



Dwite Pedersen

October 20, 1941 - March 16, 2021

Memorials to Douglas County Youth Center;
live stream available at www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/permalink/9892198/LTWebcast

Dwite Andrew Pedersen, along with his twin brother Dwain, were born on October 20, 1941 in Chamberlain, South Dakota to Lauritz and Helen (Lindskov) Pedersen. He grew up in Winner, South Dakota where attended grade school, graduated from Winner High School in 1960 and attended South Dakota State University for one year. Dwite started working at an early age, first at the local laundromat and then at the funeral home.

Dwite married Priscilla Dougherty on April 3, 1970 at Holy Name Catholic Church in Omaha, Nebraska and they were blessed with four children: Daniel, Andrew, Michaela and Megan. They built their home in Elkhorn in 1973 where they raised their children and made their lifelong home.

Dwite had a pure and genuine devotion and passion for working with young people, especially those in trouble. He moved to Omaha to work at Boys Town with his twin brother. He stayed involved with Boys Town and a part of the lives of many of the boys he considered his own until the day he passed away. After leaving Boys Town, he bought a small bar and dance hall, Denkers Bar and Ballroom in Elkhorn. He then went on to work at International Harvester Trucking Company where he was an accountant for a brief time as he

continued to follow his passion. Following treatment, Dwite began working in drug/alcohol counseling at Eppley Treatment Center and Richard Young. He continued to be a drug/alcohol abuse counselor in private practice and contracted with Douglas County and maintained his licensure to date. He received his Bachelors Degree in Human Relations from Doane College in 1994. He spent countless hours in and out of jails visiting and working with inmates and their families. Dwite served as a Nebraska State Senator for four terms in the Nebraska Legislature (1992-2008). Dwite was very involved with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) where he began his sobriety 40 years ago. He was always active in and very devoted to his church. Dwite's most precious time was spent with his family, his children and grandchildren. There's nothing he wouldn't do to spend time with them. He loved riding his motorcycle and hunting with Andy and other close friends. As long as the weather was good, you could find him out on the bike enjoying the wind therapy. He loved going to Michaela and Megans for dinner often and supporting all of the grandchildren's activities. He was so proud of his family and bragged of them every chance he could. Dwite was the most genuine, loving, generous, kind soul there was. He absolutely loved everyone he met, and they loved him. His story would not be complete without mentioning his love for Mickey Mouse. Dwite had Mickey depicted everywhere as a symbol of happiness. Dwite passed away unexpectedly in his sleep, with a smile on his face on March 16, 2021 at his home in Elkhorn, Nebraska at the age of 79 years, 4 months and 24 days. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Poe, brother Marlin and son Daniel. Dwite is survived by his son Andrew (Jennifer) of Omaha; daughters Michaela Jackson of Omaha and Megan (Michael) Nelson of Elkhorn; 9 grandchildren (Caeli, Krista, Cameron, Kyle, Caleb Dwite, Clayton, Priscilla, Samantha and Zachary) and 3 great grandchildren (Damion Dwite, Kai, and Sevyn); Twin brother Dwain of Omaha and brother Clio of North Carolina.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
20405 W. Maple Rd.
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Vigil

MAR 22. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
20500 W. Maple Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 23. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
20500 W. Maple Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Graveside Service

MAR **23**. 11:30 AM (CT)

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Dwite Pedersen*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - March 17, 2021 at 11:31 AM

SP

RIP Dwite!!!! I never knew who he was until a BT Reunion and a very close friend of mine was in a cottage that Dwite was his counselor! After the Reunion we rode motorcycles together, had a few dinner dates, and attended another BT Reunion together, Love you Dwite, and thank you for always keeping it real!!!!

Stephanie Pruitt - March 17, 2021 at 06:30 PM

MS

My condolences to Dwite's family. Dwite hired me in 1974 to be the Head Counselor for Bldg. 3 at BT. I will never forget his support and kindness. He was a very giving person and was always there to help others. You may rest now, Dwite.

MaryAnn Schiefen - March 17, 2021 at 06:57 PM

KK

Our sincere condolences to Dwite's family. We have many great memories of Sen. Pedersen, his work as a legislator, his kindness and his delightful sense of humor. May you find peace and joy in the many wonderful memories you have of your Dad/Grampa. - Karen Kilgarin & Jim Gordon (son of Sally)

KAREN KILGARIN - March 18, 2021 at 11:34 AM

KW

My condolences to Dwite's family. I knew him as a Senator and remember his sense of humor and professionalism. He was absolutely dedicated to the causes he believed in, especially the welfare of Nebraska's kids.

Kerry Winterer - March 18, 2021 at 01:01 PM

MB

My deepest sympathy to Dwite's family. I worked with Dwite when he was a Senator and I worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. He was always smiling and he cared deeply about the State and the children. He was a good man.

Mark Brohman - March 18, 2021 at 04:02 PM

JR

So sorry for the loss of Dwite and special hugs to Andy, Michaela and Megan from your former neighbors, the Hawkins Family. Dwite was a very respected person in his personal and private life. Heaven just got another angel.

Jean (Hawkins) Roach - March 19, 2021 at 02:08 PM

PM

My sympathy to Dwite's family. I always enjoyed talking to Dwite at our Boys Town retirees lunches. I don't remember ever seeing Dwite without a smile on his face. Rest In Peace Dwite.

Phyllis Minter

Phyllis Minter - March 20, 2021 at 01:47 AM

PS

My sincere sympathy to Dwite's loved ones. I worked with Dwite at Lutheran Hospital/Richard Young in the '70's. Every time we'd run into each other after that he greeted me as a long lost cousin. He was a special person who touched so many lives in a positive way.
Pat Studts

Pat Studts - March 21, 2021 at 01:09 PM

CE

God made the world a better place by sending Dwite. As one who was a grateful recipient of God's grace, he became a vessel to share the deep love that he received with EVERYONE he encountered. There will never be another Dwite, but all of us who have been touched by him, carry him with us and can bring that bright light into the lives of others. Blessings to all.

Carl Eskridge - March 23, 2021 at 09:02 AM

AV

Dwite will be missed by me and my family very much and by everyone whose life he touched. What good times riding, hunting, and visiting together. Goodbye my friend.

Andrew Vahrenkamp - March 23, 2021 at 12:35 PM

PB

Thanks for sharing this sorry I couldn't be there your dad was kind and generous man

phyllis bostwick - March 23, 2021 at 12:50 PM

GC

Thanks Dwite for all you have done for my son and I love you RIH

gloria chamberlain - March 23, 2021 at 01:10 PM

MH

*Our prayers and condolences to you, Dwaine. We ae sorry you have lost your twin brother. We hope he is resting peacefully in Heaven.
Gary and Mary Huliska*

Mary M Huliska - March 25, 2021 at 12:31 PM

RC

I did not know Senator Pedersen personally and while he died several years ago (didn't know that either) he guided me through helping my son when my son got into trouble in high school. His efforts were tremendous as he told me the process to get the courts to dismiss charges as my son always wanted to enlist in the military. It worked. My son did enlist, served honorably in the Afghanistan conflict in 2010 & now has a great career & family. Thank you Senator Pedersen. God has you now and I will never forget what you did!!

Ronald Cappello - December 11, 2025 at 08:28 AM

TV

“ *Dwite was my counselor for 21/2 years. He was going to stop by my house but covid delayed that Then he passed. I'll always miss him. Sorry for such a late post*



Thomas K Vaineo - July 22, 2023 at 09:37 PM



“ *Dwite Pedersen*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

YS

“ *Your friends at American Truck Trailer Sales purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dwite Pedersen.*



Your friends at American Truck Trailer Sales - March 22, 2021 at 08:13 AM

RT

“ *Ralph Thomas lit a candle in memory of Dwite Pedersen*



Ralph Thomas - March 22, 2021 at 06:22 AM

RT

Dwite was a good friend to my twin brother Randy for a good while. I know they are once again laughing and having a good time in each other's company. A good man has passed and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Ralph Thomas - March 22, 2021 at 06:25 AM

SS

“ I was lucky enough to meet Dwite on his first day at boys town. He came to be the counsellor in cottage 28. I was a Senior and his first commissioner in 1964. Since That time we have become great friends and more like family. Myself , my wife and my family will greatly miss him we loved him so much. He has known my kids and my grandkids since they were babies. Our deepest condolences to his family. He was so proud of his kids. He was especially proud of his grandkids and great grandkids. I am sure he is in heaven straightening up all the furniture. Everyone that knew Dwite knows what I'm talking about. Dwite was all about making everyone happy and laughing any where he went. Sam Vargas Sr BT class of 1965

Samuel Vargas Sr - March 22, 2021 at 12:17 AM



We love you.

Michaela Jackson - March 26, 2021 at 07:04 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dwite Pedersen.



March 21, 2021 at 11:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dwite Pedersen.*



March 21, 2021 at 11:11 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Dwite Pedersen.*



March 20, 2021 at 05:05 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to Dwite's family. I had the privilege of knowing Dwite for over 30 years through his work with youth and everlasting dedication to helping others and serving our great state of Nebraska.*

He was always a ray of sunshine in my life and one of the first I'd call on when in need or just to talk and enjoy his laughter. Recently through our work on Master Trauma Foundation and serving on our Board, Dwite always was there ready to help and advise and he became integral to our work.

Rest In Peace dear friend and know you will be missed and loved by many.

Judy Wederquist

Judy Wederquist - March 20, 2021 at 10:54 AM

DC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Dwite through our mutual service on the Master Trauma Foundation Board of Directors. He always provided thoughtful insight and reasonableness in every conversation. He had a deep insight into the social services needed for those whose lives had been traumatized. I came to understand that his life's work in social services was felt by many over a lifetime of steady continuous effort. Dwite found happiness in helping others. I will remember that up to the end he continued to serve others as a lasting memorial on earth and in heaven.

God speed Dwite, I was made better by knowing you.

Respectfully, Daryl Callahan

Daryl J Callahan - March 20, 2021 at 10:26 AM

AO

“ May he rest in peace. He was a good friend and we will miss his smile!!! I can still see him walking down the street by his Cottage talking to all his boys.

Andy Olivo '66

Andrew Olivo - March 19, 2021 at 08:57 PM

JM

“ Dwite worked with my father, Joseph McCarthy, at Boys Town. My father had the highest respect for Dwite and Dwite's commitment to helping those young people who had lost their way. Rest in peace.

James McCarthy - March 19, 2021 at 11:03 AM

KA

“ *He was a Great man who helped my two sons a very kind genuine person was alway there if needed*

Katharine Armagost - March 18, 2021 at 06:04 PM

JW

“ *Dwight was a wonderful person. He always had a smile and a warm greeting. We will miss him. Condolences to all. Pat & Jim Wilson*

Jim & Pat Wilson - March 18, 2021 at 11:46 AM

JM

“ *My condolences to the Petersen family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Joe McHugh class of 1975.*

Joe McHugh - March 17, 2021 at 06:28 PM

JP

“ *My thoughts and prayers to your family on the loss of Dwite. Jerry Powell, BoysTown class of 1976*

jerry powell - March 17, 2021 at 05:03 PM