



Mark Cullen Dekovic

May 31, 1956 - August 3, 2023

Mark C. Dekovic (Deke)

Age 67, of Crystal, Minnesota, passed away August 3, 2023, after a short and hard-fought battle with cancer. Mark was born on May 31, 1956 in Chicago, IL, to Charles and Elaine Dekovic.

Most of Mark's childhood was spent trying to grow up in Ames, IA (some would say he never did). He attended Ames High School where he fell in love with the arts, especially theater and music. Mark reveled in the stage and performing which he carried on throughout his life. Following high school, Mark went to work for Aunt Maude's restaurant in Ames where he developed his cooking skills that would later spare his wife from her own bland hot dishes and cans of SpaghettiOs. He continued his education at Iowa State University, pursuing his love of theater through countless performances in Stars Over VEISHA, Union Board Theater, and Memorial Union Resident Summer Theater (MURST). He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design in 1983.

After moving to Minneapolis in 1983, Mark enjoyed sharing his talents with the Minnesota Shakespeare Company and cooking at various restaurants around the city before starting at McKesson Corporation where he began his 30-year career working most recently as an E-commerce Web Designer. He exited

stage left into retirement in September 2022 (because who doesn't love doing web design?). The overall enjoyment-quotient at McKesson dropped 75% when he retired as he was the go-to guy for fun at many company functions, hosting and entertaining during trade shows, United Way functions, banquets, and other events. When Mark walked into the room, everyone noticed!

In 1999, Mark married his co-star, Sue Johnson, who came with an award-worthy supporting cast of Kiernan and Karlyn. He brought his authentic zest for life and his passion for fun into their lives, for which they will be forever grateful. He was an amazing husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend. His many hobbies included being an avid photographer, playing his collection of guitars, woodworking, the Chicago Bears, and spending time with his family. He will be remembered for his hilarious sense of humor and his gentle kindness.

Mark is survived by his wife of 24 years, Sue; stepson Kiernan Johnson and stepdaughter Karlyn (David) Mlostek, one granddaughter Reagan Mlostek; his mother Elaine Dekovic, Ames, IA; brothers; Charles (Sara), Queens Creek, AZ; Jay (Dalila), Tabernash, CO; sisters; Lauren (Martin) Fenimore, Des Moines, IA; Julie Dekovic (Donald Duhon), Spring, TX; Elizabeth Catanesi (Deborah Walton), Nipomo, CA; 8 nephews, 3 grand-nieces, 4 grand-nephews and countless other family and friends. Preceded in death by his father, Charles W. Dekovic, Jr.

Many thanks to the nurses and doctors at Methodist Hospital and the Health Partners Frauentshuh Cancer Center for their compassion and humor. You truly are Heroes!

A Celebration of Life will be held on September 16th, 2023, at the home of Mark and Sue, 3125 Virginia Avenue North, Crystal, MN, from 1-4 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation at

the following link: <https://curecca.link/MarkDekovic>

"All the world's a stage;

And all the men and women merely players;

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts..."

William Shakespeare (From As you Like it)

Tribute Wall

NW

“ Mark is truly the greatest of all time - what a bright light in a sometimes pretty bleak world! Back in the day, when we had an office to go to, Mark really was the go-to guy for a pick-me-up. Just passing Mark in the hallway made it a better day. Who knew work could be good like that? Mark did, he made it that good. A man of his word who loves, loves, loves his family. I never got tired of hearing him talk about his family during our annual photo sittings. His photography a gift that, as a Mom, I will cherish forever. An amazing guy I'm honored to have known, worked with and spent photo time with for the last 15 years - he is with us always.

Nicolle Hanson Whitlock - September 16, 2023 at 11:42 AM

JH

“ I worked with Mark for close to 18 years, his charisma, candor, and passion in every one on one, team or company gathering made him a leader-- even in the uncomfortable times, he always knew where he stood with confidence and he was always clear in his intentions that people (myself included) shared a great admiration for who he was and what he meant to those he worked with. Since his passing, I find myself playing this old video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fp8bdVeFa4g>), and it starts with Mark. So much of what all of us worked on or enjoyed in the McKesson family started, with Mark's passion.

Jake Hookom - September 14, 2023 at 04:04 PM

SP

“ Mark, you were a great man and it’s painful to know you are no longer here with us on this planet. The happiness, structure and pure joy that you brought into the Johnson home was something to be admired. As a stepfather myself I have the deepest respect for what you gave to Kiernan and Karlyn. They could not have been more lucky to have a figure such as yourself to look up to and care for them. Let’s not forget about Sue, what a lucky woman to be loved and cherished the way you did to her. I truly wish I had gotten to know you better as an adult as I’m sure we would have had plenty to chat about, and for that I am regretful. Everyone thinks they have all of this time to do all of these things but clearly they’re wrong. I am one of these people. I will always remember the kindness you showed me even when we were mischievous kids. I hope you have found the peace that everyone wished upon you before your passing. Until we meet again.

Scott Pobuda - September 11, 2023 at 09:00 PM

TS

“ I had the privilege to work with Mark, at Redline Healthcare/Mckesson. He was on in a million! He will always be remembered!

Tom Surprenant - September 11, 2023 at 07:17 PM

RB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mark for 10 years at Redline Healthcare/ McKesson Corporation. I remember all his fun M/C events and his great smile. He always brought joy to any meeting or work event. My favorite memory was when he wrote a little jingle about software pirating. A group of us dressed up like pirates and we marched around the building to each department singing the pirate software song. It was loads of fun. He was always loads of fun and I am sure he will be missed immensely. My sincere condolences to Sue and all the family. Roxie Berg 🌸

Roxanne Berg - August 21, 2023 at 04:58 PM

AL

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mark at Redline/McKesson, he was always smiling and saying hi, bringing laughter to every occasion. I don't recall what it was that brought it up, but he found out that my favorite group is YES - we had a lot of conversations and was so awesome to talk to someone that knew the band like I did! We also worked together a short time when we had a Marketing department in Golden Valley when another co-worker had been going through her cancer treatments and we had helped with various graphic projects. I will never forget his smile, how many pictures he took for work and Senior High pics for all of our work kids, his love for giving a funny jab as MC at our company parties and his hair was ALWAYS perfect! God bless Mark and his family/friends

Alicia L

Alicia - August 21, 2023 at 02:56 PM

JO

“ 1 file added to the album Mark



Joyce - August 11, 2023 at 12:07 PM

E(

Love this. So Mark. Thank you for sharing.

Elizabeth Catanesi (Dekovic) - August 11, 2023 at 04:11 PM

JD

Love it! Never a dull moment in Mark's world! :)

Julie Dekovic - August 13, 2023 at 05:21 PM

DB

I remember him from school. I wish I had known him better; he sounds amazing.

Dan Busse - August 20, 2023 at 06:18 PM

JO

“ So many years working at Redline/McKesson. I remember him most for his creative side, being a MC at events and taking pictures along the way. My thoughts go out to his family and friends. Joyce B

Joyce - August 11, 2023 at 12:04 PM

TR

“ I did not have the good fortune to know Mark very well, but I do know Sue, and I know that Mark brought so much joy and love into Sue's life and that of Kiernan and Karlyn, my heart is breaking for all of you. He is gone too soon. I'm so sorry

Terry Royalty - August 10, 2023 at 02:44 PM

KH

Mark, Mike Schook & I were roommates at Iowa State. We rented a house for 2 years on Iowa Av. In Ames. He was a super fun guy to be around. Although I haven't seen Mark in about 40 years I did get to talk to him on the phone a few times. When I heard about his death, I immediately could hear his voice in my head. I will miss his humor. Rest in peace. Love you, man.

Ken Horton - August 10, 2023 at 08:58 PM

JU

“ 7 files added to the album Mark



Julie - August 10, 2023 at 10:46 AM

JS

“ Mark was one of those cool Seniors who accepted me as a lowly sophomore at Ames High. There was a lot of crossover that year between Drama (where Mark did many shows directed by the legendary Wayne Hansen), the WEB newspaper (which was carried in the Ames Tribune & included his column, Over the M.D.), & the SPIRIT yearbook (including him on the staff). My fondest memory of him was in our Summer Theatre production of Count Dracula, with him as Jonathan Harker & I as Sybil Seward - what a blast with great fellow cast members & special effects!) After we struck the set, Mark hosted a backyard barbecue for the Summer Theatre company & I kinda got in trouble when I didn't get home till 3:30am, but who wanted to leave such a fun time? Mark of course went on to make a name for himself at Iowa State in many productions & was universally adored. He will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Jami Simon - August 09, 2023 at 06:55 PM

CL

“ Heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Mark's family and friends. Sorry for your loss.

I remember working with Mark during my time at McKesson. He was always a pleasure to work with. He patiently helped me with various questions I asked his help on.

After he retired, I got to meet him for a happy hour that he had for the McKesson coworkers. He was still his jovial self, looking forward to the next great adventure. He will be greatly missed.

Craig Larsen - August 09, 2023 at 05:19 PM

WG

“ To the family of Mark, all my sympathies and prayers go out. Mark was a wonderful soul and I was truly blessed to have known him. Working with him at McKesson was truly a delight. He brought insight to all projects he worked on and was always a wonderful to work with, made work seem more fun. He will be truly missed.
Warren Goldman

Warren Goldman - August 09, 2023 at 04:11 PM

PZ

“ Mark was one of the best - it was a pleasure to be in his orbit. I will remember many lively conversations, debates, arguments that always worked out for the best. He was one in a billion and will be missed so much.

Pam Z (forever pzam to Mark)

Pam Zambelli - August 09, 2023 at 04:03 PM