



Densel M Rasmussen

May 10, 1955 - November 20, 2017

Densel Rasmussen, 62, of Grand Island passed away on Monday, November 20, 2017 at home, surrounded by his family.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, November 26, 2017 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Stuhr Museum in the Stuhr Building.

Celebration of life services will be held on Monday, November 27, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in the Sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Russ Anderson will officiate. Burial will follow in Grand Island City Cemetery.

Densel Martin Rasmussen was born May 10, 1955, at Ord, Nebraska, to Lyle Martin and Eileen Ellen (Smith) Rasmussen. His earliest childhood memory was his third birthday on an ocean liner destined for England where he would meet his maternal family for the first time. His parents met and married when his dad was stationed in the service there. He grew up on the family farm south of North Loup and attended North Loup-Scotia Schools, graduating in 1973. Densel continued his education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Through the mentorship of Senator Dennis Rasmussen, a highlight of his college years was serving as a page in the Nebraska Legislature. After earning a degree in Business Education, he taught school in Yutan, Nebraska, and later worked for the Department of Correctional Services in York and Lincoln. He found his niche when he began working for Principal Financial Group. It was a perfect combination of working with employees and the opportunity to serve his community.

Representing Principal, he chaired the boards of directors of Stuhr Museum,

Stuhr Museum Foundation, the Grand Island Community Foundation, Grand Island College, and Hall County Leadership Unlimited. He also served on the boards of directors of the Humanities Nebraska Foundation, Central Community College Foundation, the Heartland United Way where he chaired the annual campaign and was honored with the President's and the Be the ONE awards, and the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce where he was recognized with the Richard H. Good Distinguished Service Award. He co-chaired the Grand Island Little Theater's Raising the Curtain capital campaign and served on the Salvation Army's Advisory Board. Densel was honored as the Grand Island Independent's 2006 Man of the Year. Most recently, Principal received the National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Corporation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. One of his most rewarding activities was co-leading the Chamber's Can-Do committees with Lynn Cronk in preparation for Grand Island's inaugural State Fair. He loved the fair and was extremely pleased with its success.

But a fulfilling career and the reward of community service paled in comparison to his love and pride for his family. Densel married Carolyn Bussell, his high school sweetheart, on May 17, 1975, at Scotia, Nebraska. Together, they formed the foundation of a loving and remarkable family. Their three daughters brought him great joy and his six grandchildren taught him unconditional love that only a grandparent can know. Being "Grandad" to them was his greatest joy. Densel loved attending his grandchildren's many sporting events and school activities. Little did he know that when he volunteered at the Literacy Council, he would add another member to his family when he and Dennis De Leon were matched to work together. It was a partnership that would change both their lives. Densel and Carolyn enjoyed traveling with their family and friends, with Estes Park always being their favorite destination. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of forty-two years; his daughters and sons-in-law, Erin and Andy Marsh, Erica and Steve Long, and Kelsey and Todd Clyne all of Grand Island; his son, Dennis De Leon also of Grand Island; and his beloved grandchildren McKenna Eileen Marsh, Gage Martin Long, Grant

Long, Colton Marsh, Maxton Long, and Landon Martin Clyne.

Additional survivors include his sister and brother-in-law, Cindy and Tom Zimmer of Crofton, NE, his father-in-law, DeWayne Bussell, of Grand Island, a niece, TiLynn Scott of Grand Island, nephews Steven Scott of Grand Island and Gavin Zimmer and Garrett Zimmer of Crofton, NE, and a host of extended family members, colleagues and friends including special friends, Pat and Bob Engle of Geneva, Janet and John Weakland of Winterset, IA, his lifelong friend, Doug Gebhardt of Scotia, and his devoted caregiver and friend, Carolyn Valasek of Grand Island.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents, two infant brothers; his mother-in-law, Venetta Bussell; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, and Sheryl (Bussell) and Dave Scott.

Memorials are suggested to the Densel M. Rasmussen Grounds Maintenance and Beautification Fund at Stuhr Museum, ALS in the Heartland, or the Grand Island Literacy Council.

Cemetery Details

Grand Island City Cemetery

Grand Island, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stuhr Museum

Service- Trinity United Methodist Church

NOV **27**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church
511 N Elm St
Grand Island, NE 68801-4599
(308) 382-1952

Tribute Wall



“ *Densel M Rasmussen*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Erin and Andy - our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family. Dave, Darcie, Alecia, Jacob and Zach Zauha*

Dave and Darcie Zauha - November 26, 2017 at 09:13 PM



“ *Carey Jury & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.*



Carey Jury & Family - November 26, 2017 at 05:48 PM

CJ

“ Carolyn and family,

I was honored to work with Densel for many years at Principal Financial Group. While I worked out of Des Moines, Densel was never too busy to sincerely want to help with anything. From the moment we met there was a great connection and rapport. Densel was always so kind and so gentle, but never minded challenging me and others and never shied away from any issue. I remember traveling to GI in 2006 when Densel was honored as Man of the Year. I was so very proud of everything he did for the community, Principal Financial Group and the employees at GI.

There are certain people that come along in your life that make you a better person. Densel was at the top of that list.

My thoughts and prayers are with Densel, Carolyn and family.

Carey Jury

Carey Jury - November 26, 2017 at 05:39 PM

SA

“ *One of the first people I met when we moved to Grand Island, NE in 2008. Densel showed his magnanimous character immediately through his interest in my work and family. We met up periodically and his kindness, gentle words and smiles were effervescent and ever uplifting. He was always a joy to encounter. We mourn for his family and wish him eternal Peace.*

Stephanie Riak Akuei - November 26, 2017 at 11:57 AM

LG

“ My life has been forever blessed to have spent time with Densel. My thoughts and prayers are with family and the many friends that now journey on without his physical presence. I believe his Spirit will always be a guiding force in our lives.

Lynn Gipe - November 26, 2017 at 10:31 AM

DB

“ Not often are the qualities of hard work, devotion, gentleness, and concern found in the same person. Densel had them all! I feel so very fortunate that Densel and his family have been a part of our family for over 40 years, before and since the births of our first children in Lincoln. Many of the treasures of life come from the friends we meet along the way. I am feeling very fortunate to have had the blessings of Densel and the Rasmussen family as part of my life's journey..... We will all miss Densel's gentle ways.....

Dori Bush - November 25, 2017 at 09:46 AM

LV

Carolyn and Family, I just heard the sad news of Densel's passing. He has been in my thoughts and prayers and we will miss him. So many memories of growing up together and our trip to England together. Gods comfort and our love to you and your Family. Linda (Sims) Vasicek.

Linda Sims Vasicek - November 27, 2017 at 09:52 AM

MW

“ My deepest condolences to those of you that are left to share his memory and remember the wonderful person he was no matter what hat he was wearing. He was the same kind, generous, considerate, giving, honorable man whether he was your boss, your friends, your associate, your acquaintance, your Husband, your Father, your Grandfather or just the guy walking down the street smiling at others. I feel very honored to have known this man and to learn from his example. He had a great sense of humor. Be consoled knowing that he is in the arms of his Loving Heavenly Father and smiling down on all of us.

Michalynn Wagner - November 25, 2017 at 04:01 AM

KR

“ Densel was a very kind & a gentle person, he blessed so many lives. His smile could light up a room & he made everyone feel special. He always had the right words to say & make anyone feel comfortable in his presence. He was an amazing person, boss & friend and I feel blessed that our paths crossed. He will be missed dearly. You are now at peace Densel.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Carolyn and family. May your memories bring you comfort.

Kelli & Rick Reeves - November 24, 2017 at 08:01 PM

LE

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during your loss. Densel was a awesome person and had a heart of gold. He was a great leader, mentor and inspiration to all he worked with. He will be greatly missed by all.
Love Linda Enfield

Linda Enfield - November 24, 2017 at 07:46 PM

LE

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all doing this time of you loss. Densel was a wonderful person and had a heart of gold. He was a awesome leader, mentor and a inspiration to all who worked with him. I am so glad I got to come out and visit with you all and to see what a great family he had. He will be greatly missed by all.
Love Linda Enfield

Linda Enfield - November 24, 2017 at 07:25 PM

DF

“ Densel will remain in our hearts forever purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



Densel will remain in our hearts forever - November 24, 2017 at 05:21 PM

BK

“ Although the time I was blessed with knowing Densel was only four years, I found him to be one of the greatest influences I have ever met. I would define him as a man with a soft voice, but with an everlasting impact. I am honored to have had the privilege to know Densel and meet his family. I will keep him and his loving family in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you all.

Brady L. Kerkman - November 22, 2017 at 11:39 PM

RF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Densel was a great leader and will be missed by many. May you find comfort in your memories during this time.

Randy & Karen Kieborz Family - November 22, 2017 at 10:34 PM

TZ

“ Carolyn, Erin, Erica, Kelsey and family. My heart goes out to you for the loss of Densel. He was such a wonderful man with a big heart. He was a great mentor and inspiration to those of us that knew him. It was a privilege to call him a co-worker and friend. His legacy will live on in many of us as we are all better for knowing him. God welcomed home one of the best!! May you find comfort in the memories as he will always be in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Tammy Zigler - November 22, 2017 at 09:59 PM

DL

“ Today, Our Heavenly Father with opened arms has welcomed a beautiful, gentle, talented spirit home! As you miss his earthly presence as a devoted Husband, Father, Grandad, Uncle and a cherished friend, we pray that you will find comfort and peace in the hours, days and months to come.

Dan & Margaret Lind - November 22, 2017 at 06:10 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



November 22, 2017 at 03:49 PM

DN

“ Dawn Strouf LPN (Dr.Pattee nurse) purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



Dawn Strouf LPN (Dr.Pattee nurse) - November 22, 2017 at 02:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



November 22, 2017 at 12:30 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



November 22, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



November 22, 2017 at 11:53 AM

LE

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Densel's passing. I had the opportunity to work with him as a colleague in HR. What an amazing fellow. He truly understood how to create a work environment in which people flourished. I always knew I could call on him for some of the very best guidance. We became good friends. I can only give him my highest compliment--he was a good person. He made the world a better place.

We all will miss him.

Lee Elliott - November 22, 2017 at 10:02 AM

BB

“ To the family of Densel Rasmussen, we were so saddened to hear of the passing of Densel. He was the best of the best in so many ways and will be missed. In light of losing a loved one, we were also uplifted to know that he is no longer in any pain and is in a much better place. In working with him all those years, I had always hoped to be even half the man he was, because if I could achieve that, then I would be a success. He is gone, but he will not be forgotten. Keep his memory alive in your hearts and minds and he will be with you always. RIP Densel, you were the best!

Bryan Bydalek - November 22, 2017 at 08:54 AM

BB

“ Bryan, Patty, Spencer & Fletcher Bydalek purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Densel M Rasmussen.



Bryan, Patty, Spencer & Fletcher Bydalek - November 22, 2017 at 08:51 AM

SH

“ A great influencer of good-- both in the past and for the future. My deepest condolences.

Sherma - November 22, 2017 at 08:40 AM

GN

“ Carolyn and family, what a shock it was for me to read of Densel's death. He was a delightful person and always had such a wonderful smile to greet you with. Enjoyed working with him at Nebraska Center for Woman. Loved his sense of humor. I can only imagine the sorrow you are feeling and I share in that with you. Healing prayers sent to you. Gail Nordlund, York

Gail Nordlund - November 22, 2017 at 08:38 AM

JB

“ Carolyn, Erin, Erica, Kelsey and families, we are so sad to hear about Densel's passing but grateful knowing it was a transition to eternal life! He certainly was a shining light to many and such a dedicated family man. We are all better people for having known him. His presence will be so missed but the memories are forever. I wish we could be there for his celebration of life with you all, but distance separates us as well as a surgery today in our household. Hugs to all, Julie Baumert and family

Julie Baumert - November 21, 2017 at 10:26 PM

KB

“ Densel was a remarkable man and he will always continue to be alive in the hearts and memories of those who knew him. His kindness was always present in every project and activity he supported. He had the ability to make everyone he knew seem special and important. Throughout his difficult journey of dealing with ALS, his focus was on others and I will always admire the attitude he displayed through it all-I am grateful to have known him and his wonderful wife and children. God bless all of you. Kris Nolan Brown

Kris Nolan Brown - November 21, 2017 at 10:25 PM

DC

“ We were so sad to learn of Densel's passing. I cannot imagine how hard this has been on you all but I am sure his positive attitude helped some. His body can now do all the things it used to do. He has left quite a legacy behind, something you can cherish forever. RIP Densel! I was thinking about our senior class play the other day, sure wish I would have known you as well as I got to know you when you & Carolyn started dating...we could have really played our parts differently! You are strong girls so help your mom get through this. Love, your cousin Deb and Randy

Deb Cadek - November 21, 2017 at 08:57 PM

EW

I was very saddened to hear of Densel's death. I rode the school bus with him when we were kids. His parents were regular customers at my Mother's Café in North Loup. I knew and briefly worked for his Grandmother Rasmussen. Densel was serving on the Board at the Stuhr Museum when I worked there. So, I had several connections with Densel and always found him to be a kind and fair person. I heard about two years ago of his diagnosis of Lou Gehrig's disease. A neighbor of his was attending our Bible Study at Berean Bible Church and told us about Densel's diagnosis. We faithfully prayed for him since that time. My condolences to Carolyn and the rest of the family. I thought Densel was a great human being. He will be missed.

Elizabeth (Betty) Watson - November 22, 2017 at 02:54 PM