



Randal Ray Sveum

March 28, 1953 - June 25, 2024

Randal Ray Sveum, age 71, passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 25th, 2024, at his apartment in Minnetonka. He was born on March 28, 1953, in Winona, Minnesota, to Ellie Kearns and Harvey Sveum. Randy's early education included St. Martins Lutheran School and Winona Senior High. He earned his GED and pursued higher education at Winona State University and the University of Minnesota.

Randy began his career as a construction laborer before finding his passion in the River Transportation Industry. Starting as a deckhand on the "Hot to Trot" in Winona, he worked on various Line-boats navigating the Mississippi River. Randy's determination led him to an apprentice program to become a riverboat captain, progressing from mate/steersman roles to earning his pilot's license. He later piloted tugboats on the Mississippi River in St. Paul, and eventually managed operations at the Winona and Red Wing Commercial Harbors. His leadership and dedication to his team earned him respect and admiration throughout his 35-year career, retiring in 2017.

In 1987, Randy married Peggy Browne of Winona, and together they raised three sons, Erik, Patrick, and Kristofer, in Rochester, MN. Randy instilled his love for the Mississippi River in his family, spending summers at their beloved "Pollywog Farm" backwaters campground. He taught his sons practical skills and the joy of boating, grilling, and creating cherished memories with family and friends.

Randy was known for his kindness, humor, and generosity. Despite separating

and selling their home in 2021, Randy and Peg remained friends after their divorce, each moving to different locations in Minnesota. Randy is survived by his former wife Peg Sveum; Sons, Erik (Marissa), granddaughter Raegan (Mound MN), Patrick (Madeline), granddaughter Vanessa (Eden Prairie MN), Kristofer (Brooke) (St Louis Park MN); brother Darryl Sveum; step-sister Janet Kearns (Jeff) Gilbertson; brother-in-law Jon Bitu; and many other relatives and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Bobby, and sister LaVonne.

Please join Randy's family for a celebration of his life at The Sobieski Park Lodge in Winona on July 13th, 2024, from 5-8 PM. Please bring your stories and fond memories to share in honor of Randy.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Deborah E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Randal Ray Sveum.

Deborah E. - July 13, 2024 at 09:00 PM

MA

“ Margaret A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Randal Ray Sveum.

Margaret A. - July 11, 2024 at 02:24 PM

AW

“ Our condolences go out to the Sveum family. We honor Randy with the purchase of 3 trees. One for the Suland, one for the White Angel and one for time spent here in the Winona office. Randy was a good friend and great to work with. Wishing you strength and comfort in the days ahead.
From your friends at ADM Winona.

ADM Winona - July 08, 2024 at 04:21 PM

SS

“ Stephenie S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Randal Ray Sveum.

Stephenie S. - July 08, 2024 at 03:27 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Randal Ray Sveum.*



July 08, 2024 at 02:12 PM



“ *My condolences to Peg and the rest of Randy's family. I have known Randy most of my adult life, and the times around the fire at Pollywog are cherished memories. I will never forget the time when Captain Randy took us out on the Mississippi river in pool 6 when the river was over 20 feet to try and save an air conditioner in our porch. The river was closed to all traffic because of the high water and extreme current yet his expertise with the boat and knowledge of the river helped us to maneuver and remove the air conditioner which is still used 30+ years later. Randy was a good friend and will be missed.*

Boomer Olson - July 03, 2024 at 11:10 AM