



Danny J. Degen

January 21, 1951 - January 20, 2022

Danny John Degen, 71, a Mason City native, passed away suddenly on January 20, 2022, at his home in Des Moines. Danny was born on January 21, 1951, the son of John and Doris Miller Degen.

Dan was a second generation American, the descendant of Degen and Miller families who immigrated to Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota in the late 1800's from Germany and England.

Danny graduated from Mason City High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa. Following graduation, he worked as a writer and proofreader of wartime scenarios for Unisys, a Department of Defense contractor, in Iowa City and California before returning to Iowa. He was employed by the State of Iowa as a legislative department analyst and proofreader. In that capacity, he made sure that the final printing and publication of new laws met grammatical and legal standards.

He is survived by three brothers, Thomas of Vacaville, California; Larry and his wife, Catherine, of Rockwell, Iowa; and Richard, of San Antonio, Texas. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and their families: John and Jodie Degen of Rockwell, Iowa; Debora and Eric Powers of St. Ansgar, Iowa; Michael and Lisa Degen, of Mason City, Iowa; Robert and Julie, of Rochester, Minnesota; Andrew and Jackie Degen, of Springfield, Missouri; Kathleen McFee, of Davis, California; and Jennifer and David Kukis, of Davis, California. He is also survived by his cousin David Degen, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and his family. He is deeply missed by his very dear friends, Raelee Degen of San Antonio, Texas; Teri Stubbs of Burlington, Iowa; Linda Peters of Des Moines, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and most recently by his sister-in-law Gloria Degen, and close friend and cousin, Leonard Degen.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 27th, at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery in Mason City. A gathering and lunch will follow at the Sacred Heart

Parish Hall in Rockwell.

Cemetery

Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery

1224 South Washington

Mason City, IA,

Events

JAN

27

Graveside

10:30AM

Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery

1224 South Washington, Mason City, IA, US

Comments



“ My boyfriend and I lived next door to Dan for about a year, and he was the sweetest neighbor. He'd surprise us with houseplants, fresh-cut flowers from his garden, a number for a handyman and homemade food. We shared a small garden space between our homes, and he took such pride in caring for that space. He always had a smile and loved to talk with us about our day and our hopes for the future. He was the kindest man and will definitely be missed in our neighborhood.

Bryan Dugan - February 06 at 03:33 PM



“ Dan was a good neighbor and I enjoyed our conversations in the middle of our street. He would share a tree guy or handyman information to anyone who needed it. Dan will be missed by many in the neighborhood. Our prayers are with his family.

Don and Christina Crook

Don Crook - January 27 at 11:15 AM



“ Dan could whip up a restaurant-quality gourmet meal from scratch while performing professional-grade standup comedy for his guests and grouting a stray section of kitchen counter all at the same time. He was the life of any gathering. He was a natural comedian, but he had your back if you needed help in a serious situation.

It seems like only yesterday we were in El Coyote in Los Angeles eating chimichangas washed down with pitchers of margaritas or in Donnelly's bar in Iowa City where he would pass himself off as Danny O'Degen.

So fill to him a parting glass and celebrate him one and all.

Kirk Neff

Kirk Neff - January 27 at 01:59 AM



“ A brother from another mother, who hung out at our house. He was always very kind, patient and gentle to me and my friends also. I remember his sweetness with fondness. A real gentleman.

Nora Neff Hardy

Nora Neff Hardy - January 27 at 11:55 AM



“ Danny and I have been friends since 1994. I already miss our phone calls - 2 or 3 times a week just to shoot the ____! Goodbye to my dear friend. ...Tom

Tom Hubbartt - January 26 at 08:39 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Tom Hubbartt - January 26 at 08:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Tom Hubbartt - January 26 at 08:30 PM



“ Dan and I were life-long friends. We grew up in the same neighborhood in Mason City. We went to the same junior high school and high school. We even went to the University of Iowa at the same time. After that, we worked for the same companies sometimes, and we saw each other frequently on holidays and just for fun. He was always there for me, and his charm and sense of humor were a tonic for me always. He seemed always cheerful, witty, and kind. My wife and I enjoyed his company many times through the years. We will miss his fun and playful spirit.

Our sympathies to all Dan's family and friends.

John and Janice Paulson.

John Paulson - January 24 at 02:22 PM



“ Dan was a gracious host, a funny friend, a talented guy, and someone who will be missed by all who knew him. Jerry Jewett, MCHS Class of 1968.

Jerry Jewett - January 24 at 02:16 PM



“ John and Janice Paulson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Danny J. Degen.



John and Janice Paulson - January 24 at 01:55 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Danny J. Degen.



January 24 at 10:46 AM



“ I worked with Danny for many years at the Legislature. He was a warm, funny, and caring person who dearly loved his family and his cat "Mousie". He was a wonderful cook and enjoyed entertaining as well as fixing up his home and helping other do the same. You could always count on Danny. He was always there for you and knew how to do everything in style. I had hoped to resume our lunches this year--this was such a shock. Rest in peace, my friend. I will miss your company and generous spirit.
Leslie Hickey

Leslie Hickey - January 24 at 10:40 AM



“ It was a pleasure working with Danny at the Legislative Service Bureau for several years. I always enjoyed hearing about his part-time catering job and his beloved hairless cat. He had a knack for entertaining and loved making apple salad to share with co-workers.
May he Rest In Peace.

Pam Worden - January 23 at 02:08 AM



“ I worked with Danny for the Legislature for about 15 years, and then saw him at our monthly "retirees' group" lunches for the last ten years. He was always friendly and glad to take time to catch up with his friends. His sudden death is a real shock to everyone who knew him. I wish his family God's peace and blessing. Thank you for the pictures. They capture him well.
Joanne Page

William Page - January 22 at 08:54 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Tom Degen - January 22 at 02:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Dan, Dick, Larry, Me



Tom Degen - January 22 at 02:31 PM



“ I worked for the state with Dan and knew him for 20 years. He was a loyal and generous friend. He freely gave advice, and lots of plants as he cleared his garden! Julie and I will miss his spot-on advice about window shopping and household repairs (among other things). We give our sympathies to his brothers, family, and friends.

Sandy Nabholz and Julie Monaghan

Sandy Nabholz - January 22 at 02:05 PM



“ Thank you for posting all of these wonderful memories of my Uncle Danny. I loved him so. He was a kind and sweet man that we will miss forever.

Jen Degen Kukis

Jen - January 27 at 11:34 PM



“ I met Dan through my sister. I didn't know him well, but Dan was always sweet and kind. My sympathies to his friends and family.

Deyann Whittie - January 30 at 11:16 AM



“ Thanks, everyone for posting your memories of my brother Dan. It was such a pleasure to read your recollections of life and work with Dan. He was a man of many talents and had such good taste from food to clothes. Missing him terribly as are my brothers Larry and Dick and his many dear friends.

Thomas Eugene Degen - February 01 at 02:34 PM