



Mark Winfield Brunsvold

August 10, 1950 - January 4, 2020

Following a three month battle with leukemia, Mark Winfield Brunsvold passed away on January 4, 2020, at Methodist Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, surrounded by his family.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at Zion Lutheran Church, 112 North 4th Street, Clear Lake.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2020, at Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, 101 N. 4th St. Clear Lake.

Mark requested that everyone gather to celebrate his life and tell stories so the family has arranged a celebration of his life at the VFW in Clear Lake following the funeral/lunch at the church starting around 4:00.

Mark Winfield Brunsvold was born August 10, 1950, the third son of Maureen "Polly" (Pollock) and Erling Brunsvold. He spent his early years as a "farm" boy on the Brunsvold farm nine miles west of Forest City. Following the death of his father, he moved into Forest City with his stepmother, Norma, where he embraced city living at the age of fourteen.

His time at Forest City Schools was thoroughly enjoyed, mainly because of his many group involvements. His favorite things about school were his classmates in the class of 1968, especially his close friends, Tim Westerberg, Mark Strand, and Doug Porter, who have remained life-long friends. Mark loved getting together with Tim, Wray Hallet, Jeff Adams, Mary and Chris Juhl for informal class of 1968 reunions. There were many shenanigans throughout high school under the tutelage of Tim Westerberg.

Mark and his friends entered Waldorf College after high school, where the fun continued and more friendships were added. His sophomore year of college found Mark at Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota. After his mother, Norma, passed way that year, Mark was drafted into the army and became a member of the military police. Mark continued his life pattern of making friends wherever he would go while he was stationed

in several states. Mark did finish his degree at Mankato State University in the 1980's. Mark started farming after the army at the age of 21. Mark became friends with his future wife's brothers at this time. The brothers say they arranged the meeting between the couple. All the couple remembers is an instant connection and bond. They fell in love and were always best friends.

Marsha Torkelson Brunvold and Mark married on March 23, 1974. They moved up to the newly created Brunsvold farm and found that they loved to work together farming. Marsha and Mark became parents when their first son, Christopher Mark, was born in Buffalo Center. Now they were a family, and oh, the joys and adventures with had they had with the new precious baby. Eric Kristian joined the group on 21 months later. Eric was such a good, sweet baby, they felt blessed beyond their wildest dreams. Two and one-half years later their "Dolly," Amy Louise was born. They hadn't even dared to hope for a girl, but they were feeling on top of the world now! Together, the little family continued their busy farming life.

Mark loved being a Dad! He loved having a family after the loss of his parents and his brother. He would want you to know that the family traveled to 47 of the lower 48 states...in an Astro van. The children would say he spent a good share of that travel time reaching back from the driver's seat with his right arm, swatting at, but never quite reaching them. Please don't ask the children about being left by the roadside when they were fighting in the backseat on those trips. This may or may not have happened. Chris, Eric, and Amy have tons of memories of time spent with their dad. His little sayings like, "Teach a man to fish" will remain with them for life.

Mark loved cars, trucks, motorcycles, and anything with wheels. He shared that passion with his sons and taught Amy all about taking care of her own cars. He loved finding like-minded car loving people who shared his passion and could talk to them for hours. Mark spent his retirement years buying vehicles (even lawn mowers and mopeds). He would fix them up and sell them, allowing for even more conversations about the vehicles he loved.

After retirement from his favorite job at Kraft Foods, Mark polished his story-telling skills with his Bill's Family Foods coffee guys and then, in Clear Lake at the Corner Deli. He scheduled appointments around his coffee group, and hated to miss a day.

Work was an important part of Mark's life. He loved Kraft foods because of the deep friendships he formed with his co-workers, the middle school shenanigans he took part in, and the young men he worked with. He thought of them as his adopted sons. He loved farming, because it brought back good memories of his dad, and it allowed him quality

time with his children. He felt it also bestowed a strong work ethic for his children. As a banker, Mark very much enjoyed his relationships with customers.

When Mark was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, he spent over four weeks at Methodist Hospital in Rochester. He called it his month at the Mayo Spa. What guy wouldn't? Sweet, pretty girls to spend time with, special visits from his cousins, Jane Jacobs and John Kundert, the company of his kids, grandkids, brother-in-law, Frog, and nephews. Mark was so touched when his life-long friends, Tim Westerberg and Mark Strand flew in from Colorado and Washington, respectively, to spend a weekend with him at Mayo. Additionally, he enjoyed a visit from Eric after arriving back home from the hospital.

Mark loved his cousins: Craig, Mike, John, Chris, Sarah, Laura, Martha, Jane, Jan, Judy and Nola, whom he enjoyed spending time with. Also Mary Fran and Jack, before his passing, became favorite people to spend time with after moving to Clear Lake. Mary Fran is the only one left in the family to call him Butch, his childhood nickname. He loved that nickname.

Mark loved all his Torkelson in-laws. Marrying into that huge family gave him more family/friends than he ever dreamed of. Roger, Ronald, Lucille, Bernice, Les and Paulette, plus all of his many, many nieces and nephews held a special place in his heart. He was also very grateful for Lucille, Ronald, and Roger after all their special visits and treats.

Mark loved being a Grandpa!

Landon, you made him a grandpa, laughed at his dumb jokes, and watched Napoleon Dynamite with him so many times. He was looking forward to you driving him around when you turned 14.

Jack, Grandpa loved making pancakes for you in the morning before school. He loved listening to your stories about your current passions. Thank you for picking out the urn, with help from your brother.

Scout Grace, he loved his South Carolina girl. Teaching you to ride a bike was top on his list, in addition to making the Scout truck model and all those stories about school and Camp Thunderbird you shared at the apartment.

Lacey, even though diabetes is not fun to have, he loved having that connection with you. You were his animal loving, caring, sweet little girl. He loved watching your jumping routines on the trampoline.

Lars, Grandpa loved teaching you all kinds of stuff and in turn, learning about technology from you. Plus watching you play and just talking to you were some of his favorite times in South Carolina.

Bode, your grandpa was amazed by your technology skills. A text from you was Grandpa's favorite way to start the day. He will be listening to you DJ on heaven's radio station.

Tucker, you are the grandson who shared Grandpa's absolute love of anything with wheels. He loved talking about anything with a motor in it with you.

Emma, he thought you were the sweetest little curly haired gymnast around and enjoyed your recital. Watching you doing all those moves was so much fun for him. He loved having you and all your cousins spend the night so he could make pancakes in the morning.

Mark's mother always told him his father was watching him from heaven and cheering him on as a young boy. You grandchildren can count on your grandpa to be cheering you on too.

Mark was a man who loved food. He always thought about his breakfast menu options before he went to bed. Marsha enjoyed cooking for him, and he contributed many good meals and sweets to their table. The family bestowed him with the title, Pancake King because he loved to eat and make pancakes. However, he did complain about chocolate chips ruining his griddle.

Marsha awarded him the Husband of the Year title one year after they noted all he was doing to support her while she was still working and he was retired. Actually.....he could have won that trophy every year. Marsha knows she is very blessed to have had 45 years with this amazing man.

Today we honor and say good-bye to a wonderful husband, a wife's very best friend, and an awesome father. Everyone who knows Mark knows how he loved to talk, and many of you have experienced a conversation or two with him. He loved people and would be so humbled by everyone being here today. Rest in peace Mark. You will be greatly missed.

Cemetery

Events

Oakland Cemetery

Forest City, IA,

JAN 7 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

7

Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel
310 1st Avenue North, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

JAN 8 Memorial Service 02:00PM

8

Zion Lutheran Church
Clear Lake, IA, US

Comments



“ 95 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels - January 07, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ Oh so sorry to hear of Mark's passing....he was ALWAYS smiling, enjoyed totally working with him at Kraft. He will be remembered by his smiling, his kindness and willingness to help out at work. Prayers for the whole family. Rick and Diane Pfertzel.

Diane Pfertzel - January 07, 2020 at 09:02 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss, thinking of all of you.

Debbie Wirth - January 07, 2020 at 10:42 AM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mark Winfield Brunsvold.



January 07, 2020 at 08:43 AM



“ Marsha, I am deeply sorry to hear of Mark's passing. I have so enjoyed our sidewalk visits! I last visited with him at Mercy Cancer Center in early December and he was in good spirits. I hope you find some comfort in the wonderful memories you created together.

Heather O'Neill - January 06, 2020 at 09:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Winfield Brunsvold.



January 06, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ Forest City Middle School Staff purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mark Winfield Brunsvold.



Forest City Middle School Staff - January 06, 2020 at 07:17 PM