

William J. Conway
Sacred Heart High School
Class of 1957



December 1999 -

Duke attended St John's University in Minnesota, graduating in 1961 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. He then went to work for Dunn & Bradstreet in Minneapolis, where he met his future wife, Mona Jensen. Moved to Milwaukee Wisconsin, worked in sales Symons Corporation, a manufacturer and distributor of concrete formwork and related construction materials. After moving with Symons to Michigan, Iowa and finally Denver, Duke rose to the position of Regional Sales manager. In the late 70s, he took a job as National Sales Manager for Japanese Company selling a revolutionary construction bonding agent. After spending time with the Japanese, Duke went back to his roots and started a concrete construction company in Denver, which he ran throughout the 80s.

In 1992, Duke was named President of Raymond International, one of the nation's largest industrial construction companies. He was hired to manage the company through its Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Filing. He was so successful at guiding Raymond through this difficult period that he was hired several years later by another large construction firm in financial difficulty, MMR Construction out of Louisiana. Duke ran the company during its bankruptcy as well and was recognized by the court, the creditors and the employees and managers of the company for his creative approach to taking care of all of the people affected by MMR's situation.

Following his tenure with MMR, Duke invested in another company coming out of bankruptcy: excavating and boring equipment manufacturer Pengo Corporation, located near Oakland California. Duke became president and majority owner of Pengo and grew the once troubled company into an economically sound, major player in the world of construction excavation equipment market. Before his death in 2000, Pengo had grown into one of the top players in the US market as well as Europe, Asia and Australia. It was a great success, and would have been even bigger had he been around to continue his work.

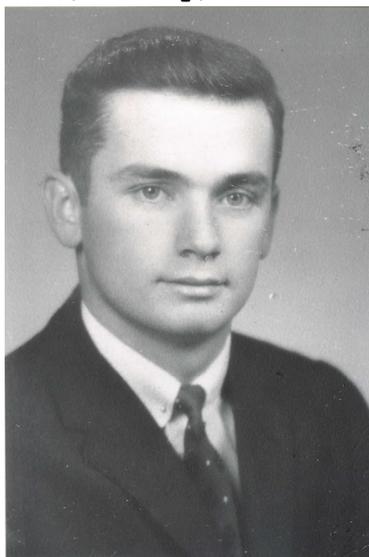
But Duke was not just a numbers guy. He bought a manufacturing facility for Pengo in Laurens Iowa (a nod to his home state) which employs up to 100 people. He took time to talk to all of them and find out about their families and lives outside of work. They knew that he cared

about them and he made sure they were happy employees and that they felt like they were part of a team. That to him, I think, was his greatest success.

Duke spent his last ten years working for world wide companies in turn around management and eventually bought the Pengo Corp. It was a great move for him; he had offices in China, Europe, Australia, India and Indonesia. He finally made his goal and shared the benefits with so many. His loss left a hole in our hearts.



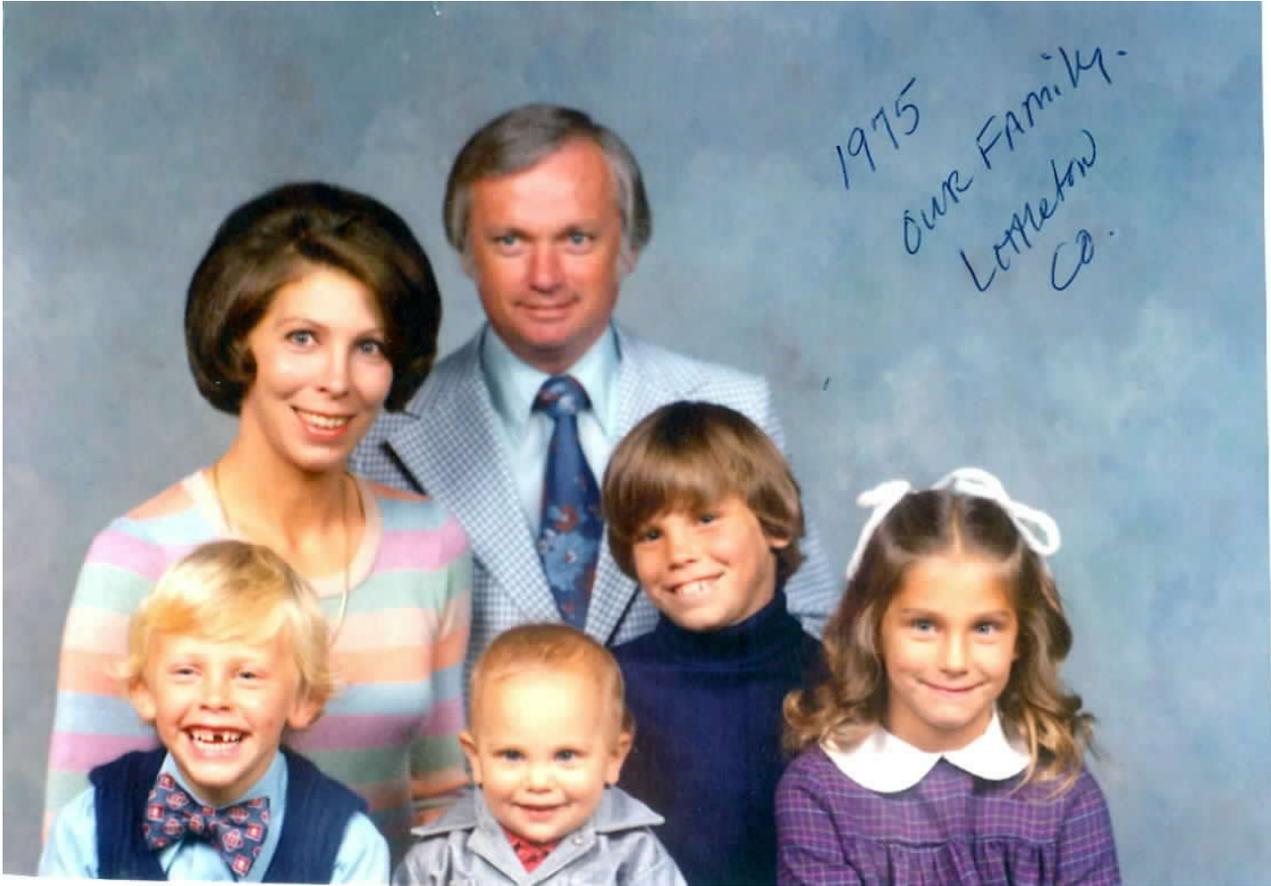
From Left to Right: James, Bridge (Conway) Dawson, Mona (Conway) Nelson, Duke, Mickey, Peter.



Duke College Picture?

Duke and Marilyn Burke

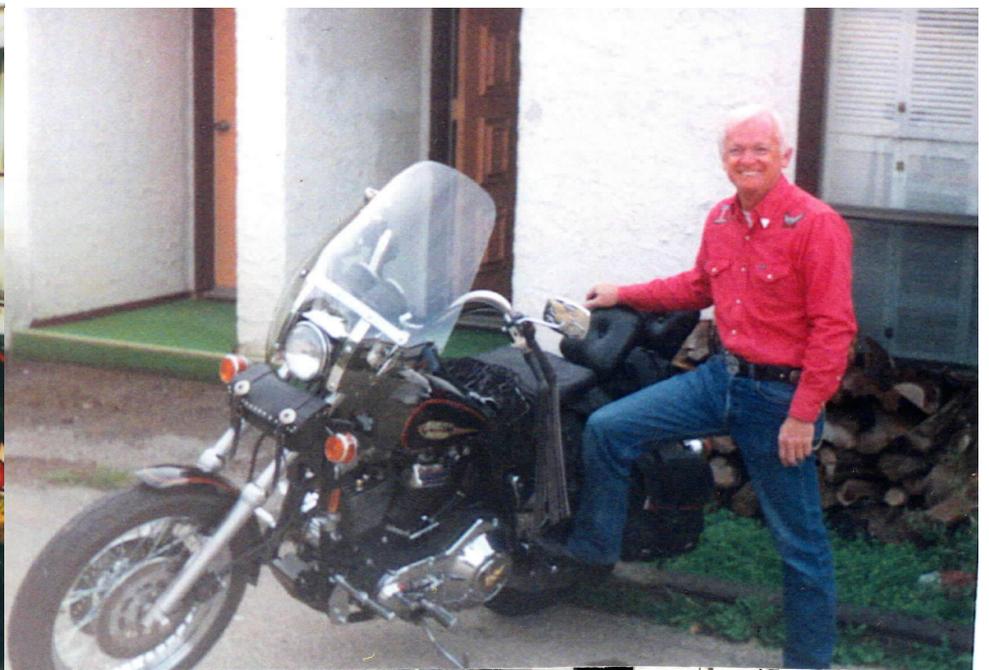
PFC William Conway - 1957-58



Left to Right: Mickey, Bridget, Mona, James, Duke, Peter.



Our Daughter's Wedding - 1994. L to R. My Mom, Dad, Duke's Dad, our 3 sons
And our daughter Bridget and her husband Hanley .



Duke on his beloved Harley. We rode together- went to Spain on a motorcycle trip in 1997.



Our trip to Ireland 1998. We spent 3 weeks in Ireland and it was such a joy!