



## Derek Walker

March 31, 1985 - November 11, 2024

Derek Walker, age 39, passed away suddenly on Monday, November 11, 2024, in Utica, Michigan. Born on March 31, 1985, in San Antonio, Texas, Derek moved to Michigan with his family as a young man and graduated from Sterling Heights Stevenson High School in 2003. He pursued a career in facilities engineering, earning an HVACR Certificate from Macomb Community College. For the past six years, he was a valued member of the Facilities Engineering Department at Krogers, where he specialized in heating, cooling, and refrigeration systems.

Derek was a man of many talents and passions. A skilled craftsman, he had a love for sculpting and carving metal, wood, and copper, often transforming old iron pipes into unique lamps. He found peace and pride in his backyard, always tinkering, gardening, and caring for the plants that surrounded his home. Camping with his family in their camper brought him great joy, as did his cherished annual visits to the Michigan Renaissance Festival, where he could lose himself in the spirit of a bygone era.

Derek married his high school sweetheart, Adrienne (nee Brady), with whom he shared a bond that spanned 22 years and 17 years of marriage. He was a devoted husband and a loving father to their son, Liam. He was also the beloved son of Beth (Kevin) Shepard and Dennis Walker, and a cherished brother to Michelle (Evan) Shawver. Derek leaves behind his nieces and

nephews, Evan, Addison, Emmett, and Mariam, who adored their "Uncle Derek." He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Shelley (the late John) Brady, brother-in-law Matt (Nicole) Brady, and grandmother Ruth (the late Gerald) Harris.

Derek's warmth, kindness, and creativity touched all who knew him. His memory will live on in the many lives he impacted and in the small but meaningful creations he left behind, each a testament to his unique spirit. His family and friends will forever miss his humor, his gentle heart, and his unwavering loyalty.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Derek's life on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home 8459 Hall Road, (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica from 2-5pm with a celebration of life service at 4pm.

In honor of Derek his family is requesting donations to any Mental Health Organization.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Celebration of Life gathering

NOV **16**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

### Celebration of Life Service

NOV **16**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ *Derek, you are loved and will be missed by many. Family reunions will not ever be the same without you there. Both you and Adrienne threw the best Halloween themed reunion in 2022, and it's one myself, nor my daughter, will never forget. You were always someone I knew I could talk to at reunions, I always loved seeing your crafts, as you were awesome at anything you made. I will miss you.*

*- Seth Walker + family*

---

**Seth Walker** - November 15, 2024 at 07:46 PM

JA

*We weren't very close as second cousins but I grieve the loss of you every day. You're so missed, Derek.*

---

**jasmine** - March 08 at 08:35 PM