



Howard Paul DeWees

August 18, 1954 - March 18, 2024

Celebration of Life

Howard Paul DeWees, age 69, of Bloomington, MN, born August 18, 1954, passed away on March 18, 2024. He was a beloved husband, son, brother, uncle and friend to many. Preceded in death by parents Lawrence and Betty DeWees. Survived by wife Deborah, brother Scott (Gail), sister Sue, niece Sara (Nick), nephew Matthew and many friends.

- Howard was born in Richfield, Minnesota. Graduated from Richfield Senior High in 1972. While attending school he was on the wrestling and tennis team and played the French horn in the orchestra. Howard auditioned and was invited to play with the Minnesota Youth Symphonies. Auditions consisted of four components: a solo piece, excerpts, scales, and sight-reading. Howard also played with the Minneapolis Post Office Band.

Howard graduated from the University of Minnesota and majored in Computer Science. He attended Metro State University for 2 years studying Psychology & General Studies. Howard had an Associate's Degree in Computers & Electronic Technology from Northwestern Electronics Institute, that included 3 hours lab and 3 hours theory, for 5 days a week for 28 months.

Howard enlisted in the U. S. Navy from October 1974 thru October 1980 and was in the Reserves for 4 years. He provided training and support at the Naval Training Center Electronics School, in Orlando, FL., and the Navy Reserves supporting Seal Team One, in Coronado, CA, as Advanced

Communication Support.

Howard was the National Applications Engineer, for 28 years and 6 months at Sick, Inc., one of the world's leading manufacturers of sensors and safety systems, for industrial applications. Howard always enjoyed plant walkthroughs. He would walk the plant and inform the manufacturer, how to safe guard their equipment or define the problem they were having and advise them how to resolve their issue. He traveled frequently to the main headquarters for General Motors in Detroit and would meet with top management. Other large customers he assisted to safe guard their equipment and plants were; Ford, Toyota, Kraft Foods, Boeing, many locations for the U. S. Post Office and several major airports. He loved solving their complicated issues. Customers that knew him well, would call him at home, even on weekends when they had a problem, because they always knew Howard would have the solution to their issue. Many times, he designed and built a prototype, to test and evaluate how his solution would work and then show the solution to users for feedback.

While employed by Sick, Inc. Howard traveled across the United States, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Mexico. He truly enjoyed his work there. He retired in August of 2019.

Howard was the Senior Engineering Development Specialist for Unisys for 14 years. Working on the Unisys 1100 series in mainframe hardware development. Once they even had to charter a plane for him, to immediately, get to the job site that was located in Texas. He also traveled across the United States for Unisys.

He was a member of PMA (Precision Metal Forming Association) from January 2001 to present and a member of ANSI (American National Standards Institute) from January 1995 to present, where he wrote ANSI Standards, that were published. He was also a member of Machine Safe Guarding for 8 years and IEC 62061 and ISO 13849 Machinery Functional

Safety for 12 years. .

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Memorial Service

APR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)
5025 Knox Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Tribute Wall

WS

“ When my first wife told me our marriage was over, I turned to Howard as the only one I could really count on. All I really needed was my old friend to talk to, and he was always there for me.

Howard loved his Pillsbury house. I remember when Toro first started to encroach and threatened to take his house, Howard countered by banning together with his neighbors and building spud guns, (guns that launched whole potatoes 100 yards using cheap hairspray) which they would randomly launch towards the Toro headquarters building at night for fun.

He had a fantastic 28 1/2 year career with the German company Sick, Inc., one of the world's leading manufacturers of sensors and safety systems, for industrial applications. Howard used to tell me stories about being called into an automotive plant where the robots were running into each other and he'd have to solve the problem. He traveled frequently to the main headquarters for General Motors in Detroit to meet with top management. Other large customers he assisted to safe guard their equipment and plants were; Ford, Toyota, Kraft Foods, Boeing, many locations for the U. S. Post Office and several major airports. He loved solving their complicated issues. Customers that knew him well, would call him at home, even on weekends when they had a problem, because they always knew Howard would have the solution to their issue. Many times, he designed and built a prototype, to test and evaluate how his solution would work and then show the solution to users for feedback. While employed by Sick, Inc. Howard traveled across the United States, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Mexico. He truly enjoyed his work there. He retired in August of 2019. Among the many different hats he wore there, he traveled internationally as part of an ANSI standards board. Besides his other achievements, I think he accumulated a record number of sky miles and hotel towels.

Howard was really proud of his Irish heritage, and we shared a few green beers on St. Patrick's Day. I thought of him this last St. Patrick's Day when I heard somebody quote an Irish blessing, "May

you get into heaven before the Devil even knows you're gone."

Debbie was always by his side helping him through his final battle and just shared that this was their 30th year together. Everyone who knows them would agree their love for each other had no limits, (except maybe for a few minutes when he told me how fast their electric meter was spinning after they got through putting up all her Christmas trees and lights and their 15 giant blow up Halloween decorations).

Howard's passing leaves a void that can never be filled, but his memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He was not just a friend, but a mentor, a confidant, and a beacon of intelligence and kindness. Rest in peace, dear Howard. And I hope I'll see you in Heaven before the Devil knows we're gone.

wayne Simacek - April 04, 2024 at 05:22 PM

“ I can’t begin to explain the loss I felt when Debbie called me with the news of the passing of my best friend and lifelong companion, Howard. Howard bravely battled his cancer, enduring a feeding tube, loss of his voice, radiation treatments, hours and days of chemotherapy, and pneumonia before finally becoming too weak to fight anymore.

My memories of Howard span a lifetime of friendship and shared experiences. I recall fondly the days when we were just kids, with Howard riding his bike to West Junior High. He would often join me on my walk to school, and we would spend the journey discussing anything and everything. I still remember one book in particular he explained about this amazing escape artist that could get out of any prison, no matter how high the security, and the details of how he did it. He also loved science fiction shows including that really corny show “Mystery science theater 2000.”

In our school days, Howard and I both pursued our musical passions – he on the French horn, and I on the saxophone. When boredom struck during band practice, we would swap sheet music, with me taking on his French horn part and Howard tackling my saxophone part. Our band instructor, Mr. Sandrock, would only smile and shake his head at our antics. He later got invited to audition for the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and went to the Minnesota State Music Competition all three years of high school. We played together with the Post Office Marching Band and Richfield Marching Band.

Our shared love for tennis brought us even closer together. After a ninth grade summer spent hitting balls back and forth, Howard suggested we try out for the Richfield High school tennis team. Despite our lack of form and style, Coach Danielson saw potential in us and paired us up as a doubles team. We may not have been the most skilled players, but we certainly had the most fun – especially when we triumphed over the Edina team, laughing our way through the match. During spring training before the snow melted, the coach

would have the whole team run stairs up and down the three levels of the high school. Howard figured out we could hide in the first floor bathroom until the team had made a couple laps, and then we'd splash water on our faces and run by the coach like we've been running with the team the whole time.

I also remember many fun winters playing street hockey with Howard, his brother Scott who we fondly called "the Beezer", Steve DuBois, John Vadeen, and the rest of the Aldrich Gang.

Howard's reading speed and intellect were unmatched. When it wasn't considered cool to carry books between classes at Richfield High, he and I would take turns and share a history textbook. By the time I was through the first paragraph, Howard was ready to turn the page, his thirst for knowledge insatiable. His mom, Betty, took him to the Richfield library from a really young age, where he would borrow and read 8 to 10 books every week, as a testament to his voracious appetite for reading. We both rebuilt and tuned our 10 speed bikes based on a book he read, and his knowledge.

His brilliance extended beyond the classroom. In 1974 Howard joined the Navy where he provided training and support at the Naval Training Center Electronics School, in Orlando, FL., and another four years with the Navy Reserves supporting Seal Team One, in Coronado, CA, as Advanced Communication Support. He also told me about these poker games he ran wherever he was stationed.

Howard earned a degree from NEI in computers and electronic technology. He graduated from the University of Minnesota majoring in Computer Science.

SL

“ Scott L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Paul DeWees.

Scott L. - April 01, 2024 at 10:34 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Howard Paul DeWees.



April 01, 2024 at 10:34 PM

BO

“ My heart aches knowing Howard is no longer here. He was the kindest, loving, most caring person I knew. Your undying love for my best friend, Deb is what I loved most about you. I knew she was in the best of hands. You will live in my heart always. Your friend, Bobbie

Bobbie Ostman - March 24, 2024 at 03:52 PM