



## Dennis Ervin Hughes

July 7, 1941 - March 28, 2021

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Dennis was born July 7, 1941, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Ray Hughes and Helen (Stringfellow) Hughes. He was raised in Des Moines and graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1959. During the summers after that he worked in the Birdland Park pool concession stand selling pop, popcorn, hot dogs, and ice cream bars. He then attended what is now the University of Northern Iowa, where he worked a semester as a dish washer in the student union. In 1963, he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Education.

His first professional job was teaching math and geography at Charter Oat-Ute Junior High in western Iowa. Two years later he was hired by the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools. He taught 7th grade math and reading for 1 year at Kubasaki Junior High in Okinawa. The following year he transferred to the American School on the Rhine, which was the American Embassy K-10 school in Bonn, Germany. Here he taught primarily 7th and 8th grade math and social studies, but he did stints teaching 4th grade math and physical education and also 8th grade typing. He also "coached" tennis and the junior varsity soccer team. After 6 years, Dennis moved to Alconbury Junior High on the Royal Air Force Alconbury Base. Here he taught junior high math, the American Constitution, Ancient Greece and Rome, and social dancing. While overseas, Dennis traveled to various parts of Europe and, one summer, went with five other teachers on an independent safari in Kenya and Tanganyika.

After a total of 10 years overseas, Dennis returned to help his parents and his sister and family at their resort, Northland Lodge, in Walker, Minnesota. Besides doing various jobs around the resort in the summer, during the school year he did substitute teaching in the Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Schools. After 5 years, the family felt that if they wanted to keep loving each other, they needed to sell the resort, which they did.

Dennis went to vo-tech and got his certificate in computer programming. After 5 years at Control Data (and it going out of business), Dennis spent a number of years looking for the right job, which included a stint working in ladies dresses at Nordstroms. He finally found the ideal job working for the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) with the State of Minnesota. The first years were writing a completely new system for CSED and then maintaining the system. He was very proud that after over 25 years, parts of the system he wrote were still being used.

The most important thing to happen to Dennis occurred in 1981, when he met the love of his life, Dale Prochazka. They married twice, a civil union in Vermont in 2000 and a marriage in Minnesota on July 22, 2014. During their time together, Dennis and Dale bowled for about 30 years. Dennis served as secretary for the 3 gay leagues they were members of for 25 years.

They also loved traveling, visiting Europe many times in the last 20 years. Dennis would plan the trips and do all the driving, while Dale was the navigator and in charge of locating their final destination. They were happy that on 2 of their excursions, Dennis' sister Carole was able to go with them. Their favorite cities were Berlin, Prague, Paris, and Florence. Some of the years they didn't go to Europe but instead travelled here in the United States. They traveled to the Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, Arches National Park, Mount Rushmore, San Francisco, and twice to the Rose Bowl Parade.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Carole Sargent of Walker, MN, and his niece Julie Leslie Freeman Kehn of Fremont, NE.

He is survived by his husband Dale Prochazka-Hughes of the Twin Cities; sister Janice Leslie of Fremont, NE; niece Geri Sargent of Walker, MN; nephews Bill Sargent of Walker, MN and Kurt Sargent of Bemidji, MN; many great nieces and nephews from Des Moines (IA), Fremont (NE), Bemidji (MN), Walker (MN), and Sanford (NC); and great-great nieces and nephews from Fremont (NE), Bemidji (MN), and Sanford (NC).

Memorials preferred to the American Lung Association ([www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org))

# Events

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**APR 10**   **Visitation**   01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, MN, US, 55418

**APR 10**   **Chapel Service**   02:00PM - 02:45PM

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Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, MN, US, 55418

**APR 10**   **Graveside Service**   02:45PM - 03:15PM

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Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)  
2600 19th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN, US, 55418

# Comments

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“ I met Dennis and Dale through our mutual friend Gary Hillstrom back in 1991. I moved to Minnesota and became one of many bowling league members on both the, Friday nights and Sunday days teams. Dennis was always there with the paperwork and the friendly smile. I went to their wedding at the MOA and have remained friends way past my bowling years and move to Eau Claire, WI. I recall many times going to dinner with them at the Monte Carlo in the warehouse district of Minneapolis, going to parties and travelling to tournaments in other cities around the US. Dennis was a true friend to so many people and will be missed greatly. Jeff Tewell

**Jeffrey Tewell** - April 09 at 12:45 PM

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“ We are Dale's cousin and have the honor to know Dennis. What a great man, well traveled, well educated and most importantly well loved. Our son Tony officiated at their wedding and it was a proud moment for him. We are all better people for having known Dennis. RIP Dennis.  
Love, Gary and Emilie Peterson

**emilie peterson** - April 05 at 09:33 AM

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“ I met Dennis through one of the bowling leagues. He was the glue that kept the league together. As the secretary, Dennis put in countless hours keeping all the statistics in order. We remained friends beyond the bowling years. I loved hearing the enthusiasm in his voice as he spoke of travels around the world. Rest in peace Dennis - you made me smile and will continue to do so when remembering you!

**Nora Pettinger** - March 31 at 12:48 PM