



Allan D. "Al" Whitlow

MAY 19, 1948 - OCT 16, 2020



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Allan D. "Al" Whitlow

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Allan Dale "Al" Whitlow of Muskegon, Michigan, passed away on October 16, 2020 after a valiant fight with cancer. Al was born on May 19, 1948 in Muskegon. He graduated from Mona Shores. In 1968, he entered the Army and served in the Vietnam War in the 101st Airborne Division. After returning to Muskegon, he met Janice Owen and had a 34-year marriage and two daughters with her before her passing. In 2011, he married Kathy Reynolds and became a stepfather to her three children. Al had a business degree from Grand Valley State University and spent his career in manufacturing, working at Shaw Walker, Knoll, and Geerpres. He was known for his love of sports, music, fishing, hunting, and especially golf. Over the years, he played at many courses and was a member of the Muskegon Country Club and Stonegate Golf Club. Al was a supporter of the First Tee organization. If he wasn't at the golf course, you could find Al at many Muskegon establishments, including his favorite, The Station Grill. SURVIVORS include his wife, Kathy; 2 daughters: Heather (Thomas Paquin) Whitlow of Washington D.C. and Laurel (Linden) Peterson of Muskegon; 3 step-children: Michael (Stacey Workman) Reynolds, Andrea (Cameron Brown) Reynolds both of Grand Rapids, and Sam Reynolds of Muskegon; 3 grandchildren: Hunter Peterson, Avery and Alexi Paquin; 2 brothers: Steve (Esther) Whitlow and Tony (Raylene) Whitlow both of Muskegon; and several nieces and nephews. A MEMORIAL VISITATION for Al will be held from 4-8 PM Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444 (231) 798-1100. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the funeral home is only allowed 80 guests in the building at one time. As people pay their respects to the family and exit the building, more guests will be allowed in. Masks will be required. A CELEBRATION of Al's life and golf outing will be held in the spring or summer of 2021. MEMORIALS to the First



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Tee of West Michigan will be appreciated. Share memories with the family at their On-line Guest Book at www.sytsemafz.com



Events


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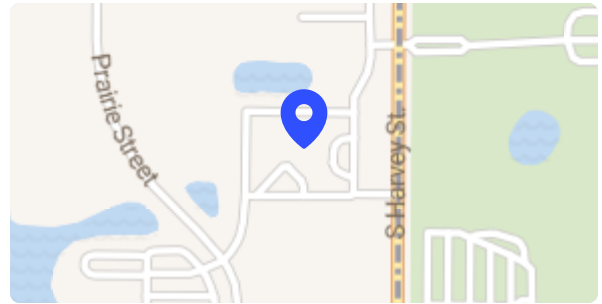
Memorial Visitation

 **Wednesday**, October 21, 2020

 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444





Tribute Wall

Allan D. "AI" Whitlow

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Chris Furgerson posted:

Forgive me for the length of this story I just posted to Facebook. I played baseball at GV with AI when I was a freshman, he was a senior. I hope you enjoy this. My sincere condolences... Chris Furgerson AI "Mad Dog" Whitlow... It's January 1974. I find myself at Grand Valley State College starting workouts and tryouts for the baseball team. I'm a freshman and frankly pretty naïve. Practices start and as it goes along I'm thinking I have a real good chance of making the team and maybe even being the starting catcher. That is, until Coach Phil Regan (former Detroit Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Cubs, and Chicago White Sox pitcher and Fireman of the Year award winner - he's a big deal at GV!) has a meeting for all of us prospects. I'm sitting there listening to Regan talk, fairly sternly, at the front of the classroom we were in. The door to the room behind me opens and in walks this guy, older than all of us, long blonde hair, Fu Manchu, about 5'10" or so, 220 pounds and solid. Regan stops his stern speech, gets this HUGE smile on his face, and says "AI! Great to see you could make it!" I look at the guy sitting next to me, whom I don't know, and ask him "Who the hell is that?" He says "That's AI Whitlow, he's the catcher." Well, I was naïve but not stupid and it's easy to see judging by Regan's response I sure as hell ain't gonna be the catcher that year! (never did catch there) Anyway, I do go on to make the team. AI is the clear leader of the squad. I find out AI is a senior, was a Vietnam veteran and is definitely older than most of the rest of us, maybe 24 or 25 years old at the time (I was 19). The first practice he shows up he's got an old beat up faded green sweat shirt, sleeves cut off at the shoulders, upper arms bulging, with a war caricature on the front. We go through the season and for reasons still unknown to me he kind of takes me under his wing. When we would go to road baseball games the school gave us something like \$5 for meal money. Most of the guys would be looking for a McDonald's or Burger King or something. Not AI, he would say "To hell with that, come on Furgie" and to some others. We'd go to Red Lobster or something like that, places this Dryden boy had rarely, if ever, been LOL I guess I must have had some resemblance to him because my good buddy Jonesy christened me "Mad Puppy" after AI "Mad Dog" Whitlow. We get through the season with some success, I think Grand Valley's best season to date. After the playoffs it's arranged that I am going to play summer baseball in Muskegon on the same team with AI. They said they would get me a job but that kind of fell through and I only played a few games, so I had to move back home for the summer and go to work at Champion. That was the last time I ever saw AI. Over the years, especially since social media, I tried to find out where he was and was never really able to find out. Dave Chrisinske and I hooked up on FB after decades and he had a little info. Like most of us at Grand Valley at the time we had gone our own ways and hadn't kept in touch. Well, I just found out today from Dave that AI has passed away. He was 72 years old. I am reminded of him daily, even hourly, because I named my rental company Mad Puppy Enterprises and have a certain Facebook page of the same name. I know nothing of his life after GV, but to me AI was a great guy and I owe him a lot from those college days. Rest in peace, Mad Dog...

October 25 at 8:14 AM



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CF

BF

Bob Forberg October 25 at 1:31 PM

I also remember the faded green cutoff sweatshirt!! He had that for many years after GV. He played basketball up until the over 40 league with that nasty thing!! That was his 'go to" top for sports in general. A good memory. Thanks for that. Bob Forberg

VI

Virginia posted:

AI used to play baseball with my former husband at Marsh Field, for the Civics. I remember him as a nice guy. So very sorry for your loss.

October 23 at 3:36 PM

JK

Jim Kanaar posted:

Condolences and prayers to the Whitlow family. Memories of playing basketball at Nelson School in the late 70's. From the guys of table 20 at the Station Grill. Jim Kanaar

October 22 at 5:23 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Whitlow family.



October 21 at 12:29 PM

BS

Bill Sabourin posted:

Knew AI from MCC and saw him a few weeks ago at Stonegate GC. He was always friendly and welcoming to talk with and seemed to always have a positive thing to say. He will be missed. Bill Sabourin

October 21 at 6:49 AM



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BF

Bob Forberg posted:

I am heartbroken with the loss of my best, oldest friend. A true brother who was always there for me. We first met in 1962 as he was the center and I was the quarterback in ninth grade. Hunting trips, basketball, the military, weddings and golf trips all over followed for 55 some years. We went through good times and bad but always remained close. I am so lucky as last week we went up to Treetops for a couple of days and had a great time. I will cherish all the memories we had with our two families as well over the years. My heart goes out to the family. He will forever be with me. Bob Forberg

October 21 at 5:10 AM

LB

Laurel Bodine October 21 at 6:07 PM

Tony, Tom and I were saddened to hear about AI's passing. We send our condolences to you and the rest of your family. Losing someone you love hurts to the core. May your memories of him give you peace. Tom Dahlstedt and Laurel Bodine

KJ

Kristin Johnson lit a candle in honor of Allan.



October 20 at 7:48 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Whitlow family.



October 20 at 4:40 PM

SH

Steve Habetler posted:

So many amazing stories out there. From working at Maple Grove School together to playing basketball with the guys to Conrad's White Birch Lodge in Elk Rapids to more golf stories and more. Sharing memories without you won't be the same. We're going to miss you, Big Guy!

October 20 at 3:57 PM



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Noreen P Finkler posted:

I worked with AI at Shaw Walker/ Knoll. He was a good friend and was a good boss.I send my condolences to the family.

October 20 at 9:00 AM



Kay Wescott Bowen posted:

Our parents, Don and Pat Wescott, were friends with AI's parents long before any of us were born. AI and his brothers were special friends growing up and we shared some wonderful times together. We always looked forward to seeing AI and all at The Station Grill or anywhere fun, and he will really be missed.

October 20 at 7:40 AM



Regan W. Robbins October 21 at 10:16 AM

As my sister Kay just noted, my siblings and I have known AI and his family for many years - virtually all our lives. We have so many happy memories of our families being together - too many to recount. The last time I saw AI was at Hank's Tavern in 2019, when I was visiting from Arizona. He was always a lot of fun, a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor. The world won't be the same without him...Regan (Wescott) Robbins



Charlotte&Gary, Lisa&Jill, Nate&Holly, Matt&Rachel sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Whitlow family.



October 20 at 6:18 AM



Carol Forberg Feyen posted:

My heart felt sympathy goes out to all of you. He was such a part of my family, AI was a loyal friend, someone who could always make you laugh and an all around good man. Rest In Peace my friend, I will always cherish the memories...

October 20 at 6:10 AM



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SW

Shelley Wierda posted:

Dear Heather and Laurel, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. I have many great memories of the times our families spent together. AI would always make everyone laugh so hard. Please know you are in my thoughts. Shelley Kolberg Wierda

October 20 at 6:03 AM

KW

Kevin & Barb Workman posted:

So sorry for your lose, AI touched my family in a special way. Prayers

October 19 at 9:09 PM

BD

Brad And Gayle Duprey posted:

Our love, support and prayers to you all. AI will truly be missed by many!

October 19 at 3:31 PM

JR

Julie L Reynolds lit a candle in honor of Allan.



October 19 at 2:14 PM

TW

Tom Wilson October 20 at 5:32 AM

Sorry for your loss tony from tom wilson

JR

Julie L Reynolds October 19 at 2:15 PM

We are so sorry and heart broken.

BP

Bob Patten posted:

My most heartfelt condolences to Kathy and the rest of the family and the friends who loved him. I didn't meet AI until our Junior year together at Mona Shores but feel fortunate to have been friends ever since. I absolutely loved AI's laugh and sense of humor; he always seemed to brighten wherever he went. Rest in Peace, old Chum.

October 19 at 1:12 PM



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Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Whitlow family.



October 19 at 11:47 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Whitlow family.



October 19 at 11:33 AM



Rollie Davis posted:

I have known AI for 65 years since 2nd grade at Churchill Elementary. In our younger years we spent a lot of time together. As I reflect on memories of grade school and high school with AI his friendship was a blessing on my life. Although, in later years we only crossed paths occasionally, his unique sense of humor (often at my expense) always brought a smile to my face. I feel fortunate to have had an opportunity to play a round of golf with him recently. I will cherish that experience. My deepest sympathies to his family. God Speed AI Rollie

October 19 at 10:47 AM



Bob Patten October 19 at 1:02 PM

Condolences to you also, Rollie on the loss of your life-long friend. I cherish the memories I have of you two together engaging in horseplay reserved for special friendships.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Allan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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