



Mark Allen Dempster

February 18, 1952 - June 4, 2020

Mark Allen Dempster, 68, of West Des Moines and formerly of Oskaloosa passed away June 4, 2020 at the MHP Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa after a short bout with cancer. Mark was born Monday, February. 18, 1952 in Detroit, Michigan the son of Robert G. and Delores Freeman Dempster. He attended Redford High School in Detroit, Michigan.

He worked as a route salesman in the Detroit area 1971-1979. He then moved to Denver and lived there from 1980-1990 where he worked various jobs including home delivery milkman, and household mover. In 1991 he moved to Iowa and lived there for the remainder of his life, enjoying nearly 30 years of sobriety. He moved to Oskaloosa in 1991 where he attended William Penn College and received a bachelor's degree in Art in 1996. He was an active member of AA, a talented artist and a fan of the Detroit Red Wings, Tigers and Lions, win or lose. In 1998 he became best friend and companion with Nancy Jones of Oskaloosa with whom he shared a home until his death.

He is survived by his four children: Rachelle and Suzanne Dempster of Detroit, Michigan, Marc and Errol Dempster of California; a granddaughter: Sydney Dauter of Wyandotte, Michigan; one brother: Robert (Caroline) Dempster of Detroit Michigan; and three sisters: Rebecca (Dave) Heckman of Montour, Iowa; Diane Dempster of Melcher, Iowa; and Linda Dempster of Knoxville, Iowa; many nieces and nephews including Linda Lou Kinnaman of Tama and Regina Johns of Montour.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

Graveside services will be held at Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa Tuesday June 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM with Sue Irving Officiating. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment is advised for attending a religious public event. The graveside service will be live streamed at the funeral home's YouTube Channel for those wishing to support the family from a distance. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery

634 North 9th Street
Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

JUN

9

Graveside Service

10:00AM

Forest Cemetery

634 North 9th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ Mark was part of a group of friends I came to know at 15 years old. We entered Redford that Fall and I always remember him as happy and funny. Mark and Todd Hix were always drawing art and cartoons. It was a great group of people. I just reconnected with Mark just recently after having lost touch with him after high school. Some people you just never forget. Mark left a legacy of happy memories for many people who loved him and I am saddened by his passing. Rest In Peace

Licia Smith Babb - July 09, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ Mark and I shared a great many laughs. We were both class clowns in the same K-8 class. We had a music teacher, Mrs. Humphries, who would sing operatic solos for our class. Mark would mime her singing, and I unfailingly laughed. I can't remember if he got in trouble or not, but I sure did. Still makes me laugh, always has. Steve Rose

Steve Rose - July 08, 2020 at 09:29 PM



“ Mark and I grew up in the same neighborhood, about a block apart and he was one of my closest friends. We attended the same grade school and high school. We both shared an interest in art and worked together on many creative projects from our teens to early adulthood. I still use his style of block lettering on handmade holiday and birthday cards for friends. He possessed an unstoppable passion to create quality original artwork in his own unique vision with very diversified and mixed medias, sometimes in a humorous way, but always with a positive philosophical message, like no one else that I've ever known.

Our paths went in different directions over the years as our circumstances changed with age and careers and I lost track of Mark for a number of years. Not that long ago, through Mark's efforts, he located me by email and we were once again in contact and able to get caught up on each other's recent events. What I had noticed most was that Mark was truly happy in his life with Nancy in Iowa and that he was at peace with himself, a rare quality which he so obviously displayed.

I remain quite taken aback by the rapidity of his illness and passing, an all too sudden event for me to properly process yet. I must say however, that one would be very hard pressed in this world to find a better friend than Mark Dempster.

Todd R Hix - June 10, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Bless you, Todd

Nancy Jones - June 10, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ Nancy,

I am so sorry to hear about Mark's passing. I had no idea he was ill, and I was so sad to hear he was gone. I loved his cheerful, optimistic outlook and creativity. He was a wonderful student, and a friend as well. He also did house painting for us many years ago and brought me hydrangea starts to plant.

Sending you prayers.

Victoria and Mike Laird

Victoria Laird - June 15, 2020 at 04:14 PM



“ Joleen Scigliano lit a candle in memory of Mark Allen Dempster



Joleen Scigliano - June 09, 2020 at 10:11 PM



“ Nancy, I'm so sorry to hear that Mark passed. You two were always so good together. You're in my prayers... <3

Cindy Godlove - June 09, 2020 at 08:30 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



barrie katz - June 08, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Allen Dempster.



June 07, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ Loving thoughts to you, Nancy! I remember a Friends of the Library auction when my son outbid Mark on a painting. Mark's smile and laugh are with me still...

Lynn Howard - June 05, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ Those were fun times, Lynn. He loved our library and the many friends he made there.
Nancy

Nancy Jones - June 06, 2020 at 05:13 PM



“ I remember great times with you up in detroit, rest easy bro.....

Barrie katz - June 09, 2020 at 07:55 AM



“ While at Wm Penn College, Mark worked with me at the campus radio station. He enjoyed being on the air. RIP Mark.

Don DeBoef - June 04, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Mark. We enjoyed his art work and his kindness to others. He was a great neighbor. If he didn't stop and chat he waved and gave his great smile.
RIP Mark

Greg & Judy (Dye) Van Rees - June 04, 2020 at 06:51 PM



“ I met him at Wm Penn. A good person and very willing to share his talent for Art.

Brandt Snakenberg - June 04, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Mark. He was such a talented man. I got to know him in the late 90's. Mark always had a smile and a positive word,

Kathy Larsen - June 04, 2020 at 04:40 PM



“ This news came by shock! We Loved this man . Mark let me learn how to drive on his 64 falcon in 1986 .He WILL always be a part of my life & family .Nancy I will be back to Iowa to hug and meet you !! Sending our deepest condolences and prayers to the entire family.

Rene Dean Ash - June 05, 2020 at 08:37 AM



“ Nancy, So many happy memories of Mark. We had such fun when he painted the house for us. He was a sweet and gentle soul and the world is worse off with his passing. My thoughts are with you. Myrna

Myrna Panno - June 06, 2020 at 05:50 PM



“ Thanks Myrna. He enjoyed working with you. :)

Nancy Jones - June 06, 2020 at 08:16 PM