



# Mark B. DeJonge

MAY 28, 1958 - JAN 7, 2022



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## **Mark B. DeJonge**

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**M**ark Bradley DeJonge, age 63, tragically collapsed and passed into Heaven on Friday, January 7, 2022.

Mark was born to Walter and Carol (Bush) DeJonge/Binnendyk on May 28, 1958 in Shelby, MI (on the railroad tracks on the way to the hospital as the story goes, already pushing full throttle even at birth!). He lived most of his life in Muskegon County. Mark attended Muskegon Christian School, Western Michigan Christian High School, Muskegon Community College and Michigan State University earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Following college, Mark began a 42 year career at Howmet Aerospace where he held many positions; a dedicated employee working tirelessly to do his best. Mark was a member of Unity Reformed Church in Muskegon and served on the Capital Fund Committee and as a Deacon. Mark was a man of God who always lived and loved with intention and intensity. His family was the world to him, and he was the rock and heart of their world. He will be deeply missed.

On May 5, 1978 Mark married his one and only love, Julie (Riekels). Finding each other in 7th grade, they lived life together for nearly 50 years. Their love created three children: Brianna (Keith) Heimiller, Mitchell (Lindsey) DeJonge and Lucas (Kristin) DeJonge, followed by 10 grandchildren: Lillian, Carter, Grayson Heimiller; Lauren, Sydney, Taylor DeJonge; Cole, Mia, Juan, Levi DeJonge.

Mark enjoyed spending time at their West Lake cottage where days would be spent boating and grilling. He also cherished opportunities to travel (and planning the trips even more!). Mark loved sports. He was a star athlete himself, playing basketball, baseball, soccer and later, golf. He adored watching his grandchildren's games and was present for as many as possible.

Mark will also be missed by his mother, Carol Binnendyk; brothers, Jack (Laurie) DeJonge and Rocky (Kim) DeJonge; sisters, Bonnie DeJonge and Brenda (Tom) Bryson; brother-in-law Mark



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Riekels; sister-in-law Jill (Randy) Sines; step-siblings, nieces, nephews, friends and co-workers. Preceding Mark in death are father, Walter DeJonge; brother, Roger DeJonge; step-father, Marty Binnendyk; father and mother-in-law, James Riekels and Joyce (Riekels) Prince.

Services remembering Mark will be on Monday, January 17 at 1:00 pm at Unity Reformed Church (1521 Porter Rd.) with Pastor Dave Celeskey officiating. Visitation with the family will be Sunday, January 16 from 2:00-5:00 pm at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. Contributions in Mark's memory may be made to Western Michigan Christian Athletic Boosters or Unity Reformed Church.

To watch the service live, please use this link: [www.unityref.com/funeral](http://www.unityref.com/funeral)




# Events


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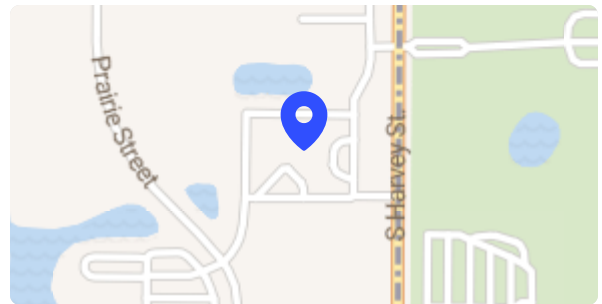
## Visitation

 **Sunday**, January 16, 2022


 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET


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

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



## Memorial Service

 **Monday**, January 17, 2022

 1:00 PM ET

 **Unity Reformed Church**

1521 Porter Road, Norton Shores MI 49441



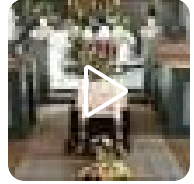


# Tribute Wall

**Mark B. DeJonge**  
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**Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services** shared a **Webcast Video**.



January 19 at 8:42 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the DeJonge family.



January 16 at 2:13 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the DeJonge family.



January 14 at 6:43 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the DeJonge family.



January 14 at 7:02 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the DeJonge family.



January 13 at 1:49 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the DeJonge family.



January 13 at 5:23 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Sandi Degroot** posted:

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Julie. Mark's spirit will live on every day, in the heart of those who loved him so deeply. Praying for God to surround you with His arms of comfort and healing. Sandi (Poel) DeGroot WMCHS Class of 1976

January 12 at 6:34 PM



**The Mbo Partners Team (A Howmet Partner)** sent an Arrive in Style to the DeJonge family.



January 12 at 12:39 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Mark B. DeJonge**

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BV

**Brian Vanderlaan** posted:

Mark and I were best friends growing up. Living just blocks away, from kindergarten to senior year, playing at the parks, school and sports, from church to weddings, to summer jobs, we always supported each other. My words cannot explain how important he was in my life, as was Julie. Rocky and Jack were often a part of our activities as well. We all hung out together thru so much. I am shocked, sad. It may help to share memories. In 6th grade, Mark was already standing a head taller than the rest of us. We signed-up for band with drums. While playing "Little Drummer Boy" in concert for our parents, Mark fainted backwards. But we had been instructed if anything happened during the concert, to keep singing and playing....and so we did. His mother Carol meanwhile rushed from the front row to assist. The percussion section had a chance to talk about it later, we said "if this could happen to Mark, this band business can't be good for any of us." We all quit band. Mark, I & friends once took a motorhome to Florida. We arrived in the morning and spent the entire day on the beach playing football and volleyball. Without sunscreen of course, and the top of our feet turned solid sunburnt red. On the way to the campsite, a group of guys challenged us to a basketball game. We played barefoot. Mark dominated. At games end, the skin was peeling off the top of our feet. We stopped at the camp store, barely walking, and Mark fell into a bookrack to the ground, his head bleeding. We called an ambulance. Then we helped the 2 small EMT guys lift Mark up. To the rescue again came his mother Carol. We called her and she guided us thru the right things to do. I'll never forget around the campfire at Pioneer Park in Muskegon. A few guys stopped by to say hello, but one insisted on putting his arm around Julie. Mark asked politely for him to take his arm away. The guy said no. Mark asked more firmly for him to take his arm away. The guy looked away and laughed. Mark proceeded to pick the guy up by his arms and threw him at least 6 feet in the air over the campfire. They took off running so fast, and we laughed, we knew Mark would stand up to trouble. Mark and I played basketball, baseball and soccer together. In soccer, he was a tough fullback for the other teams to work the ball around. He played tough, and his ankles showed it. We sat in the locker room dressing, and as I looked at his ankles swollen like softballs, I said Mark you can't play like that. Mark simply said "I'm playing", and he did play that game and many more with those swollen ankles. A final memory is the summers spent in a warehouse with Mark hand-loading lugs and cannisters of blueberries into semi-trucks. For hours and hours. I was paired with Mark and an all-state football player from West Ottawa. Needless to say, I was the weakest link. But we sweated, worked, laughed, and it was a wonderful experience. One summer before college, a farmer that we knew well made an offer to buy his 80 acres of blueberries for a low price. Mark and I decided after a few days that college was the best route. We learned later that the 80 acres sold for \$1.6 million as part of the land for the Muskegon Mall; we just looked at each other and our jaws dropped. But over time Mark made the right choice, moving on with very complex and intricate engineering work, and became the director of engineering for a large aerospace company. Amazing the breadth of capabilities, be it farmer or engineer. I looked up to Mark as my hero-friend. He was awesome. I can't remember any disagreements that we ever had, His spirit is with his family and friends now & I certainly feel his inspiration even today. As the tears flow down my face, I know Mark is looking over me as I write this, and he will always be my best friend, and he always will be beside us every day of our lives going forward. I love you Julie, for all that you meant to my friend Mark, and my heart goes out to you and family.



# Tribute Wall

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January 10 at 5:10 PM



**Randy Fisher** January 14 at 6:10 AM

Brian the fainting is always one of the things I think about too, he was probably the last one we expected to go down, and even now it seems the same way :( many memories of Mark K-12



**Bonnie DeJonge** January 13 at 4:13 AM

Thank you for these stories, Brian. Sweet memories of an amazing guy.



**Amy And Greg, Katie, Ben And Claire** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the DeJonge family.



January 12 at 9:50 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the DeJonge family.



January 12 at 7:16 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the DeJonge family.



January 11 at 4:44 PM



**Joe Licavoli** posted:

Mark was my boss at Howmet the couple years that I was there. Vividly remember him quizzing me out during scrap meetings and keeping the pressure on for us to fix things quickly. I had a lot of respect for him for that and definitely count him as one of the better influences in my professional career. He went far too soon.

January 11 at 2:06 PM



## Tribute Wall

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SH

**Sherrie Hren** posted:

I started my career at Howmet in 1979 and worked in the engineering department. Mark was one of my favorite engineers. He was always encouraging and helpful to work with. His work assignments for me were always complete and accurate and I enjoyed working on his jobs. Over the years I had many opportunities to interact with Mark and appreciated his support and advice. In my 35 years experience at Howmet I can say he was one of the good guys. I send my condolences to his family. I know he will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Sherrie Hren

January 11 at 12:42 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the DeJonge family.



January 11 at 12:23 PM

GC

**Gail Cole** posted:

Was deeply saddened to hear of Mark's sudden passing. I've known Mark since I hired into Howmet in '81. Have many great memories of him through work and fun times shared outside of work. I remember basketball games at Montague Elementary with other Howmet players, Mark was such a force under the basket...you really had to think twice about trying to drive a layup on him. I liked being on his team because they usually won. Another time he was on my team for the Howmet Open (aka North-South) golf outing. We didn't win but Mark made several key shots and putts to help us finish with a respectable under par total. On one hole, our birdie putt was about 4ft away and I had not bothered to get out of the cart thinking that my teammates would surely make this close putt. Well the first player missed, then I groaned after the 2nd player missed. Mark turns around and barks at me in a serious tone "This is not as close as you think" to put me in my place for not bothering to get out of the cart. Then he set up and calmly stroked in the birdie putt. But that was vintage Mark not thinking twice about saying what needed to be said and then coming through when you needed him in a clutch moment. I had many other great memories of Mark at work as there were always problems (or "opportunities") to be fixed and Mark was excellent at fixing problems. In the heat of the battles, Mark was a rock and he would find a way to get the job done. He was confident in his abilities and instilled confidence in his coworkers. Teaming up with Mark to solve a problem always left you feeling "we can do this", "its manageable", and "we're going win". And his humor helped take the edge off in those tense moments. To Julie, Rocky, Jack, and DeJonge family, you have our sincere sympathy for your incredible loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. We lit a candle for Mark at Cathedral Basilica of St John the Baptist in Savannah GA. May God's perpetual light continue to shine upon Mark. Gail & Jackie Cole

January 10 at 5:10 PM



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**Dan And Joyce Workman** posted:

Julie and Family, Our deepest sympathies to all you. We will certainly be holding you closely in our hearts and prayers. Dan and Joyce Workman

January 11 at 11:25 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the DeJonge family.



January 11 at 8:22 AM



**Ruby Glasscock** posted:

I knew Mark for several years when he visited the Morristown Howmet location where I was the HR Manager. He was such a pleasant person and interested in the Morristown operations.

January 11 at 5:37 AM



**Gabriel Castillo** posted:

My deepest condolences to Mark's family. I knew Mark for a short amount of time but his presence and great sense of humor was something that struck me since the beginning. We operate in Mexico and all the employees that knew him also send their condolences. Rest in Peace Mark. 🙏 Sincerely Gabriel Castillo.

January 10 at 5:10 PM



# Media

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January 19 at 8:42 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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