



Rusty Ray Stokes

May 23, 1966 - December 10, 2022

Rusty Ray Stokes, 56, of Peoria died of an apparent heart attack in his sleep on December 10, 2022.

He was born May 23, 1966, in Peoria to Ray L. Stokes and Mary F. (Emrick) McDaniel. Surviving are his father Ray Stokes and step-mother Deborah (Jones) Stokes of Germantown Hills; his beloved life partner of 14 years Amy Berkhahn of Peoria; his step-daughters Brittney Berkhahn of Peoria and Ashley Berkhahn of Green Bay, WI; his brother Anthony Stokes of East Peoria; his sister Jennifer Stokes and brother-in-law Patrick Ryan of East Peoria; his sister Angela (Stokes) Ingram and brother-in-law Ron Ingram of Forsyth; several nieces and nephews: Natalie Behrll and Maggie "Leo" Behrll of East Peoria; Spencer Pittman, Audrey Ingram, and Maureen Ingram of Forsyth. He was preceded in death by his mother Mary F. (Emrick) McDaniel of Peoria.

Rusty was a graduate of Robein Grade School and East Peoria Community High School. Over his life, he had his own tree service, worked at Butternut Interstate Bakery, remodeled homes, and was a painter. He often received praise for his attention to detail, which was second to none.

His countless acts of service eased burdens for his family, friends, and neighbors when he did yard work, snow-blowing, or fixed things for them. He

kept an eye on peoples' car tires and aired them up before anyone noticed. Fiercely loyal and protective of his family, he deeply loved Amy and felt lucky to have helped raise her girls, whom he loved as his own. He called his parents every day and visited them several times a week. He was the epitome of a good brother to his three siblings, taking care of them in ways they were not even aware of.

Mischievous and playful, he often said what others wouldn't dare. Most of us remember laughing at something he said. He giggled at cartoons, chit-chatted with his beloved animals, and could drop a line so funny he'd crack up the whole room in an instant. In the next breath, he'd say the most thoughtful thing you'd heard in years. Authentic: that was our Rusty.

He made his family very proud. He lived a good, honest life and made this world a happier place. He'd want anyone who knew him to grab life by the tail and enjoy it, instead of being sad that he's gone. So go ahead: watch a comedy tonight. Hug your people. Help someone. Be happy. Look on the bright side of things because he sure did.

Cremation rites have been accorded by Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Service. A private service for the immediate family will take place at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria to bury his ashes. A Celebration of Life Open House will be held on Wednesday December 21, 2022, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at Countryside Banquet Facility, 659 School St., Washington, IL 61571. All are welcome.

Schmidt-Haller Burial and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Springdale Cemetery

3014 N. Prospect Road

Peoria, IL 61603

