



William "Willy" Jurgens

November 23, 1952 - September 11, 2024

William (Willy) A. Jurgens blessed us with 71 wonderful years. He passed away peacefully on September 11th, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Willy lived a life rich in joy, laughter, and cherished memories. Over the past 20 years, he fought a courageous battle, continually defying the odds with unwavering determination. Known for his quick wit, captivating stories, and never-give-up attitude, Willy also cherished his loyal friendships and the connections he made throughout his life. He will be deeply missed but fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Willy was born and raised in Beatrice, Nebraska, as the youngest of four siblings. The Jurgens family later moved to Lincoln, NE, where he graduated from high school and earned his Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Throughout college, Willy took on various roles, including selling sodas and hotdogs at Husker football games and as a bouncer at the Watering Hole. After graduating, he embarked on a career in sales that spanned several decades and took him around the world. Willy eventually founded his own company, JH Willy, which has since become a family business run by his oldest daughter, Kayla, and wife, Dagmar.

Bill and Dagmar were high school sweethearts meeting through a church event. They got married in 1974, celebrating their 50th anniversary in July. Throughout the years, they have taken many trips and made many memories. They started a family that grew to three kids, their amazing spouses, and five

grandchildren, with the 6th on the way later this year. Being known as Papa was Willy's greatest achievement in life.

In 1981, Bill and Dagmar moved to Steamboat Springs, CO. Bill's passion for golf and his circle of friends led to the creation of the first Rag Classic in 1982. This event evolved into an annual golf tournament for 40 years, primarily hosted in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It fostered many lifelong friendships and led to the establishment of the Friends of Willy Foundation. In collaboration with the Omaha Community Foundation, it supports a range of activities and events to uplift the spirits of cancer patients and their families across the country.

On April 15, 2005, Willy was diagnosed with Leukemia. Over the past 19 years, he faced multiple cancers, surgeries, and various health challenges with remarkable bravery. We are profoundly grateful to his sister, Sandy, for giving him the gift of life through a stem cell transplant. Willy's unwavering motto was 'never give up,' a principle he upheld until the end of his life.

The void in our family will be impossible to fill, but knowing that he is pain-free, watching over us while enjoying a cold one, brings us all great comfort.

Preceded in death by parents Heye and Irene Jurgens, sister Barbra Hawkins, and in-laws Bruni and Harry Norval. Survived by wife Dagmar Jurgens; children Kayla (Doug) Cunningham, Kelsey (Scott) Volkmer, and Kolby (Andrea) Jurgens; and grandchildren Harper, Annie, and George Cunningham, and Hallie and Vivienne Volkmer. Also survived by siblings Sandy (Ric) Strynar, Todd (Donna) Jurgens, many nieces and nephews, and numerous dear friends.

Funeral services will be held at Rejoice! Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE, on September 27th at 11 am. Following the service, a Celebration of Life will be held at Indian Creek Golf Course in Elkhorn, NE, from 1-3 pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Friends of Willy Foundation via the Omaha Community Foundation.

Funeral service:

Friday, September 27 11 am at Rejoice! Lutheran Church
2556 S 138th St, Omaha, NE 68144

Celebration of Life
Indian Creek Golf Course
Friday, September, 27 1-3 pm
3825 N 202nd St, Elkhorn, NE 68022

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Friends of Willy Foundation
via the Omaha Community Foundation.

https://omahafoundation.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1569

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

Rejoice Lutheran Church
2556 South 138th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

Celebration of Life

SEP 27. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Indian Creek Golf Course
3825 North 202nd Street
Elkhorn
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of William "Willy" Jurgens



Reichmuth Funeral Home - October 02, 2024 at 12:52 PM

TF

“ The Volkmer and Sutton families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Willy" Jurgens.

The Volkmer and Sutton families - September 26, 2024 at 11:32 AM

TF

“ The Volkmer and Sutton families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William "Willy" Jurgens.



The Volkmer and Sutton families - September 26, 2024 at 11:32 AM

GK

“ Deepest sympathy & prayers for Dagmar & Family. It's been years since we were neighbors but we remember Willy, who lived life to the fullest. Gary & Nancy Kalis

Gary & Nancy Kalis - September 22, 2024 at 02:58 PM

YF

“ *Your GreenSlate Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William "Willy" Jurgens.*



Your GreenSlate Family - September 18, 2024 at 03:48 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Willy" Jurgens.*



September 18, 2024 at 02:32 PM

AJ

“ *Angela Blake and Kristen Johnson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Willy" Jurgens.*



Angela Blake and Kristen Johnson - September 17, 2024 at 02:11 PM

DH

“ About 20 years ago, on an ordinary Wednesday night, my dad, Willy, and I had a fantastic time laughing and drinking at the Zoo Bar in Lincoln, Nebraska. The evening ended with a drive-through visit to Wendy's, where we probably spent \$60 amongst the three of us. Just a few days later, I found myself visiting Willy again, but this time in the hospital after he had been diagnosed with cancer (oddly enough the three of us still found opportunities to laugh!). He fought bravely and lived each day to the fullest despite his diagnosis. Truly remarkable. I cherish the many great moments we shared with him, his family, and his friends. He was truly one of a kind. My heartfelt condolences to the Jurgens family. You were all part of something special. All the best, Dave Hauptman.

David Hauptman - September 16, 2024 at 07:50 PM

GO

I joined the tournament because a good friend of mine, Jerry Lundberg insisted that I Participate with this great group of guys that came from all over the country and some of them we would only see at that time of year When Jackson Hole Willy Put on this great tournament! I was not a good golfer With any stretch of the imagination at that time! Jerry assured me that there were others in the same boat and not to worry about it. Just do the best you can.!

That's exactly what I did and they were such a great group of guys and Willey was such a fantastic host and organizer that one could not help but have a great time! About the third year that I attended The tournament I had the pleasure and the honor of Being a partner Of Willey and I rode in the same golf cart with Willey along with the 5 gallon Cantina full of Willey's margaritas!! OMG By the third hole I was ripped!! lol And Willey just laughed and just said Rob it'll make a better golf out here so don't worry about it! Got to know Willy That day And we remain friends for the next 30 years!! All of you that are part of Willey's family should be proud because he was a wonderful person and a wonderful man and I'm sure he's looking down on all of his smiling at the present time!!

Gus Osterkamp - September 17, 2024 at 12:19 AM

KC

“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Kayla Cunningham - September 16, 2024 at 07:35 PM

KC

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Kayla Cunningham - September 16, 2024 at 06:38 PM

KC

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Kayla Cunningham - September 16, 2024 at 06:29 PM

KC

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kayla Cunningham - September 16, 2024 at 06:11 PM