



## Shawn "Fish" Farritor

June 13, 1967 - September 18, 2020

Shawn J. Farritor, 53 AKA "Fish"

Shawn "Fish" Farritor, of Grand Island, passed into eternal life Friday, September 18th, 2020 at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He was born June 13, 1967, to the late Ed and Vicki Farritor of Ravenna, Nebraska.

Doctors predicted he wouldn't live past the age of two due to a congenital defect called Transposition of The Great Arteries. His family prayerfully pursued treatment. Shawn toddled past age four and his parents were again told he would not live past the age of eight. For his 16th birthday, he inherited the family vehicle, a royal blue '76 Chevy Malibu Classic which became known in Ravenna circles as "The Fishmobile."

As the quintessential underdog, he dedicated his life to serving the marginalized and downtrodden. He worked tirelessly to make the world a better place. In that vein, he was an attorney for Legal Aid of Nebraska and served as Vice President of the Friendship House in Grand Island. He was also a volunteer for English as a second language instruction at the Grand Island Literacy Council. Having learned Dutch in college, he understood the difficulties in learning a new language. To better serve his students and clients in Grand Island, he learned Spanish and began learning Vietnamese. He was a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island, and a

member of the Hastings Writer's Forum, and the Nebraska Bar Association.

In his spare time, Shawn wrote and published two historical fiction novels about the Pawnee Indians of Nebraska, titled: *The End of Pawnee Starlight* and *The Pawnee War*. He loved walking his basset hound Roscoe and cleaning up spilled water from glasses tipped by his cat Raskol. He adored his nieces and nephews, spending time with them whenever he could. He was a man unashamed of having a favorite dinosaur (allosaurus). He enjoyed working at the Legal Aid office in Grand Island. They appreciated his vast Nebraska Cornhuskers tie selection. Shawn's most treasured aspect of life was being husband to Amy and stepfather to Adam, both whom he deeply loved.

Shawn's congenital heart defect subsequently led to pulmonary hypertension, ultimately making him a candidate for a heart and double lung transplant. He received this second chance of life on December 28, 2019, at the Nebraska Medical Center. He fought daily for nine months overcoming brutal complications. He bravely and humbly chose to discontinue medical interventions and surrounded himself with his family in his final moments.

Shawn is survived by his wife Amy (Semm) of Grand Island and stepson Adam Tracy of Lincoln; Brothers Mike (Jan) and Pat (Betty) all of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Shane (Tracy) of Lincoln, Nebr.; Sisters Michele Abel (Tony) of Lake Jackson, Texas, Mary Clark of Ravenna, Nebr., and Sharon Raimondo (Tony) of Columbus, Nebr.; Aunt Lenore Rourke of Lincoln, Nebr., Aunt Ann Graczyk of Sumner, Nebr., Uncle Charles Farritor of Claremont, Calif.; Mother-In-Law Jo Semm of Grand Island, Nebr.; and many adored nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ed and Vicki Farritor (Graczyk); grandparents Frank and Mary (McDonald) Farritor, and Walter and Sally

(Kosmicki) Graczyk; brother-in-law Bruce Clark; father-in-law Gary Semm; and many aunts and uncles.

Visitation will be at 5:00 pm followed by a vigil at 7:00pm Thursday, September 24th, 2020 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island, Nebraska. Family will be greeting. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, September 25, 2020, at 10:30 am at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Grand Island, with Father Marty Egging as the Celebrant. Interment will be in the West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Island. To protect one another facemasks are required. Lunch at the church following interment.

Memorials are suggested to Legal Aid of Nebraska, Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Hastings or the Shawn Farritor Benefit Fund. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

## Cemetery Details

### Westlawn Memorial Park

Grand Island, NE

## Previous Events

### Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **25**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
518 West State Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Shawn "Fish" Farritor*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear of Shawn's passing. Shawn has been a friend since we met at a book group in Lincoln in the early 1990's. A fellow lawyer who submitted his information to the Bar Association's Solace program when Shawn was first placed on the transplant list described him as "probably the nicest person I have ever met" and I know a lot of people would describe him in that same way. I will always remember his good humor, his love of learning, and his friendship. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of his family and friends as they remember Shawn and a life well lived. He will be greatly missed.*

*Jason Ossian*

Jason Ossian - September 24, 2020 at 07:32 PM



“ *Forever Beloved was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



September 24, 2020 at 02:13 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 24, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 23, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ *Ravenna Class of '85 purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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**Ravenna Class of '85** - September 23, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 23, 2020 at 09:47 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 22, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ *I was sadden to see that Shawn has passed. I worked with him at Crossroads In Hastings many years ago. He was so kind, fun, and he taught me so much about life. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers for all him family.*

*Janette Richardson*

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**Janette Richardson** - September 22, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ *Janette Richardson lit a candle in memory of Shawn "Fish" Farritor*



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**Janette Richardson** - September 22, 2020 at 01:40 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 22, 2020 at 10:34 AM

MS

“ My sympathy to the Farritor family. Although I briefly encountered Shawn I always will remember him and his mom and dad. I am still in the Hardware business in Aurora and through the association with Coast to Coast have many good memories of Ed & Vicki at our conventions. I am also a sister of Marilyn Adam who lived and taught school in Ravenna for years. Shawn lived a good life - all will be better because of him. With thoughts and prayers - Margaret Schneider

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**Margaret Schneider** - September 22, 2020 at 10:04 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.



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September 22, 2020 at 09:52 AM

SA

“ Stacy, Bryce, Kaleigh Abel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.



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**Stacy, Bryce, Kaleigh Abel** - September 22, 2020 at 08:08 AM



“ *Teresa Kay McKeon-Hendrickson lit a candle in memory of Shawn "Fish" Farritor*



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**Teresa Kay McKeon-Hendrickson** - September 22, 2020 at 02:28 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Shawn "Fish" Farritor.*



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September 21, 2020 at 08:50 PM

CB

“ I have practiced law in Lexington for seventeen years. Most of that time I have been a public defender and at times I also did a little private work on the side. I got to know Shawn when he worked out of the North Platte Legal Aid office and covered cases in Lexington. I think we were opposing counsel on a divorce or custody case when we met. We would regularly have lunch together when Shawn had cases in Lexington. We would talk about the books we were reading and we talked about writing. Working as public service lawyers, we shared a lot of view points about the practice of law. After Shawn moved to Grand Island, we did not see each other as much, but did still have lunch a time or two when he was in Lexington, and we stayed in touch over Face Book. I loved Shawn's books and he was very encouraging to me when I wrote my own book.

Shawn was one of the very few lawyers I actually enjoyed spending time with outside of the courtroom. I will miss him very much.

Corey Burns

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Corey Burns - September 21, 2020 at 12:46 PM