



## Mark S. Wethern

December 18, 1955 - June 18, 2024

Mark Steven Wethern passed away on June 18, 2024 after a valiant fight with Lewy body dementia. He was born in Wausau, Wisconsin and moved to Bloomington, Minnesota in his high school years. He attended Thomas Jefferson High School and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Mark was employed for many years at JCPenney and Warner Industrial Supply.

Mark was one of the few that worked to truly live. He treasured family, friends, and sports! Maybe, not in that order? He and his father, Ralph were in the metal bleachers for the famed Ice Bowl so, you could say his loyalty to the Pack became "frozen" solid. His passion spread to the Twins and Cubs baseball, once taking a vacation to follow them to different stadiums.

Family meant the world to Mark. He proved it by spending every chance he could with them. Always planning activities when family came to Minneapolis. He relished visiting his brother, Mike and family in Florida and New Orleans, excited to spend time on the water, or amazed with the culture of the south and Mardi Gras. He was always eager to visit Chris, his sister and family in

Montana and all it had to offer. Many trips lead to hiking adventures around Montana, Yellowstone Park and including hikes down the Grand Canyon, not once but twice!

Mark also enjoyed cross country skiing and talked Mike (who lived in Fl.) to competing in the Rendezvous Race in West Yellowstone! That gave all of us a family vacation to remember! His love of skiing also lead to many Vasaloppet's, American Burkebiner's and other ski races as the t-shirts tell.

Mark gave credit to his brother, Mike for instilling the enthusiasm of running. Mark took up running and ran 14 marathons, as well as, too many races to count, as documented by the piles of t-shirts left behind! It was not Thanksgiving if Mark, his buddies, Mike, Chris and the nieces and nephews were not at the Turkey Trot!

He was devoted to his nieces and nephews. His sense of humor and big kid attitude made him everyone's favorite. Even though they were far away he never failed to call, send cards for every occasion. He was known for his goofy gifts!

As much as Mark loved sports, he was devoted to his friends. He was that rare man that could bring buddies together. He had a loyal crew of friends that spun out of people he enjoyed, admired and loved. The hours they spent in a race, on a hike, in a stadium, in a bar or just hanging out were his favorite times. And in turn, they were with his family, beside him through the end.

Mark is preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Dorothy, his sister, Chris and her husband Leo Smetana, and his nephew, Hunter Prentiss Wethern.

He is survived by his brother, Mike, sister-in-law Elizabeth, nieces Lauren (EJ) Olsen, Merideth Wethern, nephews Andy (Sherri) Smetana, Sam Smetana, cousins, and his loyal friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Bloomington at the Sports Page on July 20th at 3:00.

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ We'll miss you Mark, it was great working with you all those years!

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**John Minor** - July 22, 2024 at 11:38 AM

JK

“ Mark (Howie) will be Missed Greatly!!!

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**Jeff Kathan** - July 15, 2024 at 08:53 PM

MW

“ Mark will always be remembered for his enthusiasm in meetings of the Portland Lakers Running Club and the Sunday Sermon at Houliheeb's.

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**Mike Wethern** - July 10, 2024 at 05:48 PM