



Mason Vernon Sorenson

May 13, 2018

Sorenson, Mason Vernon (born 2-3-74) of the Twin Cities died surrounded by family and friends on May 13, 2018, following a heart attack. He is survived by his parents (Donn and Dawn Sorenson), his former wife (Laura) and their dog, his grandmother (Susan Sorenson), his aunts (Tami, Loretta, Kathy, Wendy) and uncles (Bruce, Duane, John, Jerry, Dennis), countless cousins, and one of the deepest, strongest communities of friends and loved ones ever known. Mason attended Woodbury High School, St. John's University and William Mitchell College of Law. Passionate about water, nature, wind energy, travel and music, he found his church in the outdoors. His booming, joyous, generous laughter filled a room of any size and echoes in our hearts. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family for a future charitable donation in his name. A celebration of his life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 19, with a gathering to begin at 1:00 at: Washburn-McReavy.com Nokomis Park Chapel 612-721-1651 1838 E. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis. (Washburn-McReavy.com, 612-721-1651). Please feel free to contact Washburn-McReavy with questions.

We are so grateful for the outpouring of love, support, and stories from all of those who knew and loved Mason. Thank you for celebrating his remarkable life with us.

Tribute Wall

BM

“ My name is Brad Matuska, and I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends. Mason and I were students at St. John's University around the same time. We were in the Peer Resource Program together in which we organized outdoor programming events for our fellow classmates at CSB/SJU like wilderness trips to the Boundary Waters, Big Bend National Park, etc. Mason was always larger than life to me, and my heart is broken with the news of his passing. He always had a smile, a can-do attitude, and words of encouragement. One of my favorite memories of Mason was his perpetual networking abilities as a college student. I gave him a bunch of grief about it until I realized the value of considering life after college. While we didn't see each other much after college, it didn't surprise me to read in St. John's Magazine how he was making a such a positive impact on our world. When I did see him at an SJU Alumni event, I was greeted with these incredibly long arms that enveloped me in one of the biggest hugs I've received in my life. Mason was a good one. One of the best. He will be greatly missed by us and our world, but his spirit will live on through shared memories and mission. Godspeed my friend.

Brad Matuska - May 19, 2018 at 12:30 PM

JF

“ I am Dr. John Fennig. Mason was the first intern we had in our company in the summer of 1993. The first of what is now 130 some in our 27 year existence. We were a management consulting firm and business incubator that was starting a wind development company. Northern Alternative Energy (NAE) that would go on to be Navitas and then sold to Gamesa of Spain.

My business partner, Greg Jaunich, was a St. John's grad like me and having Mason spend the summer between school years at St. John's was something we were very proud of. Guys of similar schooling and values working together.

Mason was a big, smart, sweet guy. Very outgoing and enthusiastic and comfortable in the freer wheeling early days of this start up company. He was willing to do whatever the firm needed – from filing to typing to participating in decision making. His work was a part of what would end up being an over 1000 turbine wind development story. More than 1 billion watts of power being generated to this day in the Midwest.

On the funny and scary side, Mason brought us a fax that came into our office there in the Crown Roller Mill building on the Mississippi river that summer. He had a look of surprise on his face as he reported that the Iranian Army had requested the purchase of helicopters from DRI Consulting. Mason knew that Greg and I had cast a wide net in our business incubation – there were 6 different entities going at that time. He was concerned however, in his principled way, that this was a violation of a federal embargo on such things. And he had not seen any helicopters to date around the place. We were surprised and a bit scared. We assured Mason that we were not arms dealers and asked him to send a clear reply to whomever had sent this -the real Iranian army or a prankster or a surveillance operation – that they must have gotten a wrong number and that DRI Consulting was not selling helicopters. Mason was mostly relieved but a bit disappointed in missing out on that project.

I have enjoyed seeing Mason at the February Johnnie meeting in the twin cities over the years. His big smile and very principled approach to his work and to life. He loved sustainability and renewable energy and making a difference on this planet and he did. I also appreciated his annual Christmas card to keep me up to date on his life.

My uncle, a diocesan priest from the Lacrosse, former Viterbo University President and a key person in the Univ of St. Thomas fund raising the money for its magnificent downtown campus, died this week as well. He was twice Mason's age and ill many years. His passing to "be with God" as he so wanted, was sad but expected and a relief in many ways. My uncle will no doubt be hugging Mason in heaven as we speak – both remarkable men.

Parent should never bury their kids and we certainly do not understand God's plan here. But with faith, someday we will.

John Fennig - May 19, 2018 at 10:30 AM