



## Bryan Adam Ekern

January 11, 1977 - April 12, 2023

Bryan Ekern, age 46, of Eden Prairie, MN peacefully left this earth on April 12, 2023 at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, MN.

Bryan was born on January 11, 1977 to John and Kathleen Ekern in Detroit Lakes, MN. In typical Bryan fashion, his arrival delayed his grandparents winter trek to California. From Dad, he inherited his sense of humor and a bit of stubbornness, and from Mom his sweet and caring nature, especially for kids and animals. The youngest of three, he was often bossed around by his older siblings. However, as the baby of the family, we all knew he was in charge. Mom and granny especially had a soft spot for our "Babe", rarely telling him "no" (much to the chagrin of his siblings).

Growing up in Waseca, MN, Bryan and his older brother Chris were the best of friends. They spent many hours biking around town, playing outside until dark with neighborhood friends, golfing at Lakeside, and occasionally terrorizing their older sister Jenn. During his school years, he played hockey and participated on the golf team (as would be expected from a member of the Ekern family). He graduated from Waseca High School in 1995.

Summers were spent in Detroit Lakes, where tubing, water skiing, playing golf and fishing with cousins and friends were favorite activities. His kindness and adventurous spirit earned him a large circle of friends, whom he could easily

persuade to participate in daily doses of mischief. Before kids, you would often find the Ekern siblings (and later in-laws Angie and Phil), cruising the lake on dad's pontoon into the wee hours of the night, where they no doubt solved all the world's problems.

After high school, Bryan attended college at St. Cloud State University and Moorhead State University, eventually earning a B.S. in Accounting. He relocated to the Twin Cities, where he passed the CPA exam and worked as an auditor, most recently for Eide Bailly, LLP.

Bryan and partner Alicia Decker were blessed with a daughter, Ava, in 2012. He was the best daddy. He never passed up the opportunity to play Barbies, have his nails painted, create goofy videos and photos, or play with their sweet puppy, "Sparkle". Bryan's smile and caring personality live on in Ava, and for that we are grateful.

Bryan will be fondly remembered and forever loved by Ava and Alicia; sister Jennifer (Phillip) Berndt and brother Christopher (Angela) Ekern of Northfield, MN; nephews Elias Ekern and Liam Berndt and niece Frances Ekern; special aunt Julie Raphael of Detroit Lakes, MN and cousin Mimi Raphael of Boulder, CO.

Also survived by aunts Gwen Lilya of Soudan, MN; Carol (Keith) Bergren of Detroit Lakes, MN; uncle John (Jane) Munn of Fort Myers, FL; Alicia's family; many cousins and countless friends and colleagues.

Bryan has been reunited with those that preceded him in death: parents John and Kathleen; grandparents Julian and Eileen Ekern and Mary, Gerald and Evelyn Munn; uncles Gary Munn and Steve Munn; aunt Nancy Erdmann.

A celebration of life for Bryan is Saturday, July 1st, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 7:00

PM, 392 Shorewood Drive, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, where we will celebrate our beloved Bryan/ Babe/ Ox at the lake, as he wished.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Crematory

2610 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ Ox was family to me. He leaves a hole in my heart. Bob Bekkerus

Bob Bekkerus - April 20, 2023 at 03:53 PM

KP

“ Karen E Peters lit a candle in memory of Bryan Adam Ekern



Karen E Peters - April 20, 2023 at 03:15 PM

KP

Alicia, I met you when you were just a little girl. I was friends with your mom a very long time ago and now we are "friends" again on facebook. I also lost my husband just one year ago, and my heart hurts for you. I know how devastating it is. Your mom reached out to me at that time and offered her sympathy. Now, I want to do the same for you and let you know that I'm praying for you and hoping you find peace. God Bless you and the rest of Bryan's family.

Karen E Peters - April 20, 2023 at 03:23 PM

CB

“ Hello everyone, it is Char. I can't even express how broken hearted I am about Bryan, my godson. We had so many great times together. Sending my love and condolences to all of you.

Charlene Bekkerus - April 19, 2023 at 02:00 PM