



Mark Burleigh Gradberg

August 25, 1950 - March 29, 2018

Mark Burleigh Gradberg, 67, of Kankakee passed away on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born on August 25, 1950 in Harvey, the son of Evan and Eileen (Snyder) Gradberg. Mark married Kathleen Lindsay on October 20, 1973 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bradley.

Mark's parents led him to know Jesus Christ and have a relationship with the Savior. Because of his Christian upbringing, he cultivated a faith-based lifestyle that influenced his family and community, and ensured his place in eternity.

Mark was a 1968 graduate of Kankakee Eastridge High School, and he attended the very first hour of the first class ever held at Kankakee Community College. He received his Bachelor's Degree of Clinical Psychology from Illinois State University in 1974. Working in Psychology for a short time, as well as the EJ&E Railroad in Joliet, Mark then retired from the Dow Chemical Company in Channahon in 1999. After retirement, he was the entrepreneur of Gray Mountain Pipes where he crafted freehand and Danish-modern smoking pipes. This venture included attending national pipe and tobacco shows and selling his pipes world-wide.

He was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kankakee since 1985. He was the former Head Trustee, usher, member of the Joseph Ministry and the handbell choir, and part of the Brass ensemble.

As a skilled musician, he played trumpet with different groups including the

Joliet School System, Joliet Legion Band, New Horizons Band, Kankakee Municipal Band, and the Brass Ensemble for special services at church. In addition to playing trumpet, Mark was an avid scale model builder of HO scale trains and WWII military aircraft and also a British Sports Car enthusiast. Mark was a licensed scuba diver, and he also enjoyed golfing, fishing, and classical music. A lover of sweets, he was known for his prize winning peanut butter fudge.

Mark was a diehard fan of Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen Gradberg of Kankakee; three sons Eric (Kimberly) Gradberg of Woodridge, Aaron (Sonia) Gradberg of Chenoa and Matthew (Shawna) Gradberg of Frankfort; one daughter Krista (Nick) Rawlinson of Bossier City, LA; one sister Janeane Stewart of Lonoke, AR; and five grandchildren Carmen, Maya, Eva, Elliana and Tyler Gradberg.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother Thomas Gradberg and one granddaughter Alexandra Gradberg.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 4-8pm at Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee. Funeral service will be on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 10am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kankakee, with additional visitation starting one-hour prior. The Rev. Karl Koeppen will officiate. Burial will follow at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kankakee. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kankakee or to family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 South 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Schreffler Funeral Home - Kankakee Chapel
1900 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-2421
<https://www.schrefflerfuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

APR 4. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
348 E. Merchant St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Service

APR 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
348 E. Merchant St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ *Mark Burleigh Gradberg*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Kathy:*

My prayers are with you & your family. What a servants heart Mark had. You could see that at church. May God give you strength & peace during this difficult time.

Jill Graveline

Jill Graveline - April 03, 2018 at 06:26 PM



Thank you Jill.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss, it was my honor to have served with Mark on the Thrivent board. An awesome man. I am sure he is resting in God's arms. Hugs and prayers for the family.*

Janet Rosenbrock - April 03, 2018 at 01:27 PM



Thank you Janet.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 04:59 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss, Kathy and family. We always enjoyed seeing you and Mark at church, you were both so warm and friendly, and when we participated in tables of eight, you came out to our house, Rich and I both enjoyed that so much. May the God of all comfort wrap His arms around you with His love, strength, hope and peace.



Charmaine Sims - April 03, 2018 at 09:21 AM

KG

Thank you Charmaine.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:02 PM

Cyndy Warnier


“ Growing up with my cousin Mark, and his brother Tom, and sister, Jan, was always a delight. Mark, we will miss that goofy laugh and the way you just loved people no matter what. You leave a wonderful legacy of faith and steadfast love for your family, your church and your community. I thought I heard your trumpet yesterday in the triumphant song of resurrection ... oh how wonderful it must be on this day to see Jesus face-to-face! Our sympathy to Kathy and the family ... and we all hold the deep hope we have of seeing each other again. With love, Al & Cyndy Warnier

Cyndy Warnier - April 02, 2018 at 12:28 PM

KG

Thanks Cync

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:03 PM

 Brian
Joiner

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family during this difficult time. Mark was a great person and talented pipe maker. I am feel so fortunate to have known him and have an amazing wife that reached out to him and had a custom pipe and box made for me as a wedding gift. I have always cherished that pipe and the few other master pieces from Mark. He will be greatly missed!!

*Our deepest heartfelt sympathy!!
Brian & Bridget Joiner*

Brian Joiner - April 02, 2018 at 12:27 PM

KG

Thanks Brian for your kind comments!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:03 PM

AF

“ A life that touched our family is a life to be remembered. The time was short. Mark, but I hope you accomplished what you wanted. The Feinman/Simack family send its warmest wishes to Kathy, Eric, Aaron, Matt, & Krista at this unfortunate time. We love you all and are sending all our strength. :)



Myke, Cathy, Anthony, & Julie

Anthony Feinman - April 02, 2018 at 10:14 AM

KG

Thank you Anthony

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:04 PM

PA

“ So sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He was always such a strong man and interesting to talk to. You may remember me from organizing craft shows that you participated in, and most recently I had a spot across from you this past December at Kankakee fairgrounds. He always wanted to try to do everything himself, not asking for help. I always admired him for that; it would have been so easy for him to just sit down and let someone else carry the load. I remember he wasn't feeling well in December, but he never complained. I didn't realize he was so accomplished in so many different areas! I will certainly miss seeing him! My deepest sympathies to you, Kathleen, and your family.
Pam Ash

Pam Ash - April 02, 2018 at 10:00 AM

KG

Thank you Pam for your kind comments about Mark. He will be sorely missed!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:05 PM

SW

“ Sheila And Jimmy Wallace lit a candle in memory of Mark Burleigh Gradberg



sheila and jimmy wallace - April 01, 2018 at 11:19 PM

KG

Thank you Sheila and Brother Jimmy.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:05 PM

SM

“ Our deepest sympathy to your family. Mark was a kind and gentle soul and a great father and husband. We have lots of memories of him cheering on his children at different school events. May God give you comfort and peace.

Sherry Ann Mayes - March 31, 2018 at 05:28 PM

KG

Thank you Sherry!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:06 PM

PF

“ My deepest sympathy to Mark’s family. May God give you His strength and comfort during your time of need.

Patricia Fisher - March 31, 2018 at 01:01 PM

KG

Thank you Patty.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:06 PM

JG

“ We are so sorry for the loss of Mark. We are praying for comfort for your Family from our Lord and and Savior.

John Gradberg - March 31, 2018 at 12:38 PM

KG

Thank you John!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:06 PM

RM

“ We are sorry for your loss, We always enjoyed seeing Mark at church, We will miss him.



Ronnie Miller - March 31, 2018 at 12:10 PM

KG

Thank you Ronnie.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:07 PM



“ Bob Schneider lit a candle in memory of Mark Burleigh Gradberg



Bob Schneider - March 31, 2018 at 08:55 AM

KG

Thank you Bob. Mark was looking forward to the next reunion.

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:07 PM

JH

“ Deepest heartfelt sympathy!! May each of YOU find comfort in the promises of ETERNAL LIFE!!! A true example of a worker for the KINGDOM!!!

John Heil - March 30, 2018 at 09:21 PM

KG

Thank you John!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:07 PM

KK

“ *May you find comfort in the cry of Easter*
"He is risen, indeed! Alleluia"

Karl Koeppen - March 30, 2018 at 05:19 PM

KG

Thank you Pastor!

Kathleen Gradberg - April 06, 2018 at 06:08 PM