



## Jan R. Kirst

May 15, 2013

Kirst, Jan Robert Born July 10, 1954, in Wisconsin Rapids, WI and grew up in Nekoosa, WI. Died unexpectedly May 15, 2013, in Minneapolis, MN. Survived by his mother Jean M., Eau Claire WI; brother Jeffrey, Eden Prairie, MN, sister Jaci McCune, Eau Claire (sons Dirk, Heath, Wayne), brother Joseph (Nancy), Eau Claire, and brother James, Onalaska, WI; aunts and uncles Jere Kirst (Beverly), Wisconsin Rapids, WI, Jack Staege, Spencer, WI, Donna Scheunemann, Wisconsin Rapids, Earl Staege, Wisconsin Rapids, Paul Staege (Gail), Hancock, WI and numerous cousins. Preceded in death by his father John A. Kirst (9-4-2012), paternal grandparents John and Julia Kirst, maternal grandparents Leslie and Alice Staege, and uncles Dale Staege and Milton Staege. Graduated from Nekoosa High School 1972, Student Council and Class President 1971 and 1972, graduated from University of Wisconsin Stout 1976 with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Employed by Carlson Companies (1977-2012) in various capacities and locations around the world, including Sydney, Australia for eight years as well as Singapore for two years. Jan was a world traveler; there were very few places in the world where he had not visited. He had many varied passions including stamps, post cards, magazines and taking many pictures. His positive energy and big smile made him so easy to be around and brought creativity to many family gatherings. His high energy level and self motivation were fun to try to keep with up at times; but it was always worth the effort to be with Jan. Jan loved going to museums and being in big cities, but also constantly thought about

his home town of Nekoosa and its history. If you were at an event that you may have not wanted to participate in, Jan was always the one with the energy and enthusiasm to make it worth getting involved, enjoying the experience, and making it memorable. Jan had a great sense of humor and ability to laugh at himself, of which his siblings also took advantage, but with always the best intentions. Jan was a good sport and if he didn't know how to do something, he would always give it a great effort and find the humor in it. Services: Basilica of St. Mary, Hennepin Ave at 17th St., Minneapolis on Tuesday, May 28, 1:00 pm Visitation and 2:00 pm Mass. Reception to follow. Memorials preferred to Human Rights Campaign, Southern Poverty Law Center, or American Heart Association . [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Eden Prairie Chapel 952-975-0400

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Basilica of St. Mary  
88 North 17th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

## Service

MAY 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Basilica of St. Mary  
88 North 17th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

# Tribute Wall

CO

“ Hello Friends of Jan,  
Sorry to send this last minute, but I wanted to share that we have not set a State Fair Jan Day this year. Schedules have been too busy.  
There are many days left, so if anyone has a preference, or suggestion, I welcome your feedback. Rain days are great for me. Last year it rained and it was great. Cool & low crowds.  
If you choose to go on your own Jan's Memorial bench is in the green section. The State Fair Foundation office can usually give you the exact location,  
I hope everyone is well.  
Cody, friend.

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**Cody** - August 25, 2018 at 09:59 PM

DA

“ I knew Jan when he lived in Sydney Australia and it is with great sadness that I have just now learned of his passing. I will always remember his great sense of humour and his wonderful knowledge and interest in so many different things. He resided in Elizabeth Bay a beautiful suburb of Sydney and I well recall his wonderful library and stamp collections. A wonderful friend. David Rolls

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**David** - November 23, 2016 at 03:35 AM

CK

“ Hello Family & Friends of Jan,  
Anyone interested is invited to join me at Jan's Bench at the MN State Fair on Sunday August 30 @10 am to share memories of Jan and enjoy the event he loved so much. This year the bench is located near the intersection of Lee Ave & Underwood St, just across from a plot of corn. A fitting place seeing that Jan grew up around farm fields. Lee Ave features a collection of antique tractors. (it's not stamps or postcards, but it's another collection)  
I am working and staying on the fairgrounds this year. When I found the bench I saw one of the stamps we attached last year still remained, a nice surprise.  
I didn't have time to get treats together, so bring your favorite Jan snack. I will have stamps available to adhere to the bench.  
If you can't join us I hope you have time to visit the fair on another day and please leave a stamp behind.  
Hope you all are well,  
Cody

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**Cody, friend of Jan Kirst** - August 28, 2015 at 02:49 AM

TD

Jan was my mentor back in 1985, I was a manger trainee at the Radisson in Miami. Jan was Resident Manager, second in command at Hotel at that time. Was a high energy, dedicated, talented service professional. And a super funny and nice guy. RIP.

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**tom derichs** - September 13, 2023 at 10:59 AM

- “
- *Biking through a rainstorm in the central Australian Desert.*
  - *Architectural walks through the Warehouse District in Minneapolis.*
  - *Shopping for incense outside Buddhist temples in Singapore.*
  - *Hiking along the Cox's river in the Kanimbla Valley, Down Under.*
  - *Attending Obama's inauguration in Washington D.C.*
  - *Walking along the canals of Amsterdam.*
  - *Wandering amongst the throngs of shoppers in Hong Kong.*

*These are just a few of my favorite trip memories with Jan. I'm guessing that we met about 22 years ago, but I know we immediately hit it off. Lifelong friends we became – each putting up with one another's quirks. Traveling, exploring, photography and collecting were our interests...with a few alcoholic beverages thrown into the mix!*

- *Where's the best noodle shop? Jan knows.*
- *What's the difference between Teh-O and Teh-C? Jan knows.*
- *How much postage do I need for a postcard to New Zealand? Jan knows.*
- *Where do I catch the closest bus for Elizabeth Bay in Sydney? Jan knows.*
- *Where can I find some Perrier? Jan knows.*
- *When's the next stamp show at the Kelly Inn? Jan knows.*

*When Jan moved from Singapore to Sydney I had him connect with my Ozzie friends. They immediately took him under their wings. Through the decades our friendships circles Down Under grew to include many people. And now remembering how we all met is a jumbled mess, but it all comes down to some connection with Jan.*

*After Jan's heart attack in Sydney I stayed with him in his wonderful Elizabeth Bay apartment as he adjusted his lifestyle and eating habits. More rice, fish and veggies were added to his diet. And since that trip I drink a latte every morning made not with plain old milk, but with soy milk.*

*Jan decided to buy a condo after his return to Minneapolis. I met him at the construction site and we climbed through barriers and snuck into the half-build structures to scout out the unit that had just the right view. "We need to be sure about the light." said Jan. His condo was also the place for a few of Jan's impromptu parties. "Can you guys come over for a little holiday sparkle on Saturday?" one voice mail message said. When we got there everything in the condo was wrapped in aluminum foil. Books, lamps, pictures, you name it. Everything. Whatever Jan did, he put in 110% effort.*

*As you all know, a postcard would arrive in our mailbox after any sort of meeting. Jan always acknowledged how good it was to connect. Each time and every time. We can all learn from his sincerity and politeness.*

*And in typical Jan fashion, his postcards continued to arrive at our house from the Netherlands and Germany days after his own final departure. "Hope to see you soon." was on the last one.*

*Take care old friend.  
Alby*

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**Alby Zatkoff** - May 24, 2013 at 09:03 AM

RJ

“ *Another journey for you my friend. I will miss the post cards and your friendship over the past 30 years. Ruth*

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**Ruth Jamieson** - May 19, 2013 at 06:13 PM