



Dean Wyatt Brown

June 27, 1953 - August 3, 2020

Dean Wyatt Brown was born on June 27th, 1953 in Lordsburg, NM to his loving parents Donald and Rose Alice Brown. Dean went to be with the Lord peacefully on Monday the 3rd of August, 2020 at his home in Minnetonka, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents Donald and Rose Alice (Brown) Orr, sister Cathy Ribble, and step-father Robert Orr.

Dean grew up in Tucson, AZ and El Paso, TX where he graduated from William H. Burgess High School. Following in his father's footsteps, he graduated from Arizona State University where he double majored in Accounting and Computer Science. He continued rooting for the Sun Devils (Fear the Fork) throughout his life. Dean was a talented Program Manager. He started his career with Cargill, in Minneapolis which took him to New York City and eventually to Fort Worth, TX. Following his Cargill career, he worked for Steak and Ale Corp/Pillsbury in Texas, which brought him back to Minneapolis. He worked the latter part of his career as an independent contractor for many organizations in and around Minneapolis. Dean made a long-lasting impact on so many that he worked with, and cherished the work, and the relationships he made along the way.

Dean is survived by his loving wife Darlene of 41 years, his daughter and son-in-law Sarah and Joe Garner, two adoring grandchildren Tyler and Katie Garner, sister Elaine Brown, several brothers and sisters-in-law, many nieces

and nephews, and best friend since college, Eric Marsh.

Dean was a child of God, a man of great faith and very devoted to his church, Family of Christ Lutheran in Chanhassen, MN for over 30 years. Dean served as Building Chairman, Council President and spent many years dedicated to Sacred Seasons. Perhaps his favorite activity in the church was being a confirmation Life Guide. Dean would meet high schoolers weekly with pizza and help mentor them in their faith. Dean loved spending time with the youth and led a vibrant ministry for seniors in high school called "What's Next", giving seniors the tools to deal with the challenging world in front of them with a strong faith.

Frank Lloyd Wright, one of Dean's favorite people to study, once said, "You have to go wholeheartedly into anything in order to achieve anything worth having". Dean lived by that saying and always put others first whether it was helping neighbors with gardening and yard work, giving generously of his time and resources to the community or sharing Christ with youth. He loved and adored his wonderful wife, doted over his daughter, making her blush, and shared stories with anyone that would listen about his two favorite grandkids or "Sprouts" as he called them. He will be missed more than words, but we are at peace knowing that he is now with his Lord and Savior.

A funeral service is being held on Sunday August 9th, 2 pm at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Chanhassen, and as much as Dean would disapprove, masks are required. Pastor Josh Nelson will officiate the service. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to Family of Christ Lutheran Church, or the American Heart Association.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
2020 Coulter Boulevard
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Tribute Wall

TP

“*Darlene, Sarah, and family - I am very sorry for your loss. I worked for Dean for several years in the late 90s and continued to stay in touch through occasional breakfast meetings with Joel Johnson and Doug Dorow and most recently when he started his new contract with Wells Fargo. Dean was one of the most genuine, kind, and caring people I've met. I've enjoyed reading all of the remarkable tributes to Dean and hope they bring some level of comfort to you in knowing how he touched the lives of so many people in such a positive way. I remember teasing him about his clean desk, love of organization, and fondness for shopping at the Container Store. I remember his love of gardening and time spent at the Naniboujou Lodge on the North Shore. Most of all, I will remember him for being a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. I am a better person for having known him.*

Tim Petersen

Tim Petersen - August 26, 2020 at 07:07 PM

AA

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Dean. I worked with Dean a few years ago when he was contracting with Medtronic. He was a very nice, calm, caring and on overall genuine man. He had so many stories and would share them often, they always made everyone laugh. After he left Medtronic, I always looked forward to seeing him at a mutual friend, Christmas party and an occasional happy hour throughout the year. I think his daily goal was to not spill coffee on his neatly pressed white shirt. We always joked about it. I enjoyed hearing Dean talk about his church, his family, especially his 2 grandchildren who he adored and his love for things being neat, tidy and clean. Thinking of you all during this very difficult time. He was a great man and will be missed. A man like that is hard to come by. I am thankful to say he was a friend of mine.

Amanda Anderson - August 12, 2020 at 11:51 AM

PL

“ *To Dean's Family -*
I had the pleasure of working with Dean on a project at Medtronic a few years back. He was a wonderful man, with a great sense of humor, positive attitude and was very talented. He spoke lovingly of his family (especially his grandchildren) and shared stories and photos often. He was the kind of human being that anyone would be lucky to have in their life. My heart is heavy knowing he is gone. My truest condolences and prayers to all that knew him. The world is one good guy short.

Patti Loso

Patti Loso - August 12, 2020 at 11:41 AM

CI

“ *Dean Brown was one of the most supportive parent as well as Darlene Brown for one of my on of my my former and very successful players at Winthrop University. They were there as often as there jobs afforded them the time. The Brown’s offered me a very nice stay at their home as well during a Volleyball player’s wedding, Karla Galar*

Catherine Ivester - August 10, 2020 at 01:52 AM

BD

“ Dear Darlene, Sarah, Joe, Tyler, Katie and all the extended family,

I am so very sad you have lost Dean. I am one of the many who will always miss him and I'm privileged he was my friend for many years. Dean was a man who lived his faith!

Dean loved his family so very much and enjoyed sharing about family activities over the years. He would talk about square dancing events, basketball tournaments, Sarah's engagement to Joe, their marriage and shared beautiful photos of the wedding. When Tyler and Katie came along, he was such a proud grandpa! It was always a delight to receive Dean's emails with the photo attachments to keep me updated.

I worked directly for Dean back in the Pillsbury days. He was truly a caring manager who made a difference in my career. His management style was respectful, fun loving and all with a strong team spirit. He understood the importance of team building to make work activities go smoothly.

Dean always pursued a solid working relationship with each team member and gave equal time to everyone. Yes, he was a great boss!, helped me navigate through work situations, and held one-on-one updates with me and my colleagues on a regular basis, which demonstrated we were all important to him. Once work topics were covered, Dean and I would often discuss our mutual Lutheran upbringing. We talked about Luther's Catechism lessons, our faith, and I even shared with him a photo of my confirmation. He could relate to that pic since he had one of his own, and actually did enjoy seeing my class photo.

He had a genuine interest in the lives of all the people he managed in the corporate arena. He was creative and would sometimes organize meetings with a theme. I recall one staff meeting he wanted everyone to bring in a baby picture of themselves. Then the 'task' was to guess who belonged to which photo! Oh, we had such

a fun time laughing and teasing each other about how we 'turned out' and what happened to those cute kids we saw in those old photos.

When the Special Olympics came to Minneapolis/St. Paul in 1991, Dean organized a team outing. It was during that event, sitting next to Dean in the auditorium in St. Paul, I came to truly realize just how big his heart was for others. Tears were running down his face as the children on the stage were showing their excitement about the awards they had won. That day is indeed a wonderful memory.

Faith, family and friends were always important to Dean. He made a difference and I've been blessed to have known him. Dean is now in heaven with our Lord and Savior. Beverly Drazul

Beverly Drazul - August 09, 2020 at 05:59 PM

ML

“*Dean was such an amazing friend and mentor. He always told the best stories and shared the best advice. I have no doubt he is home with the Lord but I will miss him terribly. My sincere condolences.*

Mary E Lloyd - August 09, 2020 at 05:02 PM

KH

“*Dean had a smile as wide as Texas and a heart as deep as Lake Superior! It was an honor and a privilege to be his pastor for 11.5 years. He taught me a lot about walking the way of Jesus in this world.*

Sincere condolences, Darlene, Sarah, Joe, Katie and Tyler, and the whole family at FOC. Our gracious God holds Dean and all of us in God's strong and gentle arms.

Kristie Hennig

Kristie Hennig - August 09, 2020 at 02:03 PM

 Erik
Olson

“ Dear Darlene,

I'm so sorry for your loss and am forever grateful for all of the mission trip memories to Montana, North Carolina, and New Orleans that I have with Dean. He always had the best stories, jokes, dance moves, and wisdom to share. He also always checked in whenever I returned from college to FOC and was just always an excellent mentor and friend. I'm also grateful for both of your support while I was serving my YAGM year in Senegal. I wish I could be there today, but sending love from the west coast.

*Peace,
Erik Olson*

Erik Olson - August 09, 2020 at 12:16 PM

CF

“ *I was so sad to hear of Dean's passing. Though we had not seen nor spoken to each other in over 45 years, I remember him as a very special person whose smile filled the room. I remember that he loved Bette Midler and we saw The Sting which we both agreed was a great movie. I knew Dean from Burges High School and we briefly dated in 1973. Here's a picture I took of him (one of my favorites) that's been hidden away in my photo album all this time. Good bye, Dean. You will be very much missed by all whose lives you touched.*



Cherry Freudiger - August 09, 2020 at 12:05 PM

RF

“ *Ruth Flanders lit a candle in memory of Dean Wyatt Brown*



Ruth Flanders - August 09, 2020 at 11:11 AM

DD

“ *Darlene and Sarah - you and the kids are in my prayers.*

I'm heartbroken. Knowing Dean was a privilege. He was my boss, my mentor, my friend. I will always remember the stories and laughs we shared.

He will continue to be an example to me on how to live my best life.

Doug Dorow - August 09, 2020 at 10:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Darlene, It is with very sad hearts to hear of Dean's death. Having known him we know he is at the feel of Jesus singing and having a great time with all the kids.

What a great and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend he was and we are so blessed to have know him. We have such fond memories of the great times sitting around a table sharing family stories, laughing enjoying a good meal and each other.

Our Sarah has wonderful memories of Dean driving the girls around and just plain being a fun dad to be around.

You, Sarah and family are in our thoughts and prayers as you are grieving the loss of Dean. Way too young to lose him but what a gain for those in heaven!

Love & hugs,

Kay & Steve Smith

Kay Smith - August 07, 2020 at 09:12 PM

JG

“ We met Dean through the Winthrop Volleyball community. We got to know Dean & Darlene when our daughters were playing college volleyball together. He was a wonderful person. So sorry for your loss.

John & Phyllis Galer

John Galer - August 07, 2020 at 03:56 PM

JJ

“ The first time I met Dean, for a job interview 23 years ago, he talked about his favorite subject, Sarah, for the majority of our breakfast and then offered me a job without grilling me with typical interview questions. I left that meeting with little understanding of the job or company but a clear understanding that I wanted to work for this fabulous human being. Dean was always the most genuine and likable person in any room which was obvious after the first five minutes but it took me a little longer to understand the other important lessons I had just learned. Dean understood that relationships and connection were more important than expertise. He demonstrated that it was easier to smile than frown and that positivity was infectious. He showed that you didn't have to take yourself too serious for others to take you serious. Most importantly Dean knew that family was much more important than a job and that there was no greater reward than being a girl dad.

Thank you Dean, it was an absolute privilege to know you!! I'm sure you are already one of God's favorites.

Darlene and Sarah, I am so sorry for your loss and you continue to be in our prayers.

Joel Johnson

Joel Johnson - August 07, 2020 at 03:25 PM

JW

“ *Judfy Wiese lit a candle in memory of Dean Wyatt Brown*



Judfy Wiese - August 07, 2020 at 12:10 PM

KT

“ Kris Brophy and Paycheck Protection Program Team purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Dean Wyatt Brown.



Kris Brophy and Paycheck Protection Program Team -
August 07, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dean Wyatt Brown.



August 07, 2020 at 09:40 AM

ST

“ Darlene, Sarah, Joe and children, please know your Nebraska family is sharing in your loss. Dean was always a very caring person and always made me feel loved. I always enjoyed sharing time with both of you, Darlene. I will never forget how joyful I was then Dean and you came to visit Ron and I at the Mayo Clinic hospital. When I saw your faces, a glow of light hit the room that I can not explain. My heart was so heavy, but after your visit life felt a little lighter. I wish I could share a few hugs with you and the family. May God's loving arms surround the family at this time. Comfort and peace, Susan Tafini



Susan Tafini - August 06, 2020 at 10:12 PM

PR

“ We are so saddened to hear of Dean's passing. We both enjoyed his leadership on the Church Council and Building Committee. He was so knowledgeable and a great organizer.

Sending our deepest condolences, Darlene and Sarah. May you find peace in knowing that he had a strong faith and a deep loving spirit.

We will continue to pray for strength and God's comfort for your entire family.

Steve & Patti Rude

Patti  Rude - August 06, 2020 at 09:33 PM

CB

“ Dean was a former boss of mine at Pillsbury in the early 90's. I never felt managed by him, it was more like a partnership. He was always there to provide encouragement, confidence and support, and he taught me a great deal about project management. Our group was always busy and worked hard, but we had fun doing the work because of Dean. We used to tease him about how clean his office was. Those who knew him well, knew there was always a can of Pledge in his drawer!! After he left Pillsbury, I was fortunate to remain friends with him to the present time, communicating thru email. He loved his consulting work and often commented on it. It was during this time that I also got to meet and know his beautiful family and I thoroughly enjoyed the updates and pictures he sent. His family was everything to him. Dean was a wonderful boss, but I was even more proud to call him my 'friend'. He was genuinely a wonderful human being. My deepest sympathy to Darlene, Sarah, Joe and those 'Sprouts'! I share in your loss and I will miss my friend.....Rest in Peace Dean.

Carol Bonnette - August 06, 2020 at 08:20 PM

MS

“ As one of the lucky Recruiters to have worked with Dean during his consulting career, I always described him as the utmost professional consultant. He set the bar high! Dean also surrounded himself with other great people. Any time he sent someone my way, I knew they were good and made a priority to talk with them. He has left a tremendous legacy in the Twin Cities consulting community and will be dearly missed. On behalf of the Keyot team, our thoughts and prayers are with you, Darlene, Sarah, and your family.

Molly Sterenchuk - August 06, 2020 at 07:03 PM

CO

“ Carol Oltmans lit a candle in memory of Dean Wyatt Brown



Carol Oltmans - August 06, 2020 at 06:29 PM