



Petch Howitz

March 6, 1961 - January 19, 2024

Petch passed quietly into the next journey on January 19, 2024 after a 10 year marathon against ALS.

Petch started life with a unique name, our paternal grandmother's maiden name, and he lived up to that uniqueness every day. His choice of glasses, haircuts, clothing, and sense of humor reminded us daily of his uniqueness. He graduated from Edison High School, highest honors and the University of St. Thomas, summa cum laude with a double major in biology and chemistry, held three jobs in his entire life; busboy at Jax Café, volunteer teacher in the Peace Corps, and production supervisor at the potato factory. Petch was loved by all who knew him and especially by his many friends from high school, most of whom worked with him at Jax Café. (List of names too long to print)

While in college, Petch became a rock star in the band, Dick and the T's who went on to make two movies: Introducing Dick and the T's and Up from Down. After this breakout success, he left the country for the quiet of teaching science in the tiny island country of Tonga. There he met Sono, who would become his first wife and mother of his children.

During his illness, Sono, along with Petch's second wife, Selga, and our sister, Peggy, held Thursday night girls time, when they would wash Petch, watch

Big Bang Theory and remake his bed. Petch spent his time attending Catholic mass, shopping at Cub, going to Menards, and being home. His car could only go to those four places . He was an avid fan of punk rock, David Lynch, John Waters, Camels, exploring altered states, and bad television, especially Jerry Springer, Maury, and Cops.

He and Selga raised countless cats, fish, and a few lizards (one named Norman until he laid eggs, then Norma). Their flower gardens were always the talk of the neighborhood, and the place where he and Selga loved to spend their time. Petch's final years were blessed with watching the gardens that Selga tended and the bad television.

He is survived by: his wife Selga, his son Louis (Racheal), daughters Soana and Nola, their mother Sono; grandchildren Andie, Mina, Petra, and Mack; his mother Joann Howitz; siblings Steve, Peggy and John; as well as many nieces and nephews. Petch was preceded in death by his father, Robert Howitz, and sister, Susan.

Even though he was a recluse, he will be missed by his family and friends and will never be forgotten. Funeral Services will be held at: Holy Cross Catholic Church 1621 University Ave NE MPLS, 55413 - Visitation at 10am, Mass at 11:00am

In remembrance of Petch's life and love, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to the ALS Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Catholic Church
1621 University Avenue Northeast
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Catholic Church
1621 University Avenue Northeast
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Tribute Wall

AH

“ I learned of Petch’s illness long ago; I know ALS is not an easy journey, and I’m deeply saddened by the loss everyone has been experiencing, friends and family alike. When you reminisce, I hope it brings a positive feeling to your hearts (whether it be comfort, laughter, peace, and so on).

I know I’m very behind in learning of his passing, however, I’d like to share a bit.

Having spent the very tail end years of my teens, then growing well into adulthood during my time knowing Petch as not only •the• positive, intelligent, male influence who spoke of life lessons for success during casual conversations, lessons I •still• live by today (buy used cars, avoid a payment, pay off your mortgage ASAP), he also •ACTIVELY• displayed that if you want to, you can stay a teen forever on the inside, and he was by •FAR• the coolest dad I knew, and still is.

I’m very grateful to have known Petch, and to have called him “family” (which is still very much in my heart). Sending love to you all.

~Ashley J.M. Hughes

Ashley J. M. Hughes - July 31, 2024 at 12:48 AM

DG

“ When Petch graduated from Edison, he left me all his punk tendencies. 😊 I adored him. 😭

Doreen Genosky - March 23, 2024 at 06:13 PM

CE

“ Carol E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

Carol E. - February 01, 2024 at 06:06 PM

CE

“ Carol E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

Carol E. - February 01, 2024 at 06:06 PM

FS

“ From Your Old Friends at Northern Star purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Petch Howitz.



From Your Old Friends at Northern Star - February 01, 2024 at 11:43 AM

FS

“ From Your Old Friends at Northern Star planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

From Your Old Friends at Northern Star - February 01, 2024 at 11:43 AM

FS

“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Petch Howitz.



January 31, 2024 at 04:20 PM

ST

“ Spring Street Tavern planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

Spring Street Tavern - January 31, 2024 at 04:20 PM

JN

“ Joseph N. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Petch Howitz.



Joseph N. - January 29, 2024 at 10:12 AM

JN

“ Joseph N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

Joseph N. - January 29, 2024 at 10:12 AM

DS

“ Petch Howitz was a truly remarkable and unique individual. He was a genius who was also ultra cool. I rank him as among my very best friends!

He put his faith in God and carried his ALS burden with dignity. I'm so happy he was a part of my life, and with his passing, I wish comfort upon his family and friends.

The photo I've attached was taken on the morning of his departure to Tonga to serve in the Peace Corps. It was taken out front of Marino's restaurant, smack in the middle of Central Avenue. His folks, Bob & Joann, had treated many family and friends to breakfast that morning. "The Gang" was welcomed at the Howitz home ALWAYS, and we spent endless hours spinning tunes and goofing off.

The photo pose was one emulating a StarTribune run shot of the then Mpls. 1st Ward Council Member. The shot speaks volumes about his intentions to impact our world for the better. Despite being a pretty private individual, he indeed had a big impact on many. Simply put, he was a GREAT MAN!

Three songs that come to mind when I think of Petch are: My Way, and, What A Wonderul World, traditional or Punk-oriented versions, & (What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love & Understanding.

Rest in Peace, my friend.



Dave Seawell - January 28, 2024 at 02:19 PM

DM

“ Condolences to the family. Petch was a co-worker on mine for many years. Easy going, super nice person and a joy to be around. We have missed him during the many years he has been ill. Daniel Meyer

Daniel Meyer - January 26, 2024 at 02:41 PM

BM

“ Selga and family - sorry for your loss. He was such a fun person to be around.
Sending prayers for comfort and peace.

Brenda McIntyre - January 26, 2024 at 11:09 AM

RY

“ Thoughts and prayers to Selga & Petch's extended family in these trying times. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. I had the pleasure of meeting Petch probably 15 years ago when I was up in the Twin Cities, and he was certainly a great guy. Petch will certainly be missed. Ryan Charles

Ryan - January 25, 2024 at 07:09 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Petch Howitz.



January 25, 2024 at 06:52 PM

UT

“ U.S. Bank ACAPS/Strata/CLAS/CinC team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Petch Howitz.

U.S. Bank ACAPS/Strata/CLAS/CinC team - January 25, 2024 at 06:52 PM

JS

“ God's speed to all those close to Petch. What an arduous journey he had these past few years. But everything you stated about him in his obituary was true. He was one of the brightest, most creative and most loyal souls that I and his friends from those younger years ever experienced. He'll never be forgotten.

John Schroeder - January 25, 2024 at 06:11 PM

NH

“ 3 files added to the album Petch



Nola Howitz - January 25, 2024 at 04:28 PM