



Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner

January 20, 1975 - April 24, 2021

Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner, age 46, of Washington, D.C. died on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

Celebration of life services will take place Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa. To watch the live stream of the service, click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87873452803?pwd=NG1ORjVXWmVzWnFWVEYrQXNYbCtKZz09> and enter the password: funeral. Burial will be in the Newell Cemetery. Visitation will take place Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the CHURCH. The family encourages memorials be given to the Jonathan "Bubba" Degner Memorial Scholarship. For more information and to donate please visit: <https://members.sigmachi.org/bubbadegner>. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Jonathan Ashley "Bubba" Degner, of Washington, DC, and formerly of Newell, Iowa was born at the Alta Hospital, Alta, Iowa on January 20th shortly after the great Iowa blizzard of 1975 and before an ice storm the following weekend. This scenario was perhaps the first indication of his adventuresome spirit. Jonathan was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa where he remained a member throughout his lifetime.

He attended Fonda Community School and graduated from Newell-Fonda High School in 1993. While a senior at Newell-Fonda High School, he was a legislative page at the State of Iowa Capitol and was honored to be chosen to continue his service during the second session. He furthered his education at Drake University majoring in Political Science and History, two of his lifelong interests, and graduated in 1997. While a student at Drake, he was part of the first student group allowed by the U.S. State Department to visit Cuba. Also during his education at Drake, he spent a semester in Washington, DC as a White House Intern and attended American University there. While there he solidified his passion for politics and spent the majority of his career helping to write legislation and strategizing many political campaigns. He was instrumental in the passage of the Florida

redistricting legislation. He was interested in the art of negotiation and was a voice for unions and underrepresented workers, continuing similar work and following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Donald S. Larsen, who led the union for many years at Hy-Grade.

Jonathan dedicated his life to community service and looked for any way possible to make the world a better place. He served 14 years as an American Legion Boys State counselor teaching government and civics to young people at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Jon was a longtime Sigma Chi fraternity member and volunteer and for the past seven years served as the Chapter advisor of the Epsilon Chapter at George Washington University. He was a 2019 Seven Lights Award recipient for his service to the fraternity and mentorship to college students. He also was awarded two Grand Consul Citations and was twice named the Province Chapter Advisor of the Year. He served as a journey facilitator, a faculty member during at least seven Balfour Leadership Training Workshops, the first Krach Transformational Leadership Workshop, and was a key contributor at the Fraternity's inaugural Officer Training Academy in 2020. He served on the Fraternity's Government Affairs Committee and was an advocate for student rights and lobbied on their behalf on Capitol Hill for the 2018 REACH and Higher Education Act.

Bubba's passion for public affairs and Sigma Chi history, led him to research and reunite a Sigma Chi ring, thought to be lost during World War II, with the family of its rightful owner. From that research, two Gold Star Sigma Chi brothers whose ultimate sacrifice occurred during World War II, were recognized in the Fraternity annals.

Jon served in a variety of international fraternity events such as Grand Chapter and Grand Council and played a key role in the organization of these events held in Washington, DC. In addition, he was a reviewer for the Chapter and Member Accountability Committee and was instrumental in developing the newest Sigma Chi chapter at Georgetown University. Jon guided and mentored nearly 400 young men through college and beyond, imbuing them with salient life and leadership lessons every step along their journeys through pledgship, brotherhood and onto their individual careers.

After 3 weeks in the MedStar Washington Hospital Center Covid ICU, he lost his battle with Covid and was called home to the Lord on April 24, 2021. Even while hospitalized during those final days, his thoughts were focused on "his boys" at Epsilon and their well-being. He was an inspiration to many and an example to all.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Fred and Arvilla Degner and Donald and

Zelda Larsen, several aunts and uncles including Ruth and Leonard Paulson, Freddie and Thelma Degner, Robert and Barb Degner, Anita Larsen, and cousins Ron Degner and Mike Degner.

He will be remembered as a kind, gentle soul by his family and friends including parents David and Ellen Degner, Sr., brother Dave Degner, Jr. and sons Derek Degner and Jaden Degner, sister Jennifer (Gary) Wells and children Brett Wells, Braden Wells, and Crystal Kelly, aunt and uncle Barb and Roger Waggle, aunt and uncle Lois and Karl Jirgens, many cousins, his Sigma Chi Fraternity brothers, and his vast network of colleagues and friends.

Cemetery Details

Newell Cemetery

E. Jensen St.
Newell, IA 50568

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter Lutheran Church -- Newell
314 South Clark
Newell, IA 50568

Celebration of Life Service

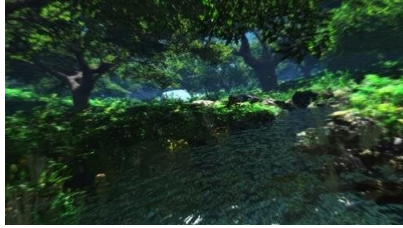
MAY 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Peter Lutheran Church -- Newell
314 South Clark
Newell, IA 50568

Tribute Wall



“ Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - May 11, 2021 at 03:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Live Stream of Service



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - May 12, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - May 11, 2021 at 02:30 PM



“ 116 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - May 11, 2021 at 02:29 PM

JF

“ John Forst, Ashley Woods, Sigma Chi Foundation purchased the Cherished Memories - All White for the family of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner.



John Forst, Ashley Woods, Sigma Chi Foundation - May 11, 2021 at 01:23 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner.



May 06, 2021 at 03:48 PM

JR

“ Jill Reis lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner



Jill Reis - May 04, 2021 at 06:57 AM

BS

“ Barry Snyder lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner



Barry Snyder - May 02, 2021 at 11:09 PM

LM

“ Prayers, Comfort, Peace and Strength to Jenny and Family. Deepest Sympathy. Lisa Meyer



Lisa Meyer - May 01, 2021 at 10:15 AM



“ *Dana Seivert lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner*



Dana Seivert - May 01, 2021 at 08:39 AM

JK

“ *Jan And Frank Klahs lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner*



Jan and Frank Klahs - April 30, 2021 at 10:45 PM

JH

“ *Jon and I are both Sigma Chi Brothers. We first met when my wife, Sherri and I, hosted the Washington DC Alumni Chapter Kentucky Derby event at our home. "Call me Bubba" was how Jon introduced himself. During the course of the event Bubba revealed his commitment to our brotherhood and we immediately bonded over some fine Kentucky Bourbon.*

Over the last four years our passion for change In the White House further bonded us. Jon And I would share how we looked forward to the Office of POTUS being restored. Jon simply meant what he said, said what he meant, and took action on his words with sincerity. I will always be inspired by his strength of character and aspire to emulate the same. All honor to his name.

Jim Heller - April 30, 2021 at 08:43 PM

JT

“ *Jon and I were fraternity brothers at Drake and shared a passion for politics. He was a gentle soul who cared deeply about Sigma Chi ans giving back to the community. I would like to offer you and your family my deepest and most sincere condolences and may the soul of Bubba rest in peace.*

Jairaj (JJ) Thakkar - April 30, 2021 at 07:58 PM

ML

“ So sorry for your loss, May God wrap His around you and give you peace.



Mary Lange - April 30, 2021 at 07:34 PM

DC

“ Jon was a tireless servant to our Fraternity and did it for the service, never for the recognition. Not mentioned above, he also helped with out internal career networking platform to match hundreds of jon seekers with employers. The White Cross of Sigma Chi has gained new luster as a result of Bubba’s good works. All Honor to His Name.

Don Copeland - April 30, 2021 at 03:55 PM

BR

“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner



Bev Reis - April 30, 2021 at 01:39 PM

BT

“ Thinking of you with heavy hearts, love, and admiration for Bubba. Wishing we could take away your pain..... Bill, Jeanne, Marti, Mike, Lis

Bill Tiedeman - April 30, 2021 at 09:51 AM

GM

“ Sending sympathy to the David Degner Family.

Greg and Wanda McClintock



Greg and Wanda McClintovk - April 30, 2021 at 02:02 AM

CS

“ John was a great friend from the first day we met almost 17 years ago. He always put others before himself and dedicated his life to the hard work of making the lives of others better - even those who he didn't know or who didn't agree with him.

I can confidently say that he made my life much better than it would have been without him in it. He lead by example and lived his values.

I will miss him very much, but I am happy that he will live on in my great memories of him and in the memories of others whose lives he touched.

Chris Stokes - April 29, 2021 at 04:35 PM

RS

“ Our thoughts and prayers to Jon's entire family. Enjoyed Jon, Jenn and Dave as students so many years ago. May God grant you His Peace as you make this difficult journey . Randy and Marilyn

Randy and Marilyn Schmitt - April 28, 2021 at 08:43 AM

DJ

“ Deb And Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner



Deb and Kevin Jesse - April 27, 2021 at 07:04 PM

PT

“ Dave, Ellen, Dave, and Jennifer, I am so very sorry for your loss. I remember babysitting for you many years ago. We always had a lot of fun! Thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers. God bless.

Pamela R Tidemann - April 27, 2021 at 12:52 PM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all with our deepest condolences. Craig and Mary Farrell



Mary Farrell - April 27, 2021 at 11:39 AM

DH

“ *Duane & Eldona Hornor lit a candle in memory of Jonathan A. "Bubba" Degner*



Duane & Eldona Hornor - April 26, 2021 at 11:13 PM