

James Eastburn



BETTENDORF - Our world is in pain. James R. Eastburn, 58, (our hero) of Bettendorf, died Friday, November 6, 2009, at Genesis Medical Center, Davenport, East Campus after battling a monster for four and one-half years.

In May 2005, Jimmy was diagnosed with a rare cancer called pseudomyxoma peritonei which began in his appendix. After taking a deep breath on that horrible day, Jimmy resolved to continue living his life with joy and wonder. Cancer was merely an inconvenience. Jimmy was not going to let it stop him from enjoying his family, whom he cherished, or good times with friends. When people asked him how he was feeling he would always reply, "Fine, just fine. How are you and your family?" It was always more about making everyone else feel comfortable around him.

Each day he would wake up and say, "What do you want to do today, Deb?" And off they would go. He lived, he loved, and to the laughter of all those that witnessed it, he danced.

James Richard Eastburn was born October 31, 1951, in Burlington, Iowa to Harvey and Eleanor Eastburn. He married Deborah Kuster on August 13, 1971, in Stevensville, Michigan. A journey of love, devotion and fun began that day and lasted for thirty eight years. Jim worked in corporate sales for Nalco Chemical. He was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church.

Jimmy's favorite times were those spent with his family. He also loved fishing, traveling, the Iowa Hawkeyes and a good martini.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Deborah; a daughter and son-in-law, Anna M. and Jason Taravella, of Normal, Ill.; a son, James R. Eastburn Jr., of Normal; a son and daughter-in-law, Joseph A. and Brooke Eastburn, of Davenport; grandchildren, Zachary and Sophia Taravella; his mother, Eleanor Eastburn of Burlington; sisters, Judith Eastburn of Des Moines, Patricia Simpson of Omaha, Neb., and Caroline Eastburn of Asheville, N.C.; sisters and brother-in-laws who loved him as their brother; and special friends, Jerry and Ellen Jorgensen and Don and Harolyn Bormann, both of Davenport. He was preceded in death by his father.

Debbie would like to express her sincere thanks to VNA nurses, Joy and Sharon, to the staff of First Med Pharmacy, and especially to Dr. Ed Motto and his office. Whatever Jimmy and Debbie wanted to do or wherever they wanted to go, Ed would say, "Cool, we can make that work." And he did.

Celebration of Life Memorial Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at Asbury United Methodist Church, Bettendorf. There will be a gathering of friends and family from 5-7 p.m. at Weerts Funeral Home Monday, November 9. Education was very important to Jimmy, so in lieu of flowers, a college fund is being established for his grandchildren.

Goodbye, Jimmy. We love you so.

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