



Mark L. Klafter

April 9, 1950 - November 9, 2022

NORFOLK -- Memorial service for Mark L. Klafter, 72, of Norfolk will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2022 at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Private family graveside service will be held at the Prospect Hill Cemetery, Norfolk. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, also at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Mark passed away on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at the Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Mark Laurence Klafter was born in Manhattan, NYC on April 9th, 1950. His family lived in Manhattan and Queens until he was 18. He loved sports; he played stickball in The Big Park and watched baseball at The Polo Grounds. Mark and his friends were befriended by Mets rookie Hawk Taylor who let them into games for free. Mark intentionally failed 7th-grade algebra so he'd be required to attend summer school and could stay in the city for Mets' games rather than help his father at the country club he managed in the Catskills. Mark had his Bar Mitzvah in Queens in 1963.

The night after graduating from Jamaica High School, his family moved to Charlotte, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1971 and received his Bachelor of Arts after studying English. His time at UNC fostered his love for literature and words. A combination of his passion for sports, his gargantuan vocabulary, and his meticulous memory

for numbers made him an animated sportswriter for The Charlotte Observer. Always a man of many interests, he also became a serious hippie.

On May 18th, 1973, Mark was radically reborn as a believer in Jesus. Mark traveled across the United States and lived in a number of places including Durham, NC., Philadelphia, and Boston. He pursued his passion for theatre, literature, and jazz music in all of these places and often made friends with the actors, artists, and musicians whose shows he attended.

He attended Durham Technical Community College and graduated at the top of his class to become a Respiratory Therapist in 1985. He worked at North Carolina Memorial Hospital at UNC where eventually he met his wife, Shirley. He wore a maroon shirt with an orange sweater on their first date.

Despite or because of this, Mark and Shirley married on May 27th, 1989. They had three children before moving to Norfolk, Nebraska in 1998, and had another child in 2000. Mark worked at Faith Regional Hospital for 21 years as a Respiratory Therapist. He was beloved by patients who appreciated his thorough attention. Mark invested countless hours studying, learning, and teaching God's word and His many promises. After retiring in 2019, Mark traveled to visit some of the people, places, and Jazz clubs that he cherished.

He connected with believers in Jesus wherever he went and often through the means he used to get there. He found fellowship while hitchhiking, hopping freight cars, hailing cabs, and riding city buses. His family and friends grieve the sudden end to his journey and celebrate Mark's memory in every place he stayed along the way.

He is survived by his wife Shirley (Sieler) Klafter, his children, Abraham, Terésa, Victory, and Israel, daughter-in-law Danielle, grandchildren Hadassah and Aowyn, his brother Kenneth Klafter, and nephew, Teddy Klafter. He is

preceded in death by his parents, Tibor and Harriet (Zief) Klaffer.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery - Norfolk

1500 Maple Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **16**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7676
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Memorial Service

NOV **17**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk
1200 N.13th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701
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Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark L. Klafter*



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - November 15, 2022 at 02:56 PM



“ *Mark L. Klafter*

October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM



“ *I was really saddened to hear about the death of Mark Klafter in the Carolina Alumni Review. I knew him mainly from the early 1970's in Chapel Hill NC. He was really a good guy....and it was always fun running into him around town. Nyle Frank*

Nyle Frank - June 20, 2023 at 05:47 PM



“ *Mark rest at peace with Uncle Danny Aunt Bea. Grandma Bella Grandpa Bernate
Your Parents Teddy and Harriet*

Jeff - December 28, 2022 at 02:18 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.*



November 16, 2022 at 01:27 PM



“ *Klafter family,
I'm so sorry to hear of Mark's passing! I have fond memories of your family from our homeschooling years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you all. You are in our prayers as you remember a life well-lived.*

May God comfort you as you share Mark's memory and celebrate his life.

Rusty and Jeanette Parker

Jeanette Parker - November 16, 2022 at 10:41 AM



“ Mark and I met around 1981, through involvement in local theater. As is often with me, I can't recall when occasional encounters and casual conversation crossed over into full-fledged friendship, sharing some of life's little adventures. We hung out quite a bit, sharing our, sometimes different tastes, in Jazz; attending the live concerts of David Sanborn, Joe Sample, Steve Lacy, Mal Waldron, and numerous artists in between. I recall him playing flute in my living room, attempting to keep up with a recording of Jazz flutist Herbie Mann; remember when he decided to change his life and become a Respiratory Therapist (something he was devoted to, and worked hard to achieve), began dating his future wife (Hi, Shirley!). Mark and I talked and joked, as real friends do; he was the best man at my wedding; we helped the Klafter family load up for their move to Nebraska. While distance does what distance does in diminishing contact, we remained connected by friendship and those many shared experiences. Over the years of intermittent exchanges on Facebook, a time or two Mark extended an invitation to visit, which I fully intended but ultimately failed to take advantage of. It seems no matter how old one gets, there's the belief in always having more time. Still, I've been privileged with the friendship of Mark and Shirley, spending meaningful periods with them during our formative years. There is little doubt in my mind that Mark has left a positive effect on his corner of our universe, is loved and remembered by family, friends, and any who encountered him for any length of time.

-Solomon Gibson III

Solomon Gibson III - November 15, 2022 at 11:36 PM

CJ

“ It was always a pleasure to visit with Mark where I worked in Norfolk for a dental provider. What a sweet soul. My condolences.

Cheryl Johnson - November 15, 2022 at 06:53 PM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - November 15, 2022 at 02:54 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.



November 14, 2022 at 08:22 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the entire extended family! What an awesome RT he was!



Brian J. Schlote - November 14, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ I just don't have words and can not even connect some phrases together. He will be greatly missed.

Chuck Bean - November 14, 2022 at 03:12 AM



“ To Shirley and Mark's Family, I am so sorry to have learned of Mark's passing. I met him through our shared love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We shared passion and fellowship through our faith. I pray that God will bless you with His grace, strength, comfort, peace, and love. I share your grief as well as the blessed assurance of God's promise that Mark has attained eternal life through the Cross of Christ Jesus. In Christ, Carter Minor

Carter Minor - November 13, 2022 at 10:33 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.



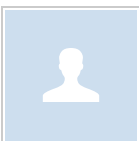
November 13, 2022 at 07:45 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.



November 13, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.



November 13, 2022 at 12:54 PM



“ *Sympathy Gift Vintage Wind Chime - "I Have You In My Heart"* was purchased for the family of *Mark L. Klafter*.



November 12, 2022 at 02:59 PM

MT

“Hawk Taylor's family in W. KY/S. IL is heart broken. When Mark was 16, living in NYC, he bonded with Hawk, a member of the New York Mets baseball team. They were so close, Hawk would meet Mark at the players entrance and usher him into the stadium for home games. We lost Hawk in 2012. Mark checked the Internet every April 3rd, Hawk's birthday, because, as he said, as long as his "idol" was okay, he felt all was well in the world. In 2013, he found Hawk's obituary and was devastated. He called me and we forged an exceptional, spiritual relationship. I loved "following" Mark and his ministry, reading his deep, thoughtful discourses and watching (via Internet) him share his passionate research at conferences (on video). What an amazing man of God! A few years ago, he accepted my invitation to visit and drove to Murray, KY from Little Rock, Arkansas, where he had participated in a conference. That visit was anointed for Hawk Taylor's family. Mark shared wonderful memories of their relationship and brought letters Hawk had written him, which he allowed me to copy. We met Hawk's siblings in S. IL for lunch and they provided details of Hawk's early life which blessed Mark. He also brought stacks of printed statistics from his Hawk Taylor collection and copied my videos of Taylor home movies, which I hope brought him joy. Mark loved his family and was clearly pleased and impressed that Hawk was just as committed to his family. We lost Hawk when he was only 73, just 2 months after his birthday. Mark has left us at 72. They were both too young, but the lives they led were productive, loving and they both had huge, generous hearts. After Mark's visit, he sent a letter to the Metropolis Planet news paper(Hawk's hometown) which was a touching tribute to the professional baseball player who took Mark "under his wing" at a time when Mark needed that shepherding experience. Hawk's impact on Mark was forever and I am so grateful Mark took the time to share with our family. Mark was a gift none of us will ever forget. May God provide the strength and comfort all of you long for during this sad time as you say goodbye, only temporarily, to a great man of God. Marie Taylor and Family .

Marie Taylor - November 12, 2022 at 12:12 PM

ED

“ *Eli & Drue, Will & Dani purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mark L. Klafter.*



Eli & Drue, Will & Dani - November 11, 2022 at 11:37 PM

LD

“ *Dear Shirley and family, I am stunned and saddened about Mark's passing! He was a treasured and respected friend and colleague, both in Chapel Hill, NC and Norfolk, NE. He lived his faith and has certainly earned stars in his crown. God bless you as you grieve and honor his life. Linda Douglas*

Linda Douglas - November 11, 2022 at 04:04 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark L. Klafter.*



November 11, 2022 at 07:41 AM