



Dennis Sleik

May 26, 1956 - February 23, 2003

"Dennis Sleik"

KINGSFORD - It is with great sadness, yet great joy for him, that his family announces that Dennis passed from his earthly home to his eternal home on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2003. Dennis lived with his family at 317 Grant St., in Kingsford.

Dennis was diagnosed with a carcinoid tumor in 1998. He lived his life to the fullest and without any regrets as he was diagnosed with, receiving treatment for, and living with the type of cancer he had. He would not have lived as he had without the support of the great doctors, nurses and friends who cared for him. His family would like to thank Dr. Batti and Dr. Adamson of Iron Mountain and Dr. Pitt and Dr. Rilling of Milwaukee for their care, compassion, and willingness to help Dennis and his family whenever and with whatever they needed. Also, the bus drivers and staff at North Dickinson County Schools and Peg, Mike, Marcia and Pastor Steve for their help when it was so needed. Dennis was born in Iron Mountain on May 26, 1956, son of Frank and Kay Sleik. He was a 1974 graduate of Iron Mountain High School. He was proud to have his picture in the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame as manager of the 1972 Mountaineer basketball team. Dennis and Debbie were married on June 2, 1978.

Dennis will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Debbie; twin sons, Brad (Colleen Downs) of St. Paul, Minn. and Brian (Stephanie Billings) of Green Bay, Wis.; his youngest son, Dan of Kingsford; his parents,

Frank and Kay Sleik of Iron Mountain; and his father-in-law, Doug Despins of Wausau, Wis. He leaves two brothers, Jim (Debbie) of Iron Mountain and their children, John, Mick, Jamie, Katie, Sarah, Kristen, Paul and Jacob and Frank (Debbie) of Oklahoma City, Okla. and his children, Frank (Jodi) and Kelly and their children. He leaves two sisters, Bev (Sam) Rose of Riverview and Jan (Dane) LaGrow of Saukville, Wis. and their children, Dean (Lori), Doug, and Lisa (Steve). He is further survived by his sister-in-law, Paula (Paul) Raymond of Mosinee, Wis. and their children, Eric and Danielle and a brother-in-law, Dan (Beth) Porter of Rothschild, Wis. and their daughter, Katie.

Dennis was preceded in death by his grandparents; an uncle, John Sleik; cousins, John and Billy Sparapani; a nephew, Tony Sleik; and his mother-in-law, Lu Despins.

Dennis will also be missed by his aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and the family's two dogs, Sparky and Tapper.

Dennis was an excellent mechanic. Throughout the years, he worked for Superior Equipment Co., Johnson-Wilson Co., Hanna Mining Co. and the city of Kingsford. The "best job of his life" was as transportation director/bus mechanic for North Dickinson County Schools. He loved to go to work every day. He loved the work and responsibility he had. He loved the people he worked with. A sad part of his illness was not being able to continue to work there each day.

Dennis' life revolved around his family and he became active in any activity his boys participated in. He coached their soccer teams and served on the SAY board for many years. He coached Dan in hockey and served on the DAHA board for two years. He was an assistant coach for Pop Warner football. He was active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, serving as a Webelo leader for Pack 510, assistant scoutmaster to Troop 510 and the Mackinac Island Scout Service Corp.

Dennis also became active in the youth group at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. He chaperoned many trips to the Youth Congress in Chicago and led backpack trips to Pictured Rocks and the Porcupine Mountains for the youth

and adults from the church. In the past, Dennis served as a member of Kingsford's Parks and Recreation Committee and the United Sportsman Club in Merriman. He currently was serving as a Breitung Township Schools representative on the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community School Advisory Board.

Many people touched Dennis' life and had an impact on him. Dennis loved his bear buddy Mike; auction and junk buddy Fonzie; hockey buddies Brian, Jim, Roberta, Jerry, Rob, Bev, Greg and Beaver; farm buddies Ray and Mary; soccer buddies Dale, Julie, Ed, Bucky, Dave, Steve, Brent, Darlene and Marilyn; scout buddies Scott, Paul, Sam, Bill and Anders; Zam's buddies Mike and Keith; recycle buddy Lucy; backpack buddies Cindy, Ann, Terri, Chuck, Andy, Angela and Pete; faith buddies Pastor Steve, Dodie, Tracy, Louise and the congregation of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church; old camping buddies Brad, Gene, Dave and Mike; other mechanic buddies Bob, Mike and Dave; city buddies Bruce, Mark, John, George, Tony, Keith and Gary; ND buddies Claude, Dan, Mike, Paula, Nancy, Sissy, Linda, Joe, Ken, Tim, Steve, Matt and the rest of the North Dickinson County Schools staff; bus buddies Ann, Jan, Ila, Linda, Buddy, Wes, Ron, Rod, Rodney and Tony; his very best friends Debbie, Brad, Brian and Dan and many, many more we may have not mentioned.

Services to celebrate Dennis' life will be held Tuesday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain with visitation at the church from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and services at 7 p.m. Family graveside services will be held Wednesday with burial at 11 a.m. at Cemetery Park in Iron Mountain.

A memorial will be established in Dennis' name at North Dickinson County Schools.

Condolences may be expressed to the Sleik family online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

Dennis' family has been assisted by the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain.

Tribute Wall

AF

“ *What a true blessing Dennis was in my life. I thank God for all of the times that I had with him and with you all sharing in life's joys. May God's peace and comfort surround you all during the times of grief and sadness. May you also see the light of Christ that continues to show through all of those lives that Dennis touched, mine included! My prayers and thoughts continue to be with you.*
Love to you all,
Angela

Angela Freeman - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *Dear Mom Sleik, Brad, Brian, and Dan - I'm praying for you. I have so many good memories of hanging out at the Sleik house. Whether it was watching movies in the basement or playing in the pool in the backyard, I always had fun with the whole Sleik family. I remember the way that Dad Sleik would pick on me. His casual teasing brightened the room and made me feel welcome at your house. It will be strange to visit Kingsford and not see him there. I'm sorry that I can't be there with you now. Know that you are in my thoughts and my prayers. Love, Karin*

Karin Knapp - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Dear Debbie and Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I know it has been a difficult time and I have thought of you often.

You will find comfort in the many wonderful memories you have.

My thoughts are with you.

Shirley

Shirley Barribeau - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ DEBBIE, DAN, BRAD, AND BRIAN I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS AND MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL. I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU ALL THAT YOU HAD A GREAT HUSBAND AND FATHER AND HE WAS A INSPIRATION TO ME I KNOW I TOLD DAN THAT WHEN I FIRST MET DENIS I WAS SO IMPRESSED AT HOW MUCH LOVE HE HAD FOR HIS FAMILY HE WAS ALWAYS SHOWING IT HE WAS ALWAYS JOKING AND LAUGHING I TOLD TARA THAT IF THERE WAS ONE MAN I WOULD WANT TO BE LIKE WHEN I GROW IT WOULD BE DENIS. DAN I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I LOVE YOU NOT AS A FRIEND BUT LIKE YOU ARE MY OWN BROTHER AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM HERE FOR ANYTHING YOU NEED DEBBIE THAT GOES FOR YOU ALSO. LOVE ANDREW

andrew filizetti - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *Debbie, Brad, Brian, and Dan;
Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you go through this loss. Know that you are not alone. Dennis was like a brother to me. We had a lot of fun together, but for a great cause -- serving God. I'll always remember fondly the back packing trips, dirt desert, trips to Chicago & Madison -- his hearty laugh, his eyes that conveyed such life. I truly appreciated all the help and encouragement he gave me over the years, and all the shared memories with your family. May God grant you peace and mercy. Trust that Dennis has finally found his rest.*

Pastor Rich Grudt, Sue Ellen, & the kids - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Dear Debbie, Brian, Brad and Dan,*

I am sorry for your loss and please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. When my mom called and shared the news it was difficult. I remember all the summers in soccer, the rides to confirmation and trips to Chicago and Madison. I feel like I grew up with your family as a whole. We went to the same church, the same sporting events, and the same school. I wish I could be there to help out. I love you guys and I'm thinking about you.

*Love,
Jen*

Jennifer Anderson - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ To the family of Dennis Sleik

I just wanted to send my condolences to you after I heard about Dennis's passing ... I didn't know he was ill. I don't hear about the IM gang as much anymore. I think the last time I talked to him was our 20th class reunion.. It was always nice to see him. I'm just sorry it wasn't more often. I will always remember all the crazy things we did as neighbors with the DeMuri's and how he always got me with a water balloon or the hose when I was in the back yard getting some sun. Or our nights playing poker for pennies ... or playing Monopoly with Jim ..or watching Hogan's Hero's and eating Cheetos and drinking Orange Crushor leaf forts or snow forts in the front yard hiding from the cars that went byEvery time I see a Plymouth Road Runner I think of watching him tinkering with the engine in the back yard .. he was really good with cars and always a good friend ... My thoughts are with you .. Robyn Johnson (Margaret street neighbor)

Robyn Johnson - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ *Dennis took me to my first formal dance in High School. It was one of the funnest dates of my life, and one of the funnest days of my life...because of Dennis and his nature. I thank God for this memory of him, and I am greatful for the Salvation we all have in Him. I know Dennis is in a better place, and he deserves it after such a brave fight. God Bless you all, I'll be keeping you in my prayers.*

Wendy Welty - March 17, 2003 at 12:00 AM