



Damon Aaron Leivestad

May 1, 1973 - October 24, 2024

Damon Aaron Leivestad was born in Mankato, Minnesota to David and Deanna Leivestad on May 1, 1973. He was welcomed home in St. Peter by his brother, Derek. He went to his heavenly home on Oct. 24, 2024.

When Damon was three years old, he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (a progressive neuromuscular disease) at the U of M.

During the summers he attended MDA Camp at Camp Courage, where the campers started playing wheelchair floor hockey.

After graduating from St. Peter High School in 1992, he moved to Minneapolis and started CAD classes, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. By February of 1993 he was interning with his present employer, Barry-Wehmiller Flexible Systems.

In 1993 he and four disabled friends flew to Germany to attend an International wheelchair hockey tournament. They had amazing stories upon their return, especially about cruising the Autobahn Highway at night in their chairs and getting lost.

After returning from Germany the team began making trips to Canada to play hockey. Soon Damon and two other teammates started the PowerHockey

USA organization.

In 2002 Damon was awarded the Rose and Jay Phillips Award from Courage Center. This award is presented annually to people with disabilities who have achieved outstanding vocational and community success.

In recent years, in addition to continuing to design packaging machinery for his employer, Damon was a strong and dedicated advocate for the disabled and their caregivers. He worked on legislation and regulations with SEIU (Service Employees International Union); MNCCD (Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities); and Senator John Hoffman and David Zak (members of the state legislator's Human Services Committee).

His celebration of life will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30th at Plymouth Covenant Church, 4300 Vicksburg Lane N., Plymouth, MN. Visitation at 10 AM, service at 11 AM, with lunch to follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Cure SMA at www.curesma.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Plymouth Covenant Church
4300 North Vicksburg Lane
Plymouth, MN 55305

Memorial Service

OCT **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Plymouth Covenant Church
4300 North Vicksburg Lane
Plymouth, MN 55305

Tribute Wall

SN

“ I am very sorry and sad that I just found out about this. Damon was an incredibly intelligent and gifted man. I always enjoyed working with him on projects at work, and was always fun and friendly outside. I am confident that he is being well taken care of on the other side. Safe trails my friend!

Steve Neer - January 10, 2025 at 01:11 PM

KO

“ I will always remember our family fall weekends we would spend with the Leivestad's at Camp Courage. Damon and Craig would scheme up practical jokes to play on the girls and then recruit the younger siblings or Derek and friends to carry out the pranks, once caught Craig was good at acting innocent and Damon would always break a smile and shrug he was always the first to crack. Then revenge ensued.

Kari Oldenkamp - October 29, 2024 at 11:33 PM

BM

“ I worked with Damon over 25 years ago in the "blue cell" working on high level palletizers. A forklift truck was modified to lift Damon and his wheelchair up to the engineering room on the 2nd level. Other accommodations were made such as a refrigerator, etc.

Once he was in front of his computer, there was no sign of any disability. He often mentored the rest of us on how we can use Autocad to its fullest ability including tips and tricks. Damon often would speak up interjecting a sense of humor that had us all in stitches.

He taught us how to work diligently while having a laugh now and then. He touched our lives with grace and dignity where we were blind and didn't see his wheelchair.

Your hard work is completed and now it's your time to shine in heaven!

Bob Maile

Bob Maile - October 29, 2024 at 06:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Damon Aaron Leivestad.

October 29, 2024 at 06:45 PM

MC

“ Medical Air Rescue Company purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Damon Aaron Leivestad.



Medical Air Rescue Company - October 29, 2024 at 04:13 PM

SS

“ Damon was one heck of an amazing guy, certainly an inspiration to myself and many others working with him at BW Packaging. We certainly laughed a lot together.

Certainly, he gave tons more than he had to and as an engineer on our machinery systems, there remains no equal. he could do things with that mouse and keyboard that amazed me certainly. Accuracy of drawings, beautiful professional emails...the whole shot. What a man!

All that said about talent producing custom bag palletizing systems aside, Damon did it in a way that made you feel important and special, and this was really the core of Damon's inner self. Man, that sense of humor was so spot on, so true, and just stopped everyone in their tracks to get a big laugh, so much fun to be involved with.

I certainly loved Damon not only for his wit, but also the drive he showed every day. Like everyone else, I Love him deeply and forever!

Steve Shellenbaum - October 29, 2024 at 10:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Damon Aaron Leivestad.

October 28, 2024 at 08:25 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Damon Aaron Leivestad.



October 28, 2024 at 08:25 PM

AE

“ Although I have so many great memories with D, I think my favorite is when we took a road trip out to Montana. Deanna and I tied Damon down to the back seat so he could lay down and rest his tailbone “safely”. Basically we made our own make shift Safety belt. When we stopped at a gas station a police officer pulled up next to our vehicle and stared at Damon. I always got defensive by people that stared at Damon so I shot the officer a nasty glance, closed the door and took off. I then realized that the officer was probably staring because it looked like we had a prisoner tied up and starving in the backseat 😂 we all had a good laugh over it 🤔🤔🤔

Damon, you taught me so much over the many years of knowing you. Especially how to lighten up and not be so PC all the time. You taught me it's okay to laugh at yourself and along with others. Life is short live it to max and make a difference everyday! You did this! I am really going to miss you... thank you for making me a part of your story. I am a better person for knowing you 🍷🍷🍷 RIP D 🥺💕💕💕

Alison Ebert - October 27, 2024 at 10:16 PM

SH

“ Senator John Hoffman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Damon Aaron Leivestad.

Senator John Hoffman - October 27, 2024 at 06:55 PM

SH

“ Senator John Hoffman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Damon Aaron Leivestad.



Senator John Hoffman - October 27, 2024 at 06:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Damon Aaron Leivestad.



October 27, 2024 at 04:05 PM

MH

“ Miss my old friend. 30 moves, kids, and life just kept me from visiting him and so many others. Thankful for Facebook so I could see him and his awesome family often. I remember cold Minnesota days playing games with him. He introduced me to computers and I built a career on that introduction. God bless old friend. Thank you.

Mathew Heath Van Horn - October 27, 2024 at 03:28 PM