



Samuel A. Ball

August 13, 1964 - September 28, 2012

ADRIAN – Samuel A. Ball, 48, of Blissfield, passed away September 28, 2012, at the Hospice of Lenawee Residence.

Born August 13, 1964, in Royal Oak, MI, he is the son of Donald and Bettye (Parris) Ball. Sam graduated from Adrian High School in 1983. He served in the Navy from 1984 to 1993. March 21, 1992, Sam and Tamara Marquez were married in Hawaii, and she survives.

Sam worked as an engineer in various companies. He was a faithful member of Grace Point EFC, serving as a Deacon. Sam was passionate about kayaking, swimming and long boarding.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by their children, Parker and Emma; his father, Donald of Adrian; sisters, Cynthia (Sam) Reynolds, Michele (Jamie Bloemendaal) Ball-Navarro, and Janice Gossman all of Adrian; and Nancy (Steve) Karpo of Tipton, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother.

A Celebration of Life service for Sam will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012, at Grace Point EFC in Adrian with Rev. John Trimble officiating. Military honors will be conducted by the Annis Fint VFW Post #1584. Contributions in memory of Sam may be made to his family. Condolences are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Previous Events

Service

OCT 7. 9:45 AM (ET)

First Christian Church
2667 Bent Oak Hwy.
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Samuel A. Ball*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I did not know Mr. Ball personally, unfortunately he went to be with the Lord before I got to meet him but I know Mrs. Ball, Parker, and Emma. I wish I would have gotten a chance to meet and know him, from what I've heard he was a wonderful person, and a great husband and father. All the things I heard about him were good. I know he would be proud of his family. Mrs. Ball is such a fun, loving, Beautiful woman and Christian, a hard worker and a good mom, Parker is such a hard worker in everything he does, he is turning into such a wonderful man, and Emma is an active, strong, talented young lady. They are inspiring because they just keep going and trusting in God. I am so glad they are apart of my life. I will be praying for you in the good and bad times. Love in Christ.*

Amaris Polyblank - September 04, 2013 at 10:41 PM



“ *To Sam's Family and to his sisters, Cindy, Michelle, Jan and Nancy ... Lisa just told me about your brother and I'm very sorry -- He will go immediately to heaven because he had to grow up with all those SISTERS! I feel close to you guys so this is like losing a member of the family. God bless you all. Kevin and Chris Wagner kevin.wagner58@hotmail.com*

Kevin Wagner - November 26, 2012 at 10:01 PM

LH

“ *Lynn M. Herrick lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



Lynn M. Herrick - October 10, 2012 at 07:51 AM

SS

“ *Tamara, Parker & Emma,
My sincere sympathies to everyone on the loss of your husband,
father.
I did not know until Mindy told me about it. My heart goes out to you!
Sam is in a better place, but that does not fill the void you feel. I am
soo sorry. Will remember you in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Hugs & Prayers,
Sally (Goetz) Schwamm*

Sally Schwamm - October 06, 2012 at 04:13 PM



“ If I were to try to describe Sam Ball, I would call him gentle but fiery, a quiet and mighty warrior. In the short time that I have come to know Sam, he has come to be for me the definition of the term "iron man" -- as in a decathlon athlete who excels in multiple back-to-back events and is able to consistently push himself well beyond the limits of other men. He loved God, and he enjoyed pushing himself physically and mentally.

When I think of Sam, I think of David's words in Psalm 18: "For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall... the God Who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand supported me, and Your gentleness made me great. You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip."

Sam was strong and determined, always active, never giving up. Each time he encountered an obstacle, he would trust God and quietly but doggedly set about getting past it. I never saw Sam throw up his hands in defeat; he always trusted God and moved forward, and he kept a great sense of humor and a quiet intensity through it all.

I saw this as Sam lost several jobs, through no fault of his own, at critical times; as he worked through financial struggles; as he dealt with repeated bouts of cancer and various treatments. He never lost the fire to be back on his feet, and he remained actively involved -- with his family and with those around him.

People who knew Sam were all surprised to see his body succumb to cancer over the past months and for God to take him home. Everyone was confident that Sam, with God's enablement, would come through it victoriously, and it seemed that he didn't. But so it is with every man in this life. Our bodies do wear out and fail us. With

Sam it simply seemed to come out of nowhere and take him away suddenly.

Nevertheless, because of Christ this truly was a temporary setback for Sam. He is now stronger, more determined, healthier, in greater humor, and more zealous than ever before. He is living in the very presence of his Lord, beholding His Savior face-to-face, and free from all suffering and all painful struggles. Sam has gone on to the extreme extension of the strengths he possessed in this life.

Sam's short chapter of disability is like a single sonar blip in the course of his whole life. It does not define who Sam Ball was or is. He has always been a quiet and mighty warrior, and he remains one now forever. That is how I will always think of Sam.

Doug Sawyer - for the Sawyer family

Doug Sawyer - October 04, 2012 at 10:19 PM

KG

“ *Kimberly Gunn lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



Kimberly Gunn - October 04, 2012 at 02:52 PM

SS

“ *Sherri Haviland Stemple lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



Sherri Haviland Stemple - October 03, 2012 at 07:19 PM

CJ

“ Corey Johnson purchased the *In Memory - Model es Candle Holder* for the family of Samuel A. Ball.



Corey Johnson - October 03, 2012 at 02:33 PM

“ Walking Along Side in Life's Ups and Downs

The first time we meet the Ball family was at my daughter Christina's art lessons at Adrian college. Parker had an art lesson just before ours and occasionally the teacher would have them take a class together. I think the first time we met Sam was at an art exhibit that Christina and Parker had at "Sounds of Light" Christian Bookstore. It was Christina's birthday, so we had a party during the exhibit. The Ball family joined the fun like we had known them for a long time.

The next few years we became better acquainted through a mutual homeschool group where Sam and Tamara served very faithfully as board members. One year at a homeschool INCH conference Tamara shared a room with me and a few other women. That year her testimony about food sensitivities and cross body exercises helped me so much with some questions I had about someone in my family who had similar needs. Our conversations throughout the weekend often revolved around family; as Tamara shared I concluded Sam was a very caring and committed husband and father.

During a homeschool campout we discovered Sam's love for swimming when he agreed to swim across the lake with another parent and my two daughters who wanted to see if they could meet this challenge. Tamara and I stayed on shore taking pictures and cheering them on while my husband rowed along side in case someone got tired. This is a favorite memory for girls and would have become a tradition if Somerset had not changed their policy and denied them doing it again the next year.

Three years ago after taking a sabbatical from our home church we returned to Grace Point EFC and found the Ball family had begun attending there in our absence. My husband Doug and Sam became closer friends while attending the Men's Faternity Sunday school class together. The girls and I worked with Parker a few times on an Operation Christmas Child crew which both our families participated in.

A year ago Sam and Tamara, Doug and I were part of a Council that

began a new homeschool group in Lenawee County. During this time Doug and Sam enjoyed attending Men's Saturday Fellowship together once a month. Sam, whom I always thought was very quiet and soft spoken became very animated when standing for principles that were right and true. He modeled being a man of integrity as we dealt with some very difficult issues and pursued a new beginning. We also watched Sam and Tamara continually be very kind and generous with others, even while going through Sam's treatments for cancer and being unemployed. My sister started treatments for throat cancer the day Sam ended his treatments and while at home recovering he remembered having points to stay in a hotel from work. Sam made a reservation for my girls and I with these points so I could visit my sister (12 hours away) and not have to drive all the way home without a rest. Sam asked often how my sister was doing and reminded us he was praying for her. Sam comforted others with the knowledge of what it was to suffer through pain himself.

One afternoon Sam came to pick up Tamara at our home after we returned from berry picking and my husband was puzzling over installing a latch on our front door. Sam not only helped him solve the puzzle he stayed until the project was completed. Sam had a gift of coming along side others in their time of need.

Throughout Sam's bouts with cancer we watched Sam remain faithful to his family, friends and relationship with God; never waivering in his commitments. Also, he never gave up up living or in His faith in God's ability to heal him.

Sam has now received his complete healing and as his daughter Emma expressed recently. . . "is probably long boarding in Heaven right now."

*We love you, Tamara, Parker and Emma!
~ Kathi , Doug, Kaitlen and Christina Sawyer*

Kathi Sawyer for the Sawyer family - October 03, 2012 at 12:41 PM

LH

“ Leonard And Darlene Hooker lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Leonard and Darlene Hooker - October 03, 2012 at 11:46 AM

DK

“ We were at my parents house friday night when we heard the news of Sams passing. It is really sad that it takes hearing this kind of devistating news to make us stop and think how important and how big of an impact a person has made on your life. My memories of Sam were all childhood memories. We built a house next to the Ball family when I was about 10, and Sam and I grew up together and became close friends. I was 1 year older than Sam and when I graduated High School, I joined the Air Force in 1982, and spend 2 years in Alaska. When I came home for leave in 1984, I went next door to see Sam and his Mom told me I missed him by 1 day. She said he just left for Navy boot camp. We both spend many years away from the Adrian area, but both eventually came HOME. I really wish that I had made more effort to get back in touch with him again.....for that, I have much regret. To the entire Ball family....You are all in our thoughts and in our prayers.



Dan and Sheri Kern

Dan Kern - October 02, 2012 at 08:11 PM

JD

“ John Dawe lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



John Dawe - October 02, 2012 at 10:18 AM

SW

“ Sally A. Watson sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Sally A. Watson - October 02, 2012 at 09:16 AM

SW

Cindy, Jan and Nancy
So sorry to hear about your brothers passing. My prayers and thoughts are with you all at this most trying time. Fondly, Sally

Sally A. Watson - October 02, 2012 at 09:18 AM

DF

“ Dave Fowler lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Dave Fowler - October 01, 2012 at 09:50 PM

JP

“ I met Sam and his outstanding son Parker through the Boy Scouts. Sam was always thoughtful and kind, and fun to converse with. He was a really great, wonderful man. I am going to miss him. I am so sorry for his family.



John Perry - October 01, 2012 at 06:54 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Samuel A. Ball.



October 01, 2012 at 06:10 PM

LK

“ Lisa Scheuerman Keller lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Lisa Scheuerman Keller - October 01, 2012 at 08:14 AM

JA

“ *When your final dive is made, and your battery's running low,
You'll know there lies a boat for you many fathoms here below,
With your annunciators jammed on full and your depth gauge
needles bent,
Your accumulator's dry of oil and your air banks all are spent,
It's then you get to wondering', "is my life's boat rigged for dive?"
Your guessing drill commences, "am i dead or still alive?"
You pace the flooded decks with scorn and curse the flaws of man.
Into realms of Rex you've stepped, and here you'll make your stand.
To live your life, as sailors must, at the bottom of the sea.
There's one you'll have to reckon-that one, my friend, is thee.
Will your conscience do you justice when the final muster's in?
Did you lead the kind of life you should in every port you've been?
The answers to these questions and many, many more,
Are locked in the hearts of sailor-men from Cannes to Singapore.
So, when your day for mast rolls 'round. the choice is up to you,
Sailor chart your course of life right now. chart it straight and true.
Now's the time to flood your tanks and trim up 'fore and aft.
It's a trifle late when the klaxon sounds to square away your craft.
Your final billet lies below, on "old ocean's" floor.
So, be ready when that last word's passed.
Sailor, rest your oar!
Since you suffer no more.
Shipmate, rest in peace.*

Jose A. Aviles - September 30, 2012 at 10:28 PM

JA

“ *Jose A. Aviles lit a candle in memory of
Samuel A. Ball*



Jose A. Aviles - September 30, 2012 at 10:22 PM

DV

“ Hugs and prayers going to Sam and his family



Donna Vandenberg - September 30, 2012 at 04:47 PM

RF

“ Ranae (Rumler) Farah lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Ranae (Rumler) Farah - September 30, 2012 at 09:24 AM



“ Sam Ball

I met Sam through his son Parker, a curious, quiet, good natured Boy Scout in my son's Troop. Sam, like his son Parker was hard working, thoughtful and purposeful. My favorite memory of Sam is when I was traveling to work one morning on US 23. I had a flat tire and had pulled over to wait for the tow truck. As I was standing beside the car, my phone rang. At the same time I noticed a white truck that had pulled off the road about a quarter mile past me. When I answered the phone it was Sam. He had driven by my car and recognized it and me, I suppose from the many times he had seen me in that car at Boy Scout meetings and events. He immediately asked if I needed help and I informed him that AAA was on the way and thanked him for stopping. THAT WAS SAM! He was always offering to help. Always looking at the bright side of things. When he was out of work, he pushed on with schooling to improve his life and his family's. When Sam became ill, he still presented a smile when I would see him at a scout meeting. Sam is a true model of selflessness and caring for others. He will be missed and fondly remembered. Rest in peace my friend and may God bless and lift up his family in their time of need.



September 30, 2012 at 06:28 AM



“ Mike And Carol Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball



Mike and Carol Reynolds - September 30, 2012 at 12:13 AM



“ *Uncle & Aunt Rachel & Family!!! lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



uncle & Aunt Rachel & Family!!! - September 29, 2012 at 10:09 PM



Tamara, we are thinking of you & we love you very much!!! Sorry we did not get to know Sam that well but we know he was a great Man of God, from what we have read!!! You were truly blessed to have had him as your Husband & Friend!!

uncle & Aunt Rachel & Family!!! - September 29, 2012 at 10:12 PM

RN

“ *Tamara - Adrian and I are praying for you guys. So wish I could be there for the memorial service. Know we will be thinking of you. We love you. Adrian and Rose Ninaber*

Rose Ninaber - September 29, 2012 at 09:58 PM



“ *Years ago I lived on First St in Adrian. My son (John Tourangeau) and Sam were friends. I haven't talked to my son to tell him of Sams passing. John is in Texas working on the southern pipeline. I know even though they haven't talked since they were kids, John would have been would have attended the service for Sam if he were here. I am so sorry to hear Sam passed away. He was a great kid way back then.*

Janice Gebhard - September 29, 2012 at 07:05 PM

KK

“ *Kristie Kerekes-diaz lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



kristie kerekes-diaz - September 29, 2012 at 12:27 PM

KW

“ *Karen Calvin Witt lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



Karen Calvin Witt - September 29, 2012 at 11:52 AM

JH

“ *I had the honor of knowing Sam for many years through our Tecumseh Boy Scout Troop 632. We were on many adventures together along with his son Parker. Sam was a great man, a wonderful father, and a good friend, always willing to help. May the peace of the lord be with his family always.*

John G. Hoag - September 29, 2012 at 11:30 AM

SM

“ Sam and Tamara Ball came into our lives about five years ago. I met Tamara first when she was volunteering as an Upward cheerleading coach when our daughters, Emily and Emma, were both trying out cheerleading for the first (and possibly last) time. The girls became playmates and I eventually met Sam. I remember the day because Sam was working on a household project, possibly painting the exterior dining room window frames, and he stopped what he was doing to come inside and offer me something to drink. He even offered to brew a fresh pot of coffee, if that was my preference. It struck me as odd that a husband in the middle of a messy project would take the time to cater to a guest in his home (by the way, Tamara had already offered me food and drink and I had declined, but Sam didn't know that). I mentioned to Tamara that I found his behavior remarkable and surprising and wondered how a wife gets a husband to act that way! Tamara said, “That's just Sam. He was raised to have really good manners.” It was true, but, there was so much more to Sam than just being a gracious host. He was kind and decent, was always willing to take Emily with him and Emma to the pool or library, and genuinely seemed to be interested and concerned with what was happening in our lives. When he was out of work (through no fault of his own), it was clear he was unhappy with the situation, but publicly handled it with dignity and never lost faith that the Lord's will was at work and that the Lord would provide. Even though the stress of Tamara and Sam's situation during those lean years must have been nearly unbearable, they stuck together as a family to weather out the storm, which demonstrates their incredible commitment to one another, the love that they share, and their faith in God. Also as a testament to their characters, Sam and Tamara didn't retreat into their own lives and dwell on their misfortune. As a family, they lent a helping and supportive hand to others in need, even when they were in need themselves. Personally, I remember when I was in the hospital undergoing chemotherapy and they cheerfully spent their “date night” sitting in my hospital room with me to keep me company. My husband, Sam, and I will miss Sam very much. Putting words in

my husband's mouth, I believe my Sam admired Sam Ball for the man, husband, friend, and Christian that he was. They were good friends and I know my Sam will miss the visits they had. We were very fortunate to have our families be able to share a meal in the short window of opportunity that existed when Sam felt well and could swallow solid foods, I believe it was in June. The Sams talked for hours while Tamara, the kids and I watched a movie. That was the last "good" visit we had with him and we feel so fortunate to have had it.

Life is so fleeting. I feel some of the most important actions we can take are to share our love with others and God, and be part of a caring, supportive community. Sam did these things magnificently well. He lived life the way some of us can only strive to live it. He was a man to respect and admire. May Sam be at peace with the Lord and may God bless Sam's beloved family during this trying time and for the years to come.

Shelly Molaro - September 29, 2012 at 08:35 AM

PR

“ *Pam Wolfe Roark lit a candle in memory of Samuel A. Ball*



Pam Wolfe Roark - September 29, 2012 at 08:06 AM

PR

I will cherish the memories. Prayers to all his family and friends and everyone he touched during his too-short life.

Pam Wolfe Roark - September 29, 2012 at 08:07 AM