 11:33 AM

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“ I only met Doug once; he showed up at one of the monthly birthday lunches his Mother and many others attended. I think he just came in to say hi to his Mom and to make all of the ladies laugh with his stories; he seemed to know most of them and he had the whole table (around 15 ladies) in stitches. This man was clearly a "light" on a gloomy day. He will be missed by many.

**Debe Ragan** - June 11, 2019 at 06:45 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**john hoffman** - June 10, 2019 at 11:38 PM

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“ Doug and Sandy Koufax



Bill - June 10, 2019 at 06:59 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mike Binsfeld - June 10, 2019 at 04:05 PM