



David Jon Kampinen

September 20, 1958 - May 3, 2020

David Jon Kampinen, 61, of Kingsford, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2020, at his home with his sister Marie and niece Rachel by his side.

David was born on September 20, 1958, to the late Verna (Torma) and Leslie Kampinen and spent his early years in Republic, MI. He attended school in Marquette until his move to Kingsford and graduated from Breitung Township Schools.

David was part of the Adult Daily Living Program until he joined TRICO Opportunities, where he worked for many years. He retired from the Powers Activity Center in 2011.

David enjoyed life; he went on two cruises, visited Disney World twice, and took many trips to visit family and friends. He was a dapper gentleman and liked to socialize. Proms, weddings and birthday parties were where he liked to charm the ladies with a kiss on the hand and a dance.

David was a Packers fan and loved his collection of football cards, his TV Guides, Diet Pepsi and pizza. He radiated love and goodwill, and will be missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Dale, his brother in law, William Kindstrand, and close friend, Bernadette Anderson.

He is survived by his sisters, Marie Kindstrand of Kingsford, Rachel (Michael) Batzer and Deborah (Dave) Beers of Crown Point, IN, and Dianne "Dee Dee" Kampinen of Chicago, as well as his niece, Rachel Kindstrand of Chicago. He will be missed by many friends, including Dorothy Anderson, Patt Bergeron, Kathy Morgan and Tina Kassin.

David's family thanks all the teachers and caregivers who attended to him over the years and particularly in these recent months. Special gratitude goes to the excellent care provided by OSF Hospice.

Private services are being held.

Condolences to the family of David Kampinen may be expressed online at <http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com>

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Comments



“ In 1968 I was a beginning teacher at Republic-Michigamme School. Due to the fact that there was a high incidence of developmentally disabled students living in the district, even though my degree was in Speech Pathology, I was asked to develop a curriculum to teach these students. It was one of the hardest, yet most rewarding jobs I ever had in my 51 years in education. David was in that class. Every morning, my husband, myself and our newborn son would pick up David to bring him to school. He sat cross-legged in the backseat next to our son and would say over and over "Cookie Bear." At that time I was not sure what he was saying. I soon found out that David had many abilities; he understood language perfectly and had his own method of communicating, which I began to understand. Also, I discovered that he could read and comprehend basic reading material. It was quite evident that this young boy, who was eight at the time had great potential. I really grew to love the sweet, happy little guy. After a semester, the Intermediated District decided to provide a center-based program for these students in Marquette. I frequently visited his classroom and was greeted with hugs and warm smiles. Someone had informed me that David loved the Chicago Bears and all of a sudden it dawned on me what he had been saying on those daily trips to school. The next time I visited him in his new classroom, I said, "Chicago Bears." He said, "Yeah, yeah, yeah." As if to say, you finally got it. He is one of those young people I hold close to my heart, even though I lost contact with him

A very bright light has left this world, but he has left behind much love and warmth. My sympathies to David's family. I am sure he will be missed.

Sincerely,
Diane M. Koski (Coach Bill Koski's wife)
Gwinn, MI

Diane M. Koski - May 07, 2020 at 08:12 AM



“ Hello, my name is Kris Anderson and I lived in Republic (Park City) I remember Dale as he would come often to our house and he would sing "From the Land of Sky Blue Water" A few days ago I was going thru old photos and found several of Dale. And I would stop by your house and ask if I could borrow one of your bicycles. I think it was Diannes or Marie's. Here is my email kristinegaile@yahoo.com so if you message me I can look for them. You girls were a so kind. Sure hope I have the right family.

Kristine Anderson - May 07, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ I have wonderful memories of David. David was smart, sweet, kind, and happy. A joy to be around. Kathy Stadler

Kathy Stadler - May 06, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ I have nothing but love & many wonderful memories of David. He soon became best friends with my sister Bernadette & an important part of our family . We shared so many precious fun times that will be with us forever. I will always love you & you added so much to Bern's & all of our lives, a true Blessing from God I know you & Bernie are hugging and laughing now in heaven ...until we all meet again ! 😊 Dorothy or “Gorby” as you called me

Dorothy Anderson - May 06, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ Love, Michael & Rachel purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of David Jon Kampinen.



Love, Michael & Rachel - May 06, 2020 at 01:27 PM



“ I had never known a Down syndrome person before David. He enlightened me and I will forever be grateful for that, and all the brightness and joy he brought to those around him. I grew to love him immensely. I will miss his antics. "Well... Okay....."

Love Dave

Dave Beers - May 06, 2020 at 09:49 AM



“ Wishing joy in Heaven David! You were a wonderful, gentle soul who enriched everyone's life while you worked at Trico Opportunities! Your smile was charming! God bless your family-you will be missed!

Peggy Jones - May 06, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ Fly high Kampinen. May you now be at peace with your Diet Pepsi and baseball cards. Be sure to say hi to Bernie for us.



Kris Jones - May 06, 2020 at 04:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Jon Kampinen.



May 05, 2020 at 05:38 PM