



André David Deloya

November 4, 1953 - February 4, 2022

André David Deloya. Edina, MN. 11/4/1953-2/4/2022

Our beloved André, husband, father, Papa, uncle, brother, friend and all around wonderful man, passed away at his home on Friday, February 4, 2022. André was a remarkable human being. Being afflicted with ALS 6 years ago didn't seem to dampen his outward spirit or the joy he experienced in life, although we know what a terrible toll it took. His wife Eileen provided such amazing companionship and care, riding the waves of this devastating illness side-by-side with him. Together, they learned to live with ALS and to embrace the unexpected ups and downs the years offered. It was his body's inability to cough that finally took his life. We take comfort from knowing that he died peacefully in his sleep, in the home they shared and where his whole family has spent countless hours in his gentle, caring and quick-witted company. André was born in Norway on November 4th, 1953 to Anne Marie and Victor Deloya. His family moved several times over the course of his childhood and youth and at times called Norway, Japan and New York home. His teenage years were filled with music, hockey and of course, friends, some of whom he kept close ties with through the next 50 years.

He met his lifelong partner and best friend, Eileen Turner, while at the University of Buffalo NY. Their lives together included a number of years in NYC, where André studied Physical Therapy at Columbia, and Eileen worked as an obstetrical nurse. Always an athlete at heart, NYC was where André

became a marathon runner, eventually completing the NYC Marathon 7 times, and posting some pretty amazing times. When Eileen pursued a career in midwifery, they moved to Minneapolis, where they settled, built a community that involved their chosen fields and strong friendships, and raised their beautiful family. He never looked back. Minnesota was his home for keeps. What a career he had! André was an exceptionally talented Physical Therapist who provided healing and compassionate treatment in hospitals, 14 years as the team Physiotherapist with the Minnesota Timberwolves, and as a co-owner in Accelerated Sports, a private, outpatient physical therapy clinic, before retiring in 2017. He loved his work and took great pride in being able to provide comfort to others.

André brought his gentle humor and beaming smile to everything. People sometimes refer to him as one of the kindest people they've ever met. The passion, friendliness and humor he invested in everything he did has inspired family and friends (and even strangers he met briefly), and will continue to do so long after his passing.

He had so many talents and interests. Andre loved music and had a beautiful singing voice. He was an avid sports enthusiast and engaged fully as an active participant, spectator and as a professional. He was a skilled photographer, and captured the various rich experiences of his and Eileen's life together behind the lens of a camera. He was an empathic listener and true friend. 10 years ago, they realized their dream and bought a cabin near Nisswa, MN. In the past 5 years, he especially loved the opportunities he had watching his grandchildren grow.

André was an enthusiastic traveler. Over the course of their nearly 50 years together, they visited many beautiful places as a couple and as a family. Soon after his diagnosis, André got himself a volunteer gig, working as crew on his sister and brother-in-law's boat (the Anne Marie) as they sailed the intercoastal from Florida to Virginia, an epic journey that he repeated by car a few years later with Eileen as his co-pilot. They joined another sister and many good friends and family members on a trip to Spain and Morocco,

attended the Olympics in Brazil, and journeyed with his immediate family, including one-year-old grandson Colby, on a trip to Greece, Italy and Norway. André was our loved family member. He leaves behind his wife, Eileen, and daughters Hailey Deloya-Vegter (Torrey Vegter), Amanda Renneke (Brent) and his grandchildren Colby, Aden and Mia. He is also survived by his sisters Nili (Ramon), Jeannette (Arthur) and Helene (Bill), and nephews Daniel (Laura), Jacob (Julie), Jonas, Eric, Luke and Sean, and grand-nephew Lucca, his in-laws, Lynn, Sherry and Steven (Johanna) and nieces Emma and Mollie. André is also survived by friends too many to name. He was preceded in death by his mother, Anne Marie, in 2010 and father, Victor in 2018, his father-in-law, Jack in 2020, and his brother-in-law, Rick, in 2018.

This week, our family has gathered once again to say our goodbyes and to relive so many of our memories together. There will be a celebration of life event sometime in the near future. In the meantime, we invite all those who might wish to do so, to contribute to the ALS Association, MN, ND and SD Chapter (<https://www.als.org/mn-nd-sd>). This organization provided so much to support André and his family's quality of life over the past 6 years. We are deeply grateful to all the wonderful people from this organization who helped in so many ways.

We'll leave you with this. Fill your day with music. That's how André would have spent the day. Maybe some Dave Bowie, maybe some Joni Mitchell. And, he'd be singing along. Maybe you will, too.

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Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of André David Deloya.*



February 11, 2022 at 01:52 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working with and getting to know Andre as one of David Fischer's fellows 20 years ago. He always went out of his way to look after Dave's fellows, and we learned from his kind and gentle demeanor how best to treat our patients. It is an honor to call him my friend I will miss him deeply*

Mike Leddy

Michael J Leddy III, MD - February 08, 2022 at 08:31 PM



“ *I came to know Andre at the Shortstop golf tournament in Albert Lea. I have never met a nicer man in my life. Andre was always so encouraging and friendly and in great spirits. He made you feel that his conversation with you was the most important thing on his schedule. I will miss my friend Andre. He made the day a little brighter for everyone who met him.*

Gary Dunn - February 08, 2022 at 06:47 PM

TK

“ *Eileen and family*

Our hearts are broken for you all. Andre was the most wonderful, kind, loving and generous man we ever met. He was truly a beautiful soul. We are all better for knowing him. We have so many great memories of the times we spent with Andre and you.

We pray that you are surrounded and strengthened by the love and friendship of all who knew and loved him.

All our love and prayers.

Tim, Dawn, Kellen, Devin, Lexie, Taryn, Bronson and kids



Tim and Dawn Kaasa - February 07, 2022 at 12:15 PM