



## Daniel John Ptak

January 19, 1958 - October 11, 2024

Ptak, Daniel John, age 66, St. Paul, MN, passed away October 10, 2024, at Lyngblomsten Care Center after a brief illness.

Dan was born and raised in NE Minneapolis and graduated from Edison High School in 1976. He was an honors student, participated in gymnastics on the rings (he could walk on his hands around the block) and played trumpet in the marching band. He was elected Snow Days King his senior year.

Dan attended the College of St. Thomas, majoring in political science. In the fall of his junior year (1978), while on his way to an evening class, he had a severe motorcycle accident that changed his life. Though doctors initially predicted a small chance of survival, Dan held on, spending three months in the hospital with a broken back, jaw, wrist, and knee, as well as a traumatic brain injury. Dan persevered further with a year of rehabilitation at Courage Center, but was left with permanent physical disabilities and a brain injury that progressively worsened over his lifetime.

Dan did return to his studies at St Thomas, earning his degree in 1981. He then began graduate school with the hope of pursuing a career in law, but his injuries made this path too challenging. Over the next decade he worked a number of different jobs, but eventually this became too difficult for him, as well.

With the help of his father and Senator Paul Wellstone, Dan was able to move into a subsidized Independent Living Facility in downtown St. Paul. He spent 32 years at Central Towers, where he enjoyed a sense of comfort, safety, and contentment. During his decades there he enjoyed getting to know many of the residents. He enjoyed talking with people and hearing all about their lives. He was well known for sharing tales of daily encounters and memories of years ago.

A devout Catholic, Dan attended Church of the Assumption regularly. He was also a lifelong Democrat with a deep interest in politics and served as an election judge many times over the years.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, John and Ruth Ptak, and brother Patrick Ptak. He is survived by his siblings Michelle (John) Luzaich, Michael (Lori) Ptak, and David (Betsy) Ptak, and his siblings' children: Troy (Amanda) Isensee, Stephanie Ptak, Kirsten (Andrew Montgomery) Ptak, Carter Ptak, and Bennett Ptak.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday December 10, 2024 from 5-7 pm, with a prayer service at 7:00, at the Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel, 2610 19th Avenue NE, Minneapolis ,MN 55418. A private interment will be at Fort Snelling. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Second Harvest Heartland Food Shares ([2harvest.org](http://2harvest.org)).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 10. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Prayer Service

DEC 10. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

PF

“ I thought it odd that I sent Dan a birthday card and I didn't hear from him. On a whim I searched his name. So sorry I missed seeing this so I could attend the service and meet his family. I went to a political science class at St Thomas with Dan when I was at St Kate's. At the time I lived at 3457 Central Ave NE so very close to the family home. Dan has been invited to all of our family events over the years including a birthday party for my granddaughter. He always managed to find treasures to give us gifts for the holidays. He had a great memory about the contents of my annual Christmas letter. We all will miss him! Pat Frankenfield

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**Patricia Frankenfield** - January 29, 2025 at 06:35 PM

JG

“ Danny will be truly missed, rest in peace cousin, I'll never forget you

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**Janet Gfroerer** - November 13, 2024 at 06:02 PM