



Mark Bernard Lisko

August 2, 1957 - April 27, 2020

Memorials to Cystic Fibrosis of Nebraska, St. John Vianney and Big I Scholarship Fund.

Mark “Big Daddy” Lisko

August 2, 1957 - April 26, 2020

This is the Cliffs’ Notes version of Mark Lisko’s life. We advise reading this at a fast pace because Mark is in heaven right now already telling us to wrap it up.

Big Daddy.

Mark was born to Bud (from whom he got his booming laugh and big personality) and to Joyce (from whom he got his kind spirit and deep loyalty to family). He was the oldest (and frequently the bossiest) to his sisters, Eileen and Adele, and to his brothers, Roger and Brian. (He wisely let Nurse Eileen be the boss when he sought her nursing advice.) When his siblings added spouses Don, Jane, and Karen along with nephew Jake and nieces, Michelle, Elena, Alexa, and Nika, Mark bossed them too -- and always with a mixture of sarcasm, affection, and humor.

In case you are curious about his “Big Daddy” nickname, we know he earned it when he worked for Skylark Meats. His former coworkers at Skylark aren’t explaining and we aren’t asking. He wasn’t afraid to dole out nicknames of his

own. He sometimes called himself “Markie L” and called his siblings “Roggie L”, “Eileen L”, etcetera. He clearly got stuck in a “nickname rut” but he did call his lifelong friend, Brian Guilfoyle, “G Funk Brian-y G Master.”

Big Laugh

Without question, Mark was a serious intellectual who didn’t take life seriously. He graduated with a theology degree from Creighton University and we are pretty sure that was the last time he was holy. We think it was enough to get him pointed toward heaven but would really appreciate it if you would pause your reading right now to say a quick prayer to boost his chances.

Mark was a man of great dichotomies. He loved quality professional clothing but loved his fishing gear more. He especially loved fishing with his brother, Roger, and with his fishing buddies. He made it a priority to take his nieces and nephew fishing from a young age. Still, he was known to sleep through some of the better moments and would often snore while in the fishing boat. He was awake enough once to cast his line and snare Brian Guilfoyle’s ear with a lure. He laced his sympathy with his big laugh, accusing Brian of getting his ear in Mark’s way.

Mark loved sharing fine wine but didn’t drink it himself. Instead, he used his “wine connoisseur” talents to teach his sweet mom, “Joyce L,” to swirl the red wine just so, even though her laughter at Mark’s coaching likely swirled the glass more than his technique did.

Mark barely liked golf and it showed in his game. He liked being with his golfing buddies more. They really should be ashamed of themselves for remembering him more for breaking his seven iron over his knee once and for driving the ball into a 50 feet high utility wire twice. Apparently, Mark was trying to find a hole in the ozone rather than a hole in one. No one laughed at his golfing “misses” more than Mark.

Mark loved his nieces and nephew so much that he provided them with equal parts teasing and equal parts mentoring. He often gave them personalized recommendations for his favorite books and movies. In direct Lisko fashion, he was never shy about his opinions of their life choices, including in clothing.

Once his protectiveness translated into “protective gear” for one niece who he concluded was showing a little too much skin in her prom photo. His Christmas gift to her that year was a long-sleeved “sack dress” with matching hat that covered her from head to toe. On a more productive note, Mark brought in his niece, Michelle, to learn the family insurance business and teased her mercilessly while mentoring her. Eleven years later, Michelle is still in the business, learned to tease Mark mercilessly back, and will deeply miss Mark’s triple threat of humor, friendship, and wisdom.

Big I.

In his professional career, Mark lived a long professional life in a short period of time. He took over the Lisko Agency from his dad, Bud, (with helpful growth of clientele from Brian and Adele) and eventually merged into being a partner at Insurance Planning Associates. He was fortunate to continue working with longtime colleague to Bud and business partner to Mark, Kim Holtorff, who, to this day, is a beloved family friend along with his wife, Nancy Holtorff. Mark worked tirelessly to expand Insurance Planning Associates which operates today in four office locations and has three additional partners. Mark was passionate about keeping the independent insurance agency system thriving, which showed in his mentoring of young agents and in being instrumental in creating an Associates Degree in Insurance through Northeast Community College. He served on professional boards and charitable organizations over the years, most recently as the National Director representing Nebraska in the Big "I" organization. Mark’s colleagues have called his dedication, knowledge, and leadership some of the best in the industry.

Big Heart.

The depth of our grief over the loss of Mark mirrors the depth of his life and the “bigness” of his heart. Mark’s friends were family to him. His close friends, Kelly Henry and Brian Guilfoyle, are literally part of family holidays because that’s exactly where they belong. In fact, Brian Guilfoyle has already made it known that he “is the oldest now and Mark left him in charge.” If you are a

friend of Mark's reading this right now, you are no doubt nodding your head at some crazy story he either told you or in which you are a main character, whether as: a fishing friend, a baseball friend, a card playing friend, a work friend, a cousin friend, an aunt/uncle friend, or a Cohen & Kelly's friend. You left us too soon, Mark. Big Daddy. Big Laugh. Big heart. Big Loss..

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
5815 Oak Hills Dr.
Omaha, NE 68137

Wake

MAY 4. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
5815 Oak Hills Dr.
Omaha, NE 68137

Mass of the Christian Burial

MAY 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
5815 Oak Hills Dr.
Omaha, NE 68137

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mark Bernard Lisko*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - May 05, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ *Mark Bernard Lisko*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Burns & Wilcox - Anthony & Amber purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



Burns & Wilcox - Anthony & Amber - May 07, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ *My sympathies to the Lisko family. Mark always had a friendly smile and was always ready to engage in thoughtful conversation. He was a leader and an advocate for many, both inside and outside the insurance industry, and will be missed greatly.*

Rod Muench

Rod Muench - May 06, 2020 at 05:48 PM

DS

“ *Many prayers to the Lisko family. I have known and worked with Mark in many areas of the insurance industry in Nebraska over the past 20 years. Over that time, we have become good friends and he would ask anytime how the fish were biting at Lake McConaughy and that he needed to come out here to fish. His quick wit and knowledge of our industry were characteristics that made any conversation with him a great conversation to have. As many have mentioned, his style in clothing was impeccable. He will be greatly missed by our colleagues in the insurance industry and even more by you. I hope you're sharing many great fish stories of his today and the days to come.*

Deb Schilz, Adams Insurance Advisors - Ogallala NE

Deb Schilz - May 05, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 05, 2020 at 09:32 AM

JG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Jeremiah Gudding - May 04, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 04, 2020 at 04:16 PM



“ *Mark was an outstanding leader who put his whole heart and mind into his work for the Big "I" and its members, especially young agents. We are filled with sadness at the loss of a great man and friend, but seeing the outpouring of thoughts we have received from his colleagues in the Big "I" - from Nebraska and across the country - warms our hearts. Many independent agents and company representatives have benefited - and will continue to benefit from Mark's friendship and devotion to making the independent agency system better through the Big "I". Mark's legacy will not be forgotten and we will do our best to carry the torch that he lit with his life.*

*Carol McClelland, CEO
Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska*

Carol McClelland - May 04, 2020 at 02:40 PM

LR

“ *Mark Lisko - there is no one quite like you. Your generosity, kindness and grace is unmatched. I will miss your presence, smile, mentorship and friendship; your body was no match for your spirit.*

Big Daddy you have enriched our lives personally and professionally and you will never be forgotten. Here's to endless (and successful) fishing, card playing, movie watching and more without limitations. Enjoy the next phase, we have certainly enjoyed you.

Lori Ruzicka - May 04, 2020 at 02:02 PM

JG

“ *I feel very blessed that I got to know Mark when I worked at one of the IPA offices for 6 yrs. I can hear his boisterous laugh in my head...it was so infectious. When he would call and ask for my assistance, it always made me laugh as I thought he knew "everything". I think that's what he wanted us all to think (laugh), but he was humble when he wasn't sure about something. The world is left with a big hole with him being gone....but the fish are now safe.*

All my love and prayers to the family during this very difficult time.

Julie Gottula

Julie Gottula - May 04, 2020 at 01:56 PM

MR

“ *Mark Daly/Travis Unzicker-Four Corners Restoration purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



Mark Daly/Travis Unzicker-Four Corners Restoration - May 04, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Bryan Shaw - May 04, 2020 at 01:18 PM

EM

“ To all the family members of Mark.....I was so sorry to hear of your loss.. I know no words will change all that you are going through, but please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Mark always had a can-do move forward attitude, despite his setbacks. Over the years I knew him, he had great energy. I knew he had to always get up everyday excited about what the day would bring. It was evident he loved his family, his friends, and expected the best out of himself and those around him. He set the bar high for those of us that followed him in the Big I. He was my definition of a "Good Man". He was a friend. He will be missed.

Just Remember - This Old Irish Proverb: "Although Death Leaves A Heartache No One Can Heal....Love Leaves A Memory Which No One Can Ever Steal"

Edward S. Mark

Edward Mark - May 04, 2020 at 12:11 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jeremiah Gudding - May 04, 2020 at 11:19 AM

JG

“ Mark was a wonderful friend and mentor. He always made time for me and my family. His generosity and care was far beyond what anyone would ever expect. He was truly a remarkable man. Mark will be missed dearly.

Jeremiah Gudding - May 04, 2020 at 10:58 AM

JD

“ Mark was an insurance comrade, fellow bon vivant and a good friend. I'll miss trading barbs with him and remember fondly our Vegas expeditions. My thoughts and prayers to his family.

John Deardorff - May 04, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.



May 04, 2020 at 10:26 AM

DP

“ Mark Lisko was a wonderful person. He was kind, generous and a true champion for our profession. Most of all he was a dear friend. I will always cherish our fishing trips, poker nights and the evenings we spent shooting the breeze on his back deck. I will truly miss him. Rest In Peace, Big Daddy!

Dave Perry

Dave Perry - May 03, 2020 at 10:10 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 03, 2020 at 06:46 AM



“ *Mark was such an amazing guy! I had the privilege of helping him look his best for the last 13 years. He wasn't only a client but also a friend. So many people enjoyed his company and truly had a kind heart. I'm going to miss his deep voice, his contagious smile, our conversations and his awesome style. Thinking and praying for all of Mark's family.*

Ingrid Geiseman - May 02, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ *Independent Insurance Agents of Omaha purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



Independent Insurance Agents of Omaha - May 01, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 01, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 01, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ *Mark was a great help to my Father and me during our transition in business over that past few years. He was a very caring and thoughtful person and always had a toothpick for me at the Big "I" Luncheons!.*

Ralph "Skip" Brown

skip brown - May 01, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ *Everyone at IMT Insurance Company wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Marks family and co workers. Mark was a very loyal IMT agent and he will be deeply missed by all of us that worked with him over the years.*

*Al Dillard
IMT Insurance Company*

Al Dillard - May 01, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



May 01, 2020 at 10:12 AM



“ *Mark was a good friend and a good man. Over the many years we worked together in the Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska I came to have great respect for Marks great knowledge and very high level of professionalism. I also became an admirer of his extensive and always stylish wardrobe. His sense of humor made him a joy to be with.*



I will always remember Mark in one of his many his tailor made vests holding forth over a good meal with friends about his latest fishing trip adventure that often involved the big one that got away. We were lucky to have with us. My thoughts and prayers are with the Lisko family in this sad time. God bless, Jim Cavanaugh

jim cavanaugh - May 01, 2020 at 09:53 AM



“ *My condolences to Mark's family. Mark was a pleasure to work with: knowledgeable, funny, down to earth, and trustworthy. He will be greatly missed.*

Sabrena Sally - April 30, 2020 at 06:08 PM

JF

“ John and Deb Furey purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.



John and Deb Furey - April 30, 2020 at 03:37 PM

AA

“ Mark was a true gentleman and a great ambassador to the insurance industry. His dedication and energy will be missed. My heart goes out to his family in this time of reflection. After just losing my mother on Friday, I do feel the depth of his families loss. May the memories of his life shine on everyone who knew and loved him.

Tony Ambush

Anthony W. Ambush - April 30, 2020 at 02:31 PM

IS

“ IIAN Board & Staff purchased the Touching Tribute Spray for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.



IIAN Board & Staff - April 30, 2020 at 01:50 PM

VG

“ Mark was not only a gentleman and true insurance professional, but he engaged everyone he met, whether a long time friend or someone he just met. He looked for good in all of us and made us better. In addition to his self described passions of fishing and cards, Mark was also passionate about his volunteer work for Trusted Choice Independent Insurance Agents in Nebraska and his work for our National Association, The Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America. Mark was a difference maker on so many personal and professional levels, You will be missed, buddy, but not forgotten.

Vaughn Graham

Vaughn Graham - April 30, 2020 at 12:29 PM

JR

“ Mark was a good friend to the Insurance Industry. He was very professional and easy to work with. He will be missed.

Jerri Reckling

Jerri Reckling - April 30, 2020 at 10:31 AM

MJ

“ *Mark was an outstanding professional in the insurance industry and represented our State Association, the Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska, at the National level. He was placed in that position because of his dedication to the industry, strong engagement in promoting our industry, keen awareness of ongoing issues we face in the industry, and his love of service.*

On a personal note, Joanie and I will miss his cheerful greeting each time we had occasion to be together, his dapper dress, and inclusive nature.

*Mike & Joanie Jones
Past President, IIAN*

Michael Jones - April 30, 2020 at 10:21 AM

RL

“ *Rebekah Langford purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



Rebekah Langford - April 30, 2020 at 08:46 AM

DD

“ *Daniel Maguire, SND South Dakota purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.*



Daniel Maguire, SND South Dakota - April 29, 2020 at 05:36 PM

TJ

“ Mark was well liked by all who knew him and well respected by all who worked with him. A total class act who I was proud to call my friend. He will be greatly missed.

Todd Jackson

Todd Jackson - April 29, 2020 at 05:06 PM

PM

“ My deepest condolences to Mark's family. I was on the IIAN Board with Mark and we not only insurance in common, but pacemakers as well! We had several conversations about our tickers, and I thought all was well with Mark's health. Mark had a robust personality and seemed to love life, as well as the work he did for our organization. We were all shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. We know he is in a better place, but he certainly leaves an enormous hole in our hearts. My prayers for peace and love to the family he leaves behind.

Sincerely,

Peggy McDonald

Peggy McDonald - April 29, 2020 at 04:58 PM



MF

“ Mass.Assoc of Insurance Agents; Ray Gallant,Nick F purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.



Mass.Assoc of Insurance Agents; Ray Gallant,Nick F - April 29, 2020 at 04:32 PM

SK

“ Mark was such a wonderful gentleman, I always enjoyed spending time with him around the country. He will certainly be missed among his ND friends. Sympathies and condolences to his family.

Steve Kinkade

Steve Kinkade - April 29, 2020 at 04:15 PM

JK

“ Our sympathy's to Mark's family. His friendship and comradery will be missed.

Jeff Kleven
Independent Insurance Agents of North Dakota

Jeff Kleven - April 29, 2020 at 03:53 PM

TG

“ Mark loved bass fishing tournaments and playing poker which i was fortunate to enjoy with Mark the last 10 years and I will really miss those fun times. Along with all of the insurance conversations and serving on committees with Mark he was very passionate about everything he did. You will be missed my friend and I hopefully you already have a seat at the table

Tom Greco

Tom Greco - April 29, 2020 at 03:52 PM

GF

“ I had the pleasure of serving with Mark on the AAS board. His leadership will be missed. Mark was a good guy and we all will miss him. My deepest sympathies to Mark's family.

Gary Frisch

Gary Frisch - April 29, 2020 at 03:21 PM

MC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark's family.

Mitch Childers - April 29, 2020 at 03:15 PM

DE

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mark through his volunteer activities on behalf of his fellow agents. First, he was extremely bright but didn't feel compelled to constantly demonstrate it. Second, as chairman of the board I was involved with he welcomed everyone's opinion as his goal was to arrive at the best possible outcome. My one big regret is that he invited me to be his guest at the College World Series and I procrastinated in getting out there. He was a genuine person. We'll keep Mark and his family in our prayers.

Dave Evans

Dave Evans - April 29, 2020 at 03:10 PM

IT

“ Independent Insurance Agents of Texas purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mark Bernard Lisko.



Independent Insurance Agents of Texas - April 29, 2020 at 03:06 PM

AS

“ Mark was telling me about his plans to go out on his boat and go bass fishing. I hope you are on a boat, catching lots of bass now.

Amy S. - April 29, 2020 at 03:00 PM

BS

“ I had the good fortune to get to know Mark through our service on the National Board of Directors and Committee Members with the Big "I". Mark was always exceedingly friendly and kind in his interactions. He gave a great deal of himself to our industry and that will always be appreciated. A good man gone too soon! You will be missed, sir.

I will be praying for comfort for his family in the days and weeks ahead.

Bobby Salmon

Bobby Salmon - April 29, 2020 at 02:31 PM

BF

“ If there was ever a "good guy" award, Mark would have won it! He was involved, engaged, always eager to help, and no job was ever too big or too small. I will miss Mark very much and pray God's blessing upon his soul and the lives of his family.

Bob Fee - April 29, 2020 at 02:30 PM

PB

“ Mark was my chairman of two companies at the Big I National. What can one say about such a genuine person that comes close to all he was? A top agent, selfless, inspiration in how he treated each insured and how he treated us as staffers. And then all that history you get little bits and pieces of, like the meat packing plant in his younger days. There is no job that doesn't teach you a lot is what he told me. My greatest regret is not making to the fishing trip in Minnesota the same time as Mark. Work hours were way, way less time than I'd have liked to spend with him. I'll miss you Mark. I'm sure the bass and muskies are plentiful and big where you are.

Paul Buse

Paul Buse - April 29, 2020 at 02:19 PM

TO

“ Deepest Sympathy for your loss. May the love of God bring peace and comfort during this most difficult time.
Blessing & Prayer
Tina Olson / IIABA ND Director

Tina Olson - April 29, 2020 at 02:09 PM

BR

“ Mark was a true humanitarian who had time for every single person. He loved his profession as an independent agent, and reveled in his ability to help people in their time of need. He loved the Big I and committed his full time and energy to the association in order to help his colleagues. Mark poured his energy into all he did. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bob Rusbult

Bob Rusbult - April 29, 2020 at 01:41 PM

RD

“ One of the most genuine people i have ever met in my entire life. True friend, hard worker and all around genuinely great guy. He will be dearly missed.

Russ Dokken - April 29, 2020 at 11:27 AM

MT

“ I met Mark 7 years ago when I moved to Nebraska to be a Marketing Representative for Auto-Owners Insurance. I remember him for his flashy dress and great knowledge of the insurance business. He actually intimidated me to begin with but over these last 7 years we developed what I believe was a mutual respect and friendship. He liked to "give me the business" when i came in about the big bad insurance companies. I would imagine that all Marketing people got the same feedback! He was a true insurance professional and I will miss these visits going forward. Rest in Peace Mark. Michelle Tiedeman, Marketing Representative Auto-Owners Insurance.

Michelle Tiedeman - April 29, 2020 at 09:41 AM

KK

“ It is with great sadness to know Mark is no longer with us here on earth. I know he has joined others gone before us now with the Lord. I was fortunate enough to work with Mark in the insurance industry which I know he was 100% committed to in both agency ownership and the many contributions he made serving on insurance committees and leadership roles. He will be truly missed. God Bless his friends, colleagues and family members grieving today and the days and weeks ahead. Mark - you were one of the agents I considered a friend as well but probably never got to say it enough. I'll always remember your call about our contract and how I talked you into not making a decision I felt you would regret. Forever grateful I convinced you to change course in your original decision.
Kraig Klopfenstein, Urbandale, IA - Regional VP for Auto-Owners Insurance

Kraig Klopfenstein - April 28, 2020 at 08:51 PM