



## Douglas John Kirk

July 16, 1964 - January 10, 2020

Douglas John Kirk, 55, of Fargo passed away unexpectedly in his sleep at home on January 10, 2020. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020, at 2 PM at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in South Fargo. Visitation will be an hour before the service. Cremation has taken place and burial will be later this year in Nordland Cemetery of rural Bottineau.

Doug was born July 16, 1964, in Devils Lake, North Dakota to Glen and Lois (Platts) Kirk. He was baptized at the First Methodist Church in Devils Lake. He attended his first two grades of school in Devils Lake. In 1973 the family moved to South Fargo where he attended Lewis & Clark Elementary, then moved to North Fargo where he attended Ben Franklin Junior High. In 1979 the family moved to Bottineau where Doug graduated from Bottineau High School in 1982 in the top 10% of his class. Doug was active in basketball, track, concert band and stage band (playing the baritone saxophone). He was also the Drum Major for the marching band. It was at Bottineau High School that he met his future wife, Kaye Lystad, where they participated in a saxophone quartet for music contest and stage band together.

After high school Doug attended North Dakota State University-Bottineau Branch (now Dakota College-Bottineau) for one year and this is where Doug and Kaye began dating for the next seven years. They were married on October 14, 1989, at First Lutheran Church in Bottineau.

In 1985, Doug transferred to NDSU in Fargo where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in 1986.

After graduation he began working for ComputerLand of Fargo, then at Corporate Technologies in Fargo from 1989 to 2013 as a Senior Network Engineer. It was here that he completed several Novell network certifications, including a Certified Novell Instructor (CNI) certification. In June of 2013 he began work at Marco in Fargo as a Senior Network Systems Engineer. Here he earned numerous Cisco certifications across multiple

specialties. Doug was an expert at designing, installing and troubleshooting information technology. Few people in the tri-state area have the qualifications, expertise and problem-solving skills that Doug had. Doug was truly a computer and network wizard, yet his customers loved working with him as he never talked over anybody's head; he could always explain things in a way that the average person would understand.

Doug liked keeping busy with new endeavors, whether it be a new business venture, volunteer work or hobbies. In 1994, Doug partnered with his boss, Dave Ekman to form Corporate Communications, one of the very first internet service providers in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Doug spent many hours in his basement at home and at work learning, setting up and maintaining the technical end of this new business, as well as providing customer support. The company was sold in 2000.

Doug also had a strong sense of civic duty, becoming a volunteer deputy for the Cass County Sheriff's Department from approximately 2003 to 2007.

A sampling of some hobbies that Doug enjoyed and thoroughly immersed himself into were Judo, photography, bicycling, amateur ham radio operating and golf.

Photography had always been a big love of Doug's and his photographs looked as though they were taken by a professional. He was more than happy to photograph a recent family reunion on Kaye's side of the family and had also been the photographer for a friend's wedding.

Doug had a very special way of helping others feel comfortable in their surroundings. He was quick to smile, and his laugh was infectious, which is something that will be greatly missed! If only we could hear you laugh again, Doug! He loved listening to all genres of music, and he loved movies, his favorite being sci-fi. He especially enjoyed watching them with his sister-in-law, Susan (Lystad) Boucher, when she visited, as she shared Doug's enthusiasm for them. Doug looked forward to watching the NDSU Bison football team play the last several years and was especially looking forward to watching them win the championship game on Saturday. However, I'm sure he was cheering them on in heaven with our cats that had gone before him sitting on his lap and by his side.

Doug was a huge animal lover. His heart was especially full of love for the cats he'd had throughout his lifetime. He also truly loved and adored Kaye's childhood cats. It was the running joke that one of the reasons Doug dated Kaye was so he could have access to her beloved cats.

When Doug and Kaye were dating, Doug was always willing to accompany her to libraries, courthouses and cemeteries so Kaye could work on her family history. What a guy! They always seemed to know what the other was thinking and could finish each other's sentences. In fact, if they were paired together during a game of Pictionary or Taboo, they would always win. They had many things in common: a love of animals, nature, history, antiques, 80s music, traveling, Bottineau and the Turtle Mountains, and so much more. They took special trips to Norway, Virginia, several to the Florida Gulf Coast and parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. They loved looking for and collecting special antiques at various antique stores and flea markets, including Gold Rush Days in Rochester and Ortonville, Minn. It was an extra bonus when an antique dealer had their pet along that they could make friends with. And while Kaye was quiet, shy and soft-spoken; Doug's personality of being very outgoing, friendly and boisterous made for a perfect pair.

Douglas is survived by Kaye, his wife of 30 years and best friend of 37; parents Lois and Glen, Fargo; two sisters: June (Philip) Nelson, West Fargo, and Cady (Chris) Halvorson, Boulder, Colo.; sisters- and brothers-in-law, Susan (Merle) Boucher, Rolette, No. Dak., and Patrice (John) Donahue, North Ft. Myers, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his cherished and precious cats, Lily Sue and Violet, who will miss him dearly and don't understand why Doug is gone.

Doug's passing has already left a huge hole in the hearts and lives of everyone who knew and loved him. He will be dearly missed and will never, ever be forgotten. Our hearts are broken over the loss of this kind and gentle soul who was always the life of the party.

"You never said I'm leaving, you never said goodbye. You were gone before I knew it, and only God knew why. A million times I needed you, a million times I cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died. In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still. In my heart you hold a place, that no one could ever fill. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of me went with you, the day God took you home."

Condolences and memories may be shared at <http://www.hansonrunsvold.com>

Arrangements by Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home – Fargo, ND

# Events

---

JAN 17

Visitation

01:00PM - 02:00PM

First Congregational UCC

1101 17th Avenue South, Fargo, ND, US

JAN 17

Memorial Service

02:00PM

First Congregational UCC

1101 17th Avenue South, Fargo, ND, US

# Comments

---



“ Wow. We are floored here. We just found out today of Doug's passing and it's rocked our office. While I can't see we were close friends, like his obituary says, he had a way of drawing you in and making you seem like a friend. We had the pleasure of working with him consulting with us on many Network and Phone related things and while he was far and away the smartest person in the room, he didn't flaunt it or rub it in. He'd always come in and we'd talk, laugh and joke while getting a ton of stuff done. For a day or two, he was one of us. Kaye, we've never met and maybe never will, but our sincerest condolences from everyone in our office. Doug was the best and will be missed for much more than his brain.

Ron Sprafka and all of the Becker County IT Dept.

**Ron Sprafka** - February 20, 2020 at 04:30 PM

---



“ As I remember Doug, he was always friendly, had a smile, and was fun to be around. We had some good laughs at the expense of some of the Marching members in our Band. We weren't very nice, at times, talking about some members who couldn't seem to get "in step" with the rest of the group. He told me once that he really liked playing in the STAGE BAND. Its too bad we didn't have more "gigs". I'm so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. I thought he was one very special student and more importantly, a "good friend", who married another one of my "good friends" that I will remember and cherish all my life. Gerald Whiteman & Judy Whiteman

**Gerald Whiteman** - February 08, 2020 at 12:04 PM

---



“ I'm sorry for the loss. I knew Doug as 'DigDug' in an online hobbiest community. He was funny, insightful and well respected among the membership.

**A\_T** - January 23, 2020 at 03:04 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Service



Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home - January 21, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ A beautiful service!

**paularaegram** - January 23, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“ Nice service. Thanks for sharing.

**Patricia Colleen Erickson** - January 23, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ Such a lovely service. God bless you, Kaye.

**Maria Iannone** - January 25, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ My heart is so touched. Such a lovely service and thoughtful words. sending love my dear friend

**Mary Ann Larson** - January 25, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ Such a lovely tribute to Doug..... many hugs to Kaye, so nice that you shared with us.

Vickie Conquest

**Vickie Conquest** - January 30, 2020 at 03:54 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Doug. I knew him as a customer for several years and then worked with him at Corp Tech. He was a very capable technician and was a go to person for me for many years both as a customer and co-worker. Doug usually had the answer and if not he could find it quickly. Cherish the memories you have of him. We won't forget that smile and wonderful personality. Take care.

Ron and Judy Marthaller

**Ron Marthaller** - January 18, 2020 at 01:39 PM



“ I'm so sorry to all of Doug's friends family for this big loss. I only knew Doug a short time over the last two months as we were a customer and he was the brilliant lead on our project. I never did meet him face to face but talked on the phone with him extensively.. everything I have read about who he is and the brightness, positivity, and caring mannerism all were very true in my interactions with him also. His ability to help people not nearly as smart as him, make himself available, and to understand technology and system connections was incomparable and he did it in a way that made you comfortable with not being tech savy. He came across as a humble gentle kind and funny person... To his parents, wife, friends, and coworkers, I'm so very sorry for your loss.

Marne Neiger

Marne - January 18, 2020 at 11:16 AM

---



“ Doug was always a joy to be around. Professionally, our paths crossed a number of times...he was highly skilled in many areas of technology. His customer service skills were also highly appreciated by customers who were fortunate enough to have Doug provide technical support. Doug, we will miss you.  
Darwin and Corine Wittmier

Darwin Wittmier - January 17, 2020 at 02:20 PM

---



“ We were so sorry to hear of Doug's passing. We were looking forward to visiting family this afternoon, but with the weather and roads, we can't make it. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you comfort and peace as you remember all the good memories with Doug. Arlene and Rita

Arlene Kirk & Rita Kaeding - January 17, 2020 at 12:51 PM

---



“ Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day unseen, unheard but always near..... And in our hearts held so very dear. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy and prayers. Auntie Eileen Kirk and family



Eileen Kirk - January 17, 2020 at 02:14 AM

---



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Kaye Lystad-Kirk - January 16, 2020 at 07:03 PM

---



“ Kaye and family,  
So sorry for your loss. My prayers and heart goes out to you. Doug was a kind, fun, and wonderful person. I loved everyday I worked with him at ComputerLand and Corporate Technologies. He was brilliant and shared his knowledge with many. I hope you can find peace and comfort knowing he impacted so many.

Myrna Flick Hoekstra - January 16, 2020 at 08:53 AM

---



“ Larry & Latha Pederson family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Douglas John Kirk.



Larry & Latha Pederson family - January 15, 2020 at 02:01 PM





“ Doug was loved by all of us - I wish I could hear him laugh again/ you have left a big void in our lives and certainly Kayes. Rest In heavenly peace and I will see you again.

**Patrice Donahue** - January 15, 2020 at 01:46 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Kaye Lystad-Kirk** - January 15, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ What a beautiful picture. My heart goes out to you Kaye. I am praying for you & thinking of you. your friend - Becky Jo Cannon

**Becky Jo Cannon** - January 15, 2020 at 06:57 PM

---



“ Uncle Duggie is what I called him when I was little. He was one of my favorite uncles. He was the uncle who jumped at the chance to go sledding with me when the other grown ups were busy “adulting”. He livened up every Christmas, thanksgiving and family gathering with his jokes and infectious laugh. He was always upbeat and positive and fun to be with. I love you uncle doug, I wish I would have told you this more.

**megan wittmier wolf** - January 14, 2020 at 07:43 PM

---



“

Kaye,

I am so sorry to hear about Doug. I am still in a bit of a state of disbelief. It doesn't seem like 37 years ago when you started being Kaye and Doug----but the dynamic duo you became. May you look at those years and feel the love. From the John Travolta movie, "PHENOM"....when John realizes his life is short, he asks Kyra Sedgwick, "Will you love me for the rest of my life?"....and Kyra responds, "No, I will love you for the rest of mine." God bless you, Kaye. My thoughts and prayers are with you----

Wade Sherwin

Wade Sherwin - January 14, 2020 at 05:54 PM

---



“

Doug was the best brother- in-law . He had the best sense of humor, quick wit and laughter. He was so extremely knowledgable in so many areas yet would never make you feel uneasy. He loved his cats and I can see that they miss him. Doug- you left a big hole that can never be filled. You will always be in our hearts and never forgotten!

Susan Boucher - January 14, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“

Deepest sympathies to you Susan and your family. Hugs. Praying for your family.

Loralie Fossum Warne - January 15, 2020 at 08:10 AM

---



“

I only knew Doug over the phone. He helped me setup some Cisco switches at a newly purchased business, but he made an impression on me. I was impressed with his knowledge and skill and his customer service was outstanding.

One of his co-workers called me on Monday to tell me of his passing and I am so sorry to hear. Reading through his Obituary, he sounds like someone that I would have gotten along well with in person, also.

My thoughts and prayers are with is family. May God ease their suffering as only He can.

Chuck Cuthbertson - January 14, 2020 at 04:00 PM

---



“ Carol Hansen lit a candle in memory of Douglas John Kirk



Carol Hansen - January 14, 2020 at 10:51 AM

---



“ Doug, the "Top Gun" -- that is what I called him. He was one of the best people in Fargo's IT world, the kindest, smiliest person in the parking garage. He was a teacher, a mentor, and a role model for many including me. His passing breaks my heart. My deepest sympathies to his family and to his IT family and colleagues.

Carol Hansen - January 14, 2020 at 10:49 AM

---



“ I was saddened to learn of Doug's passing. You have my sympathy.



Janis Kirsch - January 14, 2020 at 10:32 AM

---



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Douglas John Kirk.



January 14, 2020 at 10:28 AM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Douglas John Kirk.



January 13, 2020 at 07:59 PM

---



“ My deepest sympathy to family of Doug Kirk who gave us the most cheerful smiles, funny comments about everyday events, and loving gestures of friendship--like when he and wife Kaye invited me to sit and stay at their table in airport somewhat recently, as well as generously shared car-ride to hotel. It was a pleasure getting to know Doug a bit in person, since friendship with dear Kaye, and he will be missed every day. My prayers for comfort, for strength for family and friends~

Shellie F. - January 13, 2020 at 07:17 PM

---



“ Jocelyn Sloan lit a candle in memory of Douglas John Kirk



Jocelyn Sloan - January 13, 2020 at 05:34 PM

---



“ Doug will be remembered in the IT community as a brilliant, kind and gentle person with a heart of gold. He wanted me to understand what all the commands meant, not just what to type. Thanks for all the help over the past many years, Doug.

Jocelyn Sloan - January 13, 2020 at 05:29 PM

---



“ My deepest sympathy to Doug's Family. Doug was the smartest guy in the room wherever he went. He will be missed.

**Mark Sloan** - January 13, 2020 at 04:30 PM

---



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Douglas John Kirk.



January 13, 2020 at 04:19 PM

---



“ Lois and family my Sincere Sympathy. My husband passed away this October and it is very hard. I will keep you in my prayers

**Mindy Presler** - January 12, 2020 at 11:05 PM