



Randall Greg Degenhart

November 26, 1954 - December 4, 2024

Randall Greg Degenhart age 70 of Bloomington, IL went home to the Lord on December 4, 2024. He was born November 26, 1954 in Fairbury, Illinois. He was the middle child of Robert and Leila (Tammen) Degenhart.

He grew up in Kankakee and graduated from Eastridge High School in 1972. In high school he was a member of the Chamber Choir led by Dan Liddell. He was also captain of the wrestling team coached by Curt Hines. Coach Hines was very influential in him attending Elmhurst College where he met the love of his life Suzan Brandt. They were married at St. Alexis Catholic Church in Bensenville, IL on July 21, 1978. Together they had two daughters, Megan and Julie.

Randall began his teaching career at Kankakee School District 111 in 1977, retiring in 2010. For most of his career he was the Teacher-Coordinator for the WECEP work program, working at both the Junior and Senior High Schools. He also taught Physical Education, Health, and Psychology. After retiring he served as a Career Coach at the Kankakee Area Career Center for six years, helping to develop the Portfolio program for the Center.

Randall coached cross country for ten years at Westview High School. He also coached Wrestling for seventeen years at the Junior High and Kankakee High School. He spent his last two years in coaching as an assistant coach at Kankakee High School. During those years the Wrestling team won the Regional and Conference titles and were Co-State Champions due to the State tournament being cancelled, (tied with 32 teams). He loved coaching,

and valued the relationships he developed with the wrestlers, runners and their parents over the years.

While at Elmhurst College he was a four year letterman on the wrestling team, qualifying for the NAIA National Tournament his senior year.

For many years he had been an active member of the American Lutheran Church in Bourbonnais, IL. He served on the Worship and Music committee, was a former council member, former superintendent of the Sunday School Program, and enjoyed playing the guitar for the praise band. Upon moving to Bloomington, Sue and Randy attended St. John's Lutheran Church where they were welcomed. Also, Randall had been playing with the band at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Randall loved the outdoors and enjoyed golfing, fishing, and hunting. He was a twenty year board member for the Whitetails Unlimited Kankakee Chapter. He served as a board member for many years on the Kankakee Federation of Teachers Credit Union. He and Sue were members at the Oak Springs Golf Course and had many great friends there. They were fortunate to attend two Masters tournaments as well as several tournaments at Pebble Beach. He also enjoyed playing the guitar, was a music fan and loved watching live music performances with Sue and friends.

He loved his four grandchildren dearly and loved watching them grow and participate in sports.

He did not frequently testify of his faith in God but felt God's grace and presence in the people he met, the beauty and wonder of nature and the love and giving nature of people. He was comforted by his faith in life and in his death.

Randall and Sue lived in the Kankakee area most of their adult lives moving to Bloomington Illinois in December of 2021.

Randall was diagnosed with Leukemia in the summer of 2022. To know Randy was to love him. He was an example of living life to the fullest. He will continue to be an inspiration to the countless lives he touched.

Surviving is his wife, Sue; daughters Julie Hartke of Bloomington, Megan

(Steven) Reiter of Nolensville, TN; one brother, Robert (Mary) Degenhart of Bourbonnais; one sister, Peggy Klaus of Parker, CO; his mother, Leila Degenhart of Kankakee; and adored grandchildren, Ella, Ava, Jace, and Jackson; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Randy is preceded in death by his father, Robert Degenhart Sr; one brother-in-law,, David Kraus and one nephew, Cameron Kraus.

Visitation will be from 4 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Bourbonnais. The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024 at American Lutheran Church in Bourbonnais. Pastor Patrick Jenkins will officiate the service.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

American Lutheran Church
1560 Career Center Road
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-7515
<http://www.alcbourbonnais.org/>

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Degenhart family*

B Romito - December 12, 2024 at 05:43 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Randy. He was such a kind man. You and your family are in my prayers.*

Tammy Buhrmester

Tammy Buhrmester - December 12, 2024 at 04:21 PM

TA

“ *We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to you and your family for your great loss. Randy was a very nice man.*

Terry and Judy Ayres

Terry and Judy Ayres - December 12, 2024 at 03:12 PM

SM

“ *I first met coach in the middle school hallways at King when he randomly asked would I like to wrestle. I said yes, and that was the day we have developed a bond that lasted a lifetime. He was my mentor and a good friend and words cannot express how much I will miss my wrestling buddy.*



Savares McCarter - December 11, 2024 at 08:32 PM

JB

“ I was so saddened to hear about Randy. Sending my deepest condolences .

Jan Burger

Jan Burger - December 09, 2024 at 02:00 PM

MW

“ Randy and Sue were the perfect neighbors for 35 years. Sue and family, I share your pain and miss all of you. Mike Weimann

Mike Weimann - December 08, 2024 at 11:52 AM

DK

“ My sincere condolences to Sue, Lee, his daughters and grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to them all.

Dawn Knapper

Dawn Knapper - December 07, 2024 at 09:44 PM

SF

“ As a former student of “Coach D”, he was always one of the best role models we could have had at Kanakakee. He was always smiling and concerned about us as students. My regret is that he was always after me for four years to wrestle for him, and I look back wishing I would have taken him up on it to spend more time around the amazing person he was! My sympathy to his family. The world lost a good man who left an impact on many he taught and coached along the way.

Scott Fortin - December 07, 2024 at 03:53 PM

KD

“ *My sincerest condolences on the loss of Randy. I have fond memories of our families getting together when we were young. Hoping in time that peace and comfort will heal your hearts.*

Kathryn Decker - December 07, 2024 at 10:55 AM

LR

“ *I am so sad to hear of Randy's passing. We were kids together and his mom was my babysitter for years. I am so sorry for the family and I send my heartfelt condolences and prayers to everyone. Laurie (Memenga) Rentas*

Laurie Memenga Rentas - December 06, 2024 at 03:55 PM



“ *A good friend who will be missed, enjoyed playing golf with him. RIP*

Robert Humphrey - December 06, 2024 at 12:12 PM

PS

“ *What tragic news to start the day! Randy and I taught together for decades at Eastridge then Kankakee High School. Our sympathy goes out to Sue and the girls. We are forever thankful for their friendship. We always considered them the "All American Family". Great father great mother great kids equal a GREAT family. Paul and Marie Schmidt Tucson Arizona*

Paul Schmidt - December 06, 2024 at 10:19 AM

SM

I loved being around Randy at American Lutheran Church. He played guitar in our contemporary band when I was there. He was always smiling. He was "all in". He gave 100 % and enjoyed doing it. I will miss his positive attitude, his love for the Lord which was apparent in his music and his life, and the love and compassion he showed to others. Great guy!

Sheryl Martin - December 08, 2024 at 03:40 PM

AA

My sincere sympathy to your whole family in the loss of your dad and husband Randy. The Allers family (Alice, Cherie, and Dawn) offer our prayers. and appreciated all the years that your family supported the Neal Allers Memorial Golf Outing!

Alice Allers-December 12 at 8:57 pm.

Alice Allers - December 12, 2024 at 09:59 PM

CH

“ My sincere sympathy to his whole family..grew up together at American Lutheran Church.. many memories of our days in Luther League..Randy always had a smile on his face..

Cheryl Hille - December 06, 2024 at 08:43 AM

JJ

“ Jolinda Jones lit a candle in memory of Randall Greg Degenhart



Jolinda Jones - December 06, 2024 at 07:35 AM

RE

“ What an absolutely fantastic man on this earth! This world has lost a wonderful human being! God's speed to you Randy and may you rest in His peace and His love. You lived the life that He gave you to the fullest. Rest in the peace that He totally promised you!

Rick Elroy - December 05, 2024 at 09:42 PM

CW

“ Cheryl Wilson lit a candle in memory of
Randall Greg Degenhart



Cheryl Wilson - December 05, 2024 at 09:08 PM

BB

“ Blake Bryant lit a candle in memory of
Randall Greg Degenhart



Blake Bryant - December 05, 2024 at 07:36 PM

DA

“ I have so many great memories of my brother from another mother. Whether it was bowling together in Monday night church league or going to Peoria to bowl in the brother's bowling tournament with Bob and Dave. Which turned into our annual golf trip that Randy and I loved to plan. Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee were some of the states that we traveled to. Going to the Master's with Randy, Sue, Frank and I was a dream come true and my what a great time we had in Augusta. Playing in golf scrambles with the Deggy couple was always so much fun. I will miss his laugh, his goofy smile, his contemplation in making a decision and his always improving guitar playing. Our very bad jam sessions in Georgia were always fun too. What a great friend Randall El is and always will be. So sorry for your loss Suzy, Meghan, Julie, Bob, Peggy and of course my awesome God Mother Leila. Love Derek and Peggy.

Derek Ashman - December 05, 2024 at 07:04 PM

LE

“ I am so sorry to hear this. 😞 Our condolences and prayers are with all of you . It's been a long time since we've seen everyone, we do have alot of very fond memories together . Wally still talks about the boat trip the guys all took down the river together.



Lori Mowery Evans - December 05, 2024 at 06:20 PM

DC

“ We sit here reminiscing about all the wonderful times we shared, the great trips we experienced together, the awesome friendships we were privileged to share. Randy was a true friend by every sense of the word and we loved him very much. Our hearts go out to Suzie, Megan, Julie and the whole family. ❤️

Darla Casey - December 05, 2024 at 05:46 PM

TE

“ Tim And Connie Eaker lit a candle in memory of Randall Greg Degenhart



Tim and Connie Eaker - December 05, 2024 at 05:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Noah Richcreek - December 05, 2024 at 04:17 PM

RB

“ It's kind a hard for me to express my emotions right now I lost a cousin he seem more like a brother. I'll cherish the memories that we made together over the years. my condolences to Sue and the family

Rich Bryant - December 05, 2024 at 03:50 PM