



Brian K. Bensett

November 7, 1951 - March 22, 2015

When Brian told stories of his younger years, he always spoke of fun and crazy good times with his Mom and Dad “Mo and Po” although way over protective. He had a special love for his paternal Grandmother.

He had fun running around the East Side of Detroit neighborhood with his buddies.

He had problems in junior and high school (who doesn't) he was bigger, stronger and oh my goodness he was fast became a participant of the 1960's. Brian loved music, helped at the Grandy Ballroom with the oil pans and lights for the stage and seemed he saw all the great musicians from that era. He even ran off to Frisco with a bunch of guys from the neighborhood, and went to Woodstock. He was in a few bands played the bass guitar and had a beautiful voice, but he had stage fright so he liked to stay in the back, he told me he messed up some lines when he sang in church and the embarrassment stayed with him.

We met in Detroit 1983 married Joann Ewing in 1986, moving up north boy did he change and all for the better.

He went back selling real estate worked for Century 21-Parkway and later was manager for Ski & Shore Real Estate a company that no longer is in business. In the fall of 1988 his Dad's cancer came back and in February 1989 we made the decision for him to move temporarily back home (we figured it out as couples do) his Mom was falling apart. When the decision was made to bring his Dad home with Hospice, Brian did everything for his parents, and cared for his Dad in a way that flabbergasted everyone. He was gentle, caring and did everything to maintain his Dad's dignity. Dad left us Memorial Weekend 1989 he stayed another few weeks and came back to Traverse City. His Mom went into a free fall without her husband; we noticed changes in her behavior and all the little things that point to Dementia or Alzheimer's. Brian brought his mom up north where she lived in two assisted living homes and eventually the Pavilions where she passed in 2004. Once again he gave her the care and attention a Mother like she was who deserves every bit of kindness and was a great lady. He was a good; no great son.

He tried to be a good stepfather but never shined against their natural father, He did everything, time, money, rides, and he was more accepted by Warren my youngest than my first-born.

He was plagued with a bad back for years even after two major surgeries; he suffered in pain all the time but he still did:

I was involved with the Muscular Dystrophy organization for years before I met Brian, and did he jump in with gusto and enthusiasm especially after meeting some of the folks and youngsters afflicted with these terrible diseases. He volunteered for everything, Telethon, Bowl A Thon, and Golf Outings. Whether it was setting up tables for a bingo we started, cleaning the bathrooms, or dressed in a suit and tie Brian was there for anyone needing anything.

He was a true loyal Pro-Choice Democrat and feminist in all ways to every candidate local, state and national. Was a union supporter, big time, and was verbal about the right wing smearing of people. He was Chair of the Grand Traverse County Democrats for about 12 years. He made really great friends Paul, Lloyd, Joel, Bill and all the Poker Uncles for a low wager poker game held every other Tuesday for over 20 years at our kitchen table! He was not a homophobic or racist man.

From the first time he went in our back yard (I was a gardener) but with small plant crushing, dogs digging and big feet kids it was nice out front and our side yard, but when the kids got older and into cars, etc. he became was the larger part of transforming it to a secret garden, with a pond, little waterfall, you name it. He was not happy unless he was jumping on a shovel or hanging out at the garden centers. Talk about a habit!!! He loved being a rock hound any kind. And loved trees, any kind, or shape.

Did furniture remakes way before it was the “thing” to do, he gave a new life to many wooden pieces and made them new again. He collected uranium and Depression glass; wood for projects he loved wood furniture and antiquing, garage sales, etc. Babies and dogs and cats. But mostly people.

In closing, when you made friends with Brian your back was always covered he was loyal and he fiercely loved his step boys, their wives and the grandbabies and grand - dogs. What can I say I was his biggest fan for 35 great years.

Comments



“ Brian had a daughter that I notice is not mentioned here. Haley Bensett Campau. I am not sure why? Haley and her family visited Joanne and Brian in Traverse city a few years ago and left with promises of staying in touch which somehow never happened.

Haley learned of her fathers death months after through a news article. Her father or Joanne really owed her a phone call. As you can imagine this has devastated her. Her father has been absence most of her life.

Pam Drummond - September 27, 2015 at 10:13 PM