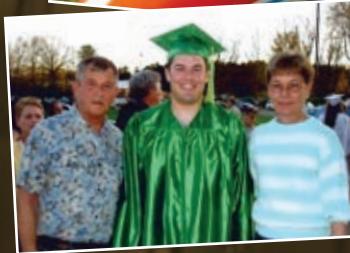


# Drew Stowell

October 13, 1948 - March 6, 2016





## *Drew's Life Story*

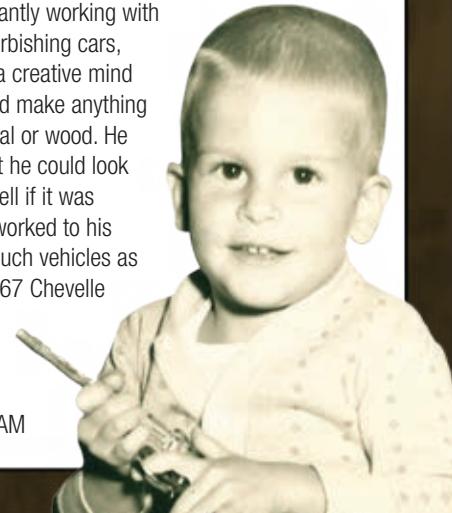
Drew Stowell was a great family man, loyal friend and ingenious worker. He seemed to be one step ahead of everyone whether he was working on a project or planning a prank. His craftsmanship was visible on many buildings and vehicles, and reaction to his quick wit and humor could be seen on the faces of family and friends. He could get anyone to laugh. Above all, Drew loved his wife, children and grandchildren and had all the time in the world for them.

Drew was born to Lester and Betty (Wilcox) Stowell on October 13, 1948 at a time of optimism in the United States, when a war-weary nation was recovering from WWII. With an energy never experienced before, industry expanded to meet peacetime needs. Americans began buying goods not available during the war, which created corporate expansion and jobs. Growth was everywhere and the baby boom was underway.

Drew's story began in Anchorage, Alaska, a land that holds a ruggedness and frontier spirit that also marked Drew's life. He enjoyed the outdoors, was skilled at working with his hands, took risks and was constantly on the go. He underwent the rigors of Wentworth Military Academy, graduated in 1967 and was drafted into the US Army in 1969 during the Vietnam War. His fascination with military airplanes was intensified years later when he rode on a B-17 Flying Fortress with his son. At one point, Drew took flying lessons and advanced all the way to the pilot's test, only to be rejected because of colorblindness.

After completing his military duty, Drew earned his tool-and-die journeyman's card and went to work for Tower Automotive. It was a job he would keep for 30 years before retiring from his master craft. Yet whether he was on the clock or on his own time, Drew was constantly working with metal, making motors, refurbishing cars, doing electrical work. With a creative mind and detailed eye, Drew could make anything anyone asked for out of metal or wood. He was such a perfectionist that he could look at an item and immediately tell if it was off-center. All that precision worked to his advantage when he restored such vehicles as a 1978 Vet, a Harley Davidson, a 1967 Chevelle SS and a 1931 Model-A Ford.

In addition to classic cars, Drew collected guns and was a Reloaded Ammunition hobbyist as well as a HAM





Radio Operator. Throughout his life, he continued to enjoy his hobbies and the out-of-doors.

His wife Bev appeared in his life when Drew was hospitalized with a broken knee after crashing his LeMans, and Bev was working in the X-ray department at Carson City Hospital. They began dating and were married five years later. Their lives were enriched by the births of their two daughters, Kami and Carrie, and their son Brandon, who became Drew's partner in many ways. Over the years, the two enjoyed "shop talk" and cruising around Crystal in Drew's 1967 Chevelle. They were known to drag race on Waldron Road and 522 and even "outran" police a few times.

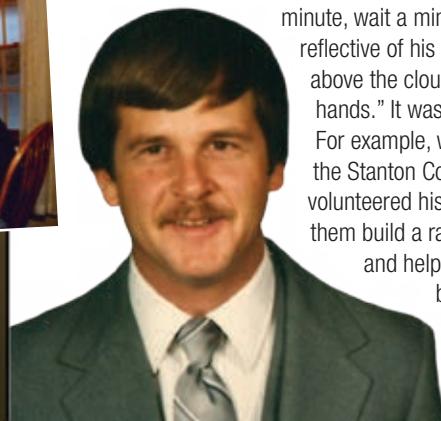
The move to Lake Stanton in 1976 meant Drew had home improvement work to do for years to come. Never one to sit still, he added out-buildings to the small cottage, doing the interior, electrical and finish work himself. For 39 years, he kept developing the cottage and turned it into a family home with such pride and passion that, even when Bev was pregnant, he had her in a rowboat pulling weeds and lily pads out of the lake.

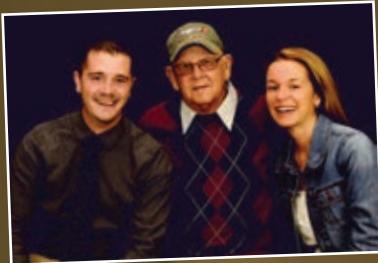
Drew loved to sail and water ski, and up to age 65 he was still going slalom skiing behind a jet ski at Clifford Lake. He played games with family and friends along with Euchre and Texas Hold-em with his Lake buddies, Norm, Roger, Fred, Joe and Denny. Truth be told, Drew was even more entertained by the results of his practical jokes. To scare his daughter, he put a rubber snake in her clothes basket when she was hanging up clothes and made Big Foot footprints out of wood and "walked" them around her house. He once put a goldfish in a co-workers coffee maker, and after one Thanksgiving dinner at work, he zip-tied the turkey carcass to the grill of his boss' pickup. The boss knew nothing until people started pointing at it as he drove by.

Drew also had playful names for his family: Carrie was Tootsie, Brandon was Bud and Bev was Mamma. They couldn't help but smile as he

cautioned himself while working on a project: "Wait a minute, wait a minute!" His favorite sayings were reflective of his personality: "It's always sunny above the clouds" and "Busy hands are happy hands." It was true of how Drew lived his life. For example, when his son Brandon joined the Stanton Community Fire Department he volunteered his time and shop space to help them build a rack for one of their grass trucks and helped his son built an entire flat bed for the other grass truck.

That's the kind of man Drew was—thoughtful, energetic, caring and generous.





Drew Stowell, age 67 of Stanton, Michigan passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 6, 2016 surrounded by his family. He will be missed by all who knew him but never forgotten by those who loved him.

Drew is survived by his wife, Bev; daughters, Kami Miller of Stanton, Carrie (Brett) Hallihan of Stanton; son, Brandon Stowell of Edmore; sister, Patti (Tom) Birch of Bay City; grandchildren, Kavin Miller of Stanton, Kelsie Stowell of Edmore, Jax Hallihan of Stanton and a soon to be born Granddaughter.

Drew is also survived by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Dick & Diane Bannister of Stanton and Bill & Janet Topper of Cornersville, Tennessee.

Drew's parents, Lester and Betty (Wilcox) Stowell, preceded him in death as did his sister, Jane Sheets.



Visitation with Drew's family is being held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at the Simpson Family Funeral Home in Sheridan.

Funeral services are being held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the Stanton First Congregational Church (305 N. Camburn Street, Stanton) beginning at 1 PM with Pastor Jamey Nichols officiating. Final interment will be at Forest Hill Cemetery in Stanton.

For those wanting to make a memorial donation in Drew's memory, the family is asking for donations to help finish Drew's dream car, a 1931 Model A, which he started to restore in 2002 and envelopes will be available at both the funeral home and church.

To order flowers, leave an online condolence or share a favorite memory, please go to [www.SimpsonFamilyFuneralHomes.com](http://SimpsonFamilyFuneralHomes.com)



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