



## Mark G. Emerson

February 26, 1960 - February 24, 2020

Mark G. Emerson, 59, died at his home on February 24, 2020. He is survived by his parents Joe and Gloria Emerson, Bloomington; sister, Beth Mrkvicka (Steve), nephew and niece, Sam and Emma Mrkvicka, all of Oak Park, Illinois; an aunt, Mary Deckar, in Evansville. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lytle and Ruth Emerson, and Adrian and Edna Gaffney.

Mark was born on February 26, 1960 in Bloomington. He graduated with honors from Columbus, North High School, DePauw University, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. He was Editor of the Law Review. Mark clerked for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and practiced law in Indianapolis. He was the Associate Editor of the Frederick Douglass Papers at IUPUI. He was a founding board member of the Shalom Community Center and served again later on that board. He became Director of Volunteers at Shalom.

Contributions can be made in his name to the Shalom Community Center, 620 S. Walnut Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. (Mailing is P.O. Box 451, Bloomington, Indiana 47402). A memorial service is planned for a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allen Funeral Home and Crematory, 4155 S. Old State Road 37, Bloomington. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)



# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Dearest Joe and Gloria—I just learned that Mark had passed three years ago. Sincere condolences to you both and to Beth and her family. I was so saddened to hear this news. I think of you often and cherish the years I spent at FUMC as the Church Secretary and Membership Secretary. I now live in Florida. We never know where our lives will take us. Please take care and may your hearts be filled with peace as time has transpired with your grief over the loss of Mark. With love, Jan Hill (formerly Alvis). Palm Harbor, FL.

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**Jan Merrick Hill** - March 02, 2023 at 10:16 PM

PG

“ Joe I’m just today seeing this obituary and hopeful you will get this. I am Patti Good. I was a member of the Columbus IN first Un. Methodist church. Mark taught me to read every word written because if it was important for the author to use it’s important for me to read. But Joe you helped me know Jesus. I’m so sorry to learn of Mark’s passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I just want you to know that I’ll always remember your encouragement and teachings. I tried to contact you through IU years ago just to tell you what you did for me. Thank you Joe say hello to Gloria.

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**Patti Good** - April 22, 2022 at 10:39 PM

JK

“ We had so much fun in church, youth group, Jr High band, and High School English. Mark always had a great sense of humor. RIP, my friend. With love, Janice Kimmell Kirk

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**Janice Kimmell Kirk** - May 09, 2020 at 10:27 AM

BM

“ *The Emerson family would like to thank everyone for the kind comments about Mark. There will be no memorial service and at a later date, his burial will be private. The best way to honor Mark's life is to make a donation to The Shalom Community Center: 620 S. Walnut St, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.*

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**Beth Mrkvicka** - March 09, 2020 at 01:46 PM

JT

“ *I roomed with Mark at ATO for a brief time. Literary genius. He was oddly average mathematically and he always joked about that. I once had him look over a paper I had to write for fiction class, he said it was about a grade C. I didn't ask for help and doubted his analysis. A week later my graded paper was returned to me with, you guessed it, a grade C. He rented his law school apartment on 38th street to me the summer after school. We were both lucky to survive that neighborhood. His family even welcomed us to church service with me in flip flops because I packed so wrong for a visit. I so wish his journey would have been smoother. Even though we ended up in the same town, I totally respected his desire for distance. His family needs to know so many of us just loved his company. He will always be that wicked smart, very fun, wonderful fraternity brother that welcomed this country Michigan boy into his world. Dang, I wish we could suspend life at age 20, but it doesn't work that way. John Turnbull*

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**John Turnbull** - March 06, 2020 at 12:53 PM

JH

“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Mark’s passing. My prayers go out to Joe, Gloria, Beth and the entire Emerson family. May God give you comfort and peace during this most difficult time. Mark was a close friend of mine at DePauw and years after. He was kind and brilliant with a quick wit that always made me laugh. We took sailing lessons together at Eagle Creek. We laughed so much, mostly because we were the worst in the class! We went to many house dances together at DePauw, canoed on Sugar Creek and shared our love of Greece. He took me on my first “L” ride in Chicago and we visited many of the Chicago sights together. I will cherish the memories we shared. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. He was a true gift in my life. With Love, Jeri Lyday Hise

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**Jeri Lyday Hise** - March 03, 2020 at 03:50 PM

JH

“ As many of Mark's and my ATO brothers have expressed, Mark's passing is a big loss. I wish, Mark, that I'd been connected to you over the years. For the whole Emerson family I hope and pray that you find peace. Love & respect, John Hixon

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**John Hixon** - March 02, 2020 at 06:55 PM

TS

“ Here’s a photo from May 1982 of Mark with 9 of 14 ATO brothers who graduated from DePauw that spring. From left: Mike Neill, Jim Vidmich, Bob Fields, Jeff Price, Tom Schneider, Phil Acker, Tim Shelly, Mark Emerson, Mike Woodruff, and Matt Scott.

—Tom Schneider



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**Tom Schneider** - March 02, 2020 at 05:25 PM

TS

“ To Mark's parents Gloria and Joe, and sister Beth, may God provide you with His comfort and peace in the days ahead--as you mourn Mark's passing and celebrate his life. And--may God surround you with the love of family and friends during this time.

*Mark and I were ATO brothers at DePauw, and fellow English majors. I remember him as academically brilliant with a great sense of humor. He served at least one term as ATO's Scholarship Chair, and certainly raised our chapter's collective GPA.*

*Though I had contact with Mark rarely after our 1982 graduation, I remember one significant phone conversation with him, when he was a new lawyer and I was still in law school. Mark offered his view on how important it was for attorneys to support and provide pro bono legal services to our most vulnerable neighbors. I never forgot that conversation, and appreciated hearing him speak his heart on the matter.*

*I was pleased to learn that over the years Mark served on the staff and board of the Shalom Community Center, an organization founded by the Methodist Church that is dedicated to providing life essentials to Monroe County residents affected by homelessness, hunger, and other aspects of poverty. (Well-done, Mark.)*

*Tom Schneider*

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Tom Schneider - March 02, 2020 at 05:21 PM

AB

“ Gloria and Joe.

*I am so sorry to hear about Mark's death. He, along with you, represented Shalom Community Center to me. I was inspired by his and your devotion to the homeless.*

*Mark was also an inspiration to me in properly setting a table. At one of our Shalom events, I was arranging the silverware on the tables. Mark came up to me and shared what he had learned at DePauw about setting a table. He very graciously told me to always place the knives with the blades facing in towards the plate, not facing the person in the next chair. Every time I have set a table since that "learning experientcet" I think of Mark and what he taught me.*

*All my love. Alan Backler*

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**Alan Backler** - March 02, 2020 at 10:45 AM

MS

“ So sorry for the loss of my fraternity brother Mark. Although several years since we last talked, always remember his quick wit and and affable conversation. Pledged and lived with my brother for four years, over 40 years ago, but still remember our conversations over meals and over an occasional beer. He had such enthusiasm for life and its relationships. My brother will be missed, but will always be remembered in our journey of life. God bless, and rest in his eternal peace.

*Michael Shea*

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**michael shea** - March 01, 2020 at 05:38 PM

 John  
Goeke

“ I was a fraternity brother of Mark's at ATO (Depauw University). I remember him well, particularly his kind spirit. Though we did not keep up over the years, I feel his loss deeply, as do his other brothers. My deepest condolences to Mark's family. I'm sure Mark is in a good place. Godspeed to him.

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**John Goeke** - March 01, 2020 at 04:25 PM

TS

“ Gone far too soon dear fraternity brother! I have always and will continue to cherish memories of late night walks back to the house from Roy O., road trips to Bloomington and Daytona Beach, endless stories about Columbus and Greece, your loyalty, and your intelligence. Godspeed and VTL.

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**Tim Shelly** - March 01, 2020 at 03:40 PM

JP

“ Mark and I were pledges at the ATO fraternity in 1978, and spent four great years there together. I have nothing but positive memories of him. He was our brother—more than a friend or a “guy we lived with”. I remember him as perpetually sunny, kind, very smart, dedicated to schoolwork, fun to be around, and a real asset to the house. I was recently looking through old photos, and there he is in the middle of every house dance, intramural sport, Little 500, and goofy frat thing. Though I haven't seen him in decades, I still feel a connection to my brother, and it saddens me greatly that he is gone so soon. My prayers are for the family and all those he left behind.

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**Jeff Price** - March 01, 2020 at 11:28 AM

MN

“ Mark pledged Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at DePauw University in 1978. He was part of a group of men who have remained good friends for over 40 years. He was always regarded as the most intelligent member of the class. We have a fraternity Facebook page and numerous members have been posting fond memories of Mark. RIP my brother! Mike Neill

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**Mike Neill** - March 01, 2020 at 09:20 AM