



Raymond Marcus VanDoren

January 12, 1950 - March 9, 2021

Raymond Marcus VanDoren passed away unexpectedly at home on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. On February 11, 2021, Marc was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. The families and friends of Marc and Ruth are doubly grieving the loss of two beautiful individuals who were married for 47 years. Marc was born on January 12, 1950, in Saline, Michigan, the first of five children born to Roger and Dorothy VanDoren. Marc and his three younger brothers and sister enjoyed their childhood years growing up together in Saline and have many cherished memories of family life together. Marc graduated from Saline High School in 1968. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1972 that included a tour of duty in Vietnam for which he was recognized for meritorious service. Marc married Ruth McKenna in a lovely backyard ceremony in Tecumseh, MI on June 22, 1974, with his father-in-law, the Rev. Paul McKenna as officiant. Marc was an artist at heart and demonstrated that in a variety of ways with his early abstract paintings, dabbling with bonsai and outdoor art. He became especially skilled in carving and painting decoys, and produced countless intricately detailed, hand painted carvings of fish. Marc and Ruth spent nine years in San Francisco, CA where Marc attended the San Francisco Art Institute and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting. He was involved in numerous art pursuits including film and video production, sound editing, props, painting and picture framing. He drove a taxicab through the streets of San Francisco to help pay the rent. They returned to Michigan (with a car load of cats) in 1983 and shortly after

purchased the home of Marc's grandfather that sits on a hill above Pleasant Lake in Manchester, MI. Beginning in 1984, Marc spent 33 years working full time for various contractors with Detroit Edison out of Local 17. He often put in long hours dealing with storm damage to power lines. Marc mastered the art of trimming trees and was amazing to watch in action. Marc was an intelligent, caring, and sensitive individual who highly valued family. He and Ruth created many beautiful memories for family and friends, such as splendid 4th of July picnics at Pleasant Lake with competitive games of bocce ball, great food, and fireworks over the lake. He was an excellent cook and consummate grill man. Annual wild game dinners with his family were a special time for gourmet cooking. Marc and Ruth were blessed with many nieces and nephews who loved them dearly and appreciated their singular flair and style. In lieu of children, over the years Marc and Ruth provided a loving home for a multitude of cats, most adopted as strays that needed a good home and they found their haven on Pleasant Lake. From Luther in the beginning to Fred near the end, their feline friends brought great joy to them. In recent years, Marc acquired two beautiful, lively, chocolate brown poodles, Andre and Journey, who were much loved additions to the family. Andre and Journey have found a new loving home, but two remaining cats may be looking to be taken in, again. Marc is survived by two brothers, Richard (Diane) VanDoren and Jeffery (Geraldine) VanDoren; his sister, Shanna Wykes; sister-in-law, Paula (Dennis) Bowman; brother-in-law, Dwight (Barbara) McKenna; and brother-in-law, Ivan (Melissa) McKenna, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, Marc was preceded in death by his parents, Roger and Dorothy VanDoren; a brother, Donald VanDoren; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Paul and Margie McKenna, and brother-in-law, John Wykes. A joint family Celebration of Life for Marc and Ruth will be held this summer on Pleasant Lake. Arrangements have been handled by the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Saline, Michigan. Those wishing to share condolences or memories may do so at www.rbfhsaline.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Marc's honor may be made to: The Association for

Frontotemporal Degeneration through their website: www.theaftd.org or to a preferred animal shelter.

Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond Marcus VanDoren*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Condolences to the family I had have many wonderful memories at the Van Dorn house in Saline and of course March myself Robin Flickinger Dwight Irwin McDonald's and I think Ron Barrett we all join the military together and Mark and I Robin we're at the induction station November 14th 1968 and as it ended up Mark and Robin we're at Lemoore Naval Air Station and I was at Alameda Naval Air Station in California about 200 miles away and we got to visit two or three times during the two years that we were land-based again condolences to the family I'm sad to hear of his passing*

William Hill - March 25, 2021 at 02:50 AM



“ *My first memory of Marc was his birth. As Aunt Sandy I was overjoyed to have my first nephew.! Dad was very pleased that Marc was named after him. As a small child Marc nicknamed dad Bumpy and that name stuck until dad passed. Then Marc had brothers & a sister to share our lives. Yes, we were a very close, loving family. After my marriage I moved to other states, always coming back to have many special dinners with Marc & Ruth & share in the family barbeques. Family members visited my family in other states also. I now wish to express my special love to Ric, Jeff & Shanna & their families as we all remember the special times together and the love we shared. Sandra Mae Van Doren (Allred)*

Sandra M. Van Doren - March 21, 2021 at 09:09 PM

LE

“ We fondly remember the times we all gathered and played Euchre with Marc & Ruth and the rest of the group. So sorry for your families loss, they were both taken too soon. Hugs, Mark & Linda Evans

Linda M Evans - March 17, 2021 at 12:18 PM

DE

“ Sending heartfelt sympathy to the Van Doren family. I was saddened learning of Marc's passing. As a classmate of Marc's, I remember the fun times we had in home room--I always looked forward to that time of the day. I will forever remember his smile!

Deana Ellison - March 17, 2021 at 12:11 PM

MB

“ To the VanDoren family. My son, Don, and I want to express our sadness to learn of Marc's passing. The VanDoren's have been friends for many generations. We have many wonderful memories especially with Ray, Roger/Dort and their children. Our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Melinda Bachman

Don Bachman III

Melinda Bachman - March 17, 2021 at 09:46 AM

GG

“ To the family and friends of Marc, please accept my condolences. The months of February and March have been a challenge for you. Marc and I went to school together starting in kindergarten and graduating in '68. It's evident I did not know him well because I never realized his first name was Raymond! At first he seemed like a quiet student but always in the midst of some activity. Must have been that creative and artistic side shining ...

Gail Girbach - March 16, 2021 at 09:32 PM

PF

“ *Shanna and Jeff ~ Sending our loving sympathy to your family. So many wonderful memories when our backyards connected growing up.*

Patti Scherdt Fosdick - March 13, 2021 at 08:33 AM

SM

“ *As a fellow member of the Class of '68, Mark was always a kind and creative soul. My very first memory of him was Mrs. Una Dicks' introduction of him a Marcus Aurelius! Even then he had a way of smiling that made even a student new to the area feel welcome. Hoping memories will offer comfort to other family members and friends as you celebrate the lives of both Mark and Ruth.*

Sharon Burkhardt Mischakoff - March 12, 2021 at 07:19 PM

MH

“ *Mary Balmes Hess lit a candle in memory of Raymond Marcus VanDoren*



Mary Balmes Hess - March 12, 2021 at 06:44 PM

MH

“ *I grew up next door when Mark was a kid on Willis Rd. My sister Eunice took Mark's mom I believe to the old Hospital to have a couple of the boys. He came from and has a Super family. God's comfort to his family.*

Mary Balmes Hess - March 12, 2021 at 06:43 PM

RL

“ *Marc was a very nice person. Roger enjoyed growing up with him. We are thankful for his service to our country. Our condolences to his family*
Roger and Ruth Lockwood

Ruth Lockwood - March 12, 2021 at 09:30 AM