



Mark Ames

JUN 15, 1944 - JAN 7, 2017



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Mark Ames

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Mark Ames, beloved and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend, 72, passed away Saturday, January 7th in Decatur Illinois with his wife Darlene "Dolly" by his side. Mark, known affectionately to friends and family as Goofy or The Duke, was born on June 15th, 1944 to Thelma and Whitney Ames of Findlay Illinois. Mark grew up on a farm where he raised peacocks and mischief with his brother, sister, cousins and friends. He went to school in Findlay where he was a two sport athlete, playing basketball and baseball for the mighty Falcons. Mark was a star on the basketball team, holding the single game scoring record for the Falcons for three decades. After high school he attended Eastern Illinois University on a basketball scholarship. He graduated from Eastern and moved to Decatur where he worked as an accountant for Caterpillar for nearly fifty years. It was at Caterpillar where Mark met Dolly Platzbecker, the love of his life, his wife and partner of 46 years. Mark and Dolly were wed April 4th, 1970, they had two sons, Christopher and Stephen. In 1991, Mark and Dolly opened the Arches Antique Marketplace in downtown Findlay and became a mainstay of the village to this day. Summer was his favorite season, summer meant tomatoes and golf. Mark was an avid golfer. In fact, one of his countless projects was to build his own putting green at Christopher's home, for the times he couldn't hit the links. Mark was truly a visionary with a keenly analytical mind, who's tireless enthusiasm and unique creativity left an indelible mark on the world and all who knew him. A kind and loving man, Mark was generous with his time and enthusiasm and so was rich with friends and family. Mark was a lifelong member of the Goon Squad, a tight knit group of adventurers and ramblers, the likes of which we won't soon see again. Mark was well known for his gregarious, fun loving, whimsical nature. He seldom traveled without his bag of hats and wigs, always at the ready to entertain friends and strangers alike with a goof. He was famous for his annual "Strolling with the Goons"



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custom crafted guide to the entertainment at the Decatur Celebration, where he loved to take in the sights and sounds with his beloved parrot Frankie riding on his shoulder. Mark took his greatest joy and pride in life from his love of family, his wife and children, parents and siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews and particularly his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mark was a doting and dedicated grandfather who had a unique, special relationship with and a perfect nickname for each of his grandchildren. Mark was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings Frank and Joy; his nephew T.W. and his dog Little Bits. He is survived by his wife Dolly; his son Christopher Ames of Mt. Zion and granddaughter and grandson in law Kayla and Sam Johnson and great grandchildren Riley and Brody, and granddaughters Jackie and Libby; his son and daughter in law Stephen and Grace Ames of Springfield MO and grandchildren Castle, Decker, Vena and Addison; step daughter and son in law Gina and Doug King of Moscow Mills, MO and grandchildren Taylor and Jim; and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. There will be a prayer service at 4:30pm followed by visitation 5-7pm on Wednesday January 11th at Graceland-Fairlawn Funeral Home in Decatur. Funeral services will be 10am Thursday January 12th at our Lady of Lourdes in Decatur followed by burial at Graceland Cemetery. The family of Mark Ames is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur, IL. View the online obituary and send condolences to the family at www.gracelandfairlawn.com. Video Tribute for Mark Ames: <https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/X6PH4CS9F54P5KJ2>



Tribute Wall

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JH

Joe Hammel posted:

It was always a pleasure to see Mark's smiling face and share a joke or two with him at the golf course. He seemed to light up the room when he came up to play. The Goon Squad won't seem the same without him but I'm sure they will have some great memories from their times they spent on the courses they played. I will miss him. My Condolences, Joe Hammel/Head Professional Scovill Golf Course

January 17 at 6:24 AM

DE

Debbie posted:

So very sad to hear of Mark's death. I worked at Caterpillar and met Mark there, his "goon" name Goofy fit him well ... such a happy go lucky guy. Will never forget when he walked around the Decatur Celebration with his parrot on his shoulder and the parrot poop dripping down his back. He enjoyed life to the fullest, may he Rest In Peace. With sincere condolences, Debbie Smith Breyfogle Parrish, Florida

January 15 at 3:08 PM

JS

Jim Schnorf posted:

So very sorry to hear the news about Mark, he was a terrific friend to me in my first years out of college at CAT in Decatur. There was never a dull moment with Mark around, whether at work or bowling or in a pickup basketball game after work. He will truly be missed by many friends and co-workers. Jim Schnorf

January 12 at 4:29 PM

KM

Kent Melcher posted:

Have many fond memories of Mark on the Falcons basketball team, when I was manager. Mark was always kind to me as a lowly freshman. He lived his life with compassion and kindness, and with joy. Praying that all of you will know the blessings of comfort, hope, and peace as you remember Mark's legacy of love.

January 12 at 3:43 AM



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RD

Roger Dearman posted:

Mark was unique & was always glad to see & talk with you. As a kid I would go with my dad to Mark's house to pickup Whitney to go bowling. I always loved it there with the peacocks running in the yard. I enjoyed going to the Findlay Falcons game to watch this great athlete playing basketball. The last few years he has taken a love of my granddaughter (Sophie) by giving her antiques dolls from the Arches. I am sorry for his loss & Dolly you will be in my prayers. I will be out of town to show my respect for this great guy. Roger Dearman & Sophie

January 11 at 12:24 PM

DB

Dennis Booker posted:

Sorry to hear about Mark, enjoyed knowing and working with him at Cat.Dennis Booker

January 11 at 9:32 AM

RD

Rebecca Young Davis posted:

Dolly, Chris, Steve, and family, I am so sorry to hear of Mark's passing. He was a good man, and super funny. I have many good memories of him, and you guys too. Sending prayers for peace for you all.

January 11 at 6:45 AM

TB

Terry Boles posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Mark Ames

January 11 at 6:07 AM

FS

Fran Smart posted:

My deepest sympathy for your loss. I pray for all of you, and may God give you comfort.Mark will be missed by so many. Fran Smart

January 11 at 4:50 AM



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DR

Deborah Ransdell posted:

Dolly you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I will always remember Mark with a smile on his face!—Praying all your special memories will bring your family comfort—
deborah ransdell

January 10 at 2:52 PM

SF

Sandy Fisher posted:

Dolly & family, I am so sorry for your loss.. Mark was truly one of the "good guys"..Bill & Mark had so much fun on their trips to Mexico & I later became good friends with YOU & Mark..He will SO b missed. Thinking of you with sorrow & love,Sandy Fisher

January 10 at 2:27 PM

DW

Donna Woodard posted:

I've known Mark all my life, we lived. 1/2 mile apart growing up.But know he is in better place free of pain and suffering.With a sad heart, my condolencesDonna Roney Woodard

January 10 at 1:12 PM

JH

Jeanne Van Horn posted:

Dolly, My condolences and prayers to you and yours !! How could anyone forget that hubby of yours >> Such a unique fella>>Friend to all >> I first met Mark when visiting my daughter Robin at her job as supply clerk (CAT) > When here stood this handsome man at the window of her office with a limb over his head > Guess who ? It was Mark as BULLWINKLE !! Always a character and a friend !! He will be sincerely missed!!(SEE YA IN THE WINNER"S CIRCLE , MARK !!

January 10 at 6:22 AM

SK

Sue Ashe (Kee) posted:

I met Mark while working at Caterpillar starting in 1990 – such a nice guy – lived up to the nickname "Goofy" and always had a smile on his face as well as bringing a smile to others. So sorry I am not in Decatur anymore to pay my respects in person. Sue Ashe (Kee)Apache Junction AZ

January 10 at 4:16 AM



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JP

James Powers posted:

I have many good memories of time spent with Mark. The last time I saw him he took me for a ride in his Vet. RIP Mark. JP Garner, NC

January 10 at 3:03 AM

MT

Mike & Julie Tucker posted:

Mark was not only a great guy, but a truly genuine person. He never knew a stranger and was always a source of entertainment. He was gracious and proud and always had a good word. He will be missed by so many in so many ways. We wish his family the very best. Our deepest condolences....

January 9 at 4:17 PM

DH

Dale Hale posted:

My wife, Mary, and I worked with Mark and Dolly at the Arches in Findlay, I will always remember sharing a lot of stories and laughs, R.I.P. old friend, we'll see you soon.

January 9 at 3:44 PM

SG

Suellen Goken posted:

Dolly, I saw on FB that you had lost your husband. I am so saddened by this. You and your family are a part of our past....the good times when our kids were young, and so were we. I just want you to know we are grieving your loss of Mark with you, and you will be in our hearts in the days ahead. We will pray for strength and comfort for you as you say good-bye, for now, to your love! Much love to you! Susie and Dick Goken-Natalie, Brent and Jon

January 9 at 3:09 PM

TR

Tom Reeve posted:

Mark was a great friend and we had many good golfing days together Weed

January 9 at 11:16 AM

PC

Phil Crouch posted:

R I P Mark..We had great fun playing scrambles with the Goon's , will miss ya

January 9 at 7:53 AM



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GB

Gary "Gabby" Brooks posted:

Mark was my very first friend in the first grade and has always been a great friend. I am deeply saddened but now I look forward to seeing him again in our Creators Kingdom. I will truly miss Mark, my brother, my friend.

January 9 at 6:07 AM

TS

Tom Sheehy posted:

Mark was a great friend and a true buddy. R.I.P.Tom Sheehy

January 9 at 3:52 AM

RS

Renee Sommer posted:

Mark was a wonderful guy, he was always happy to see who ever walked in the door. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.Renee Sommer

January 9 at 3:24 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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