



## Mark Kirkholm

May 29, 1956 - August 6, 2022

Mark S. Kirkholm, age 66, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away Saturday, August 6, 2022 as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

A Celebration of Life service will take place Friday, August 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Schaller Memorial Chapel on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Visitation will take place Thursday, August 11, 2022 from 2-8:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake where family will be present the entire time. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for the future area trap shooting site. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Mark Stanley Kirkholm, age 66, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away Saturday, August 6, 2022, as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

Mark was born on May 29, 1956, to Stanley and Bonnie (Olson) Kirkholm in Cherokee, Iowa.

Growing up, Mark attended school in Ida Grove, graduating in 1974. He pursued his college education at Ellsworth Community College where he received his degree in 1975. After college he returned to Ida Grove where he was employed as a radio operator for the Ida County Sheriff's Department, as well as serving on the Ida Grove Police Force and as a park ranger for the Ida

County Conservation Board. In 1977 he joined the Alta Police Force for a year before relocating to Storm Lake, where he met his future wife.

On September 20, 1980, Mark was united in marriage to Nelda Ulrich at the Church of Christ in Storm Lake, Iowa. From this union they were blessed with two children, Kristin and Tyler.

Mark went on to join the Storm Lake Police Department from 1979-1999 where he spent a majority of his law enforcement career as a detective. He served on the state review committee for the MOCIC Board and the Iowa Law Enforcement Intelligent Network during his tenure in law enforcement.

In late 1999, he retired from the police department and joined Buena Vista University as the Director of Security. While security was his primary responsibility, he eventually assumed the position of Dean of Students as well. Other roles he served while at BVU were assisting Dr. Robert Blodgett with Freshman Seminar courses, advisor for the Outdoor Rec club, assisting Dr. Rick Lampe with the Stream Conservation/Fly Fishing course, as well as accompanied several adventures to South Africa. Mark retired from BVU in 2017.

After his retirement he obtained numerous side jobs to help support his love for adventure. He enjoyed working for CVS Pharmacy/Martin Health, Simmering-Cory, the Buena Vista County Medical Examiners, and the June E. Nylen Cancer Center where he truly relished in meeting and conversing with patients he transported to and from Sioux City.

Over the course of his life he was especially proud to be a member of the Big Brother/Big Sister program, the Buena Vista County Trumpeter Swan Restoration project, Ducks Unlimited, the Buena Vista County Conservation Board, and taking part in the Wounded Warrior Elk Hunt. Mark also had a

passion to volunteer his services to those in need in the community by helping with the local food drives and delivering Thanksgiving meals.

Mark loved the outdoors and was always ready for his next big adventure. He enjoyed fly fishing the driftless region of Northeast Iowa and multiple mountain ranges of the West, as well as fishing in Alaska. Another love of Mark's was hunting various Iowa game, but he could never resist annually applying for points to get that big trophy elk hunt.

Mark's biggest joy was his family and his treasured time with his grandson's, Gavin and Nolin. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him, especially anyone who went on an adventure with him. Mark had many, many stories and a contagious laugh. He has certainly left this world too soon but had undoubtedly surpassed his 9 lives, as many of us know. We know he will continue his adventures on this new quest of fishing and hunting in his eternal life.

Mark is survived by the love of his life, Nelda Kirkholm of Storm Lake, Iowa; children: Kristin (Justin) Anderson of Alta, Iowa; Tyler (Ken) Kirkholm of Des Moines, Iowa; grandchildren: Gavin and Nolin Anderson of Alta, Iowa; parents: Stanley and Bonnie Kirkholm of Lakeside, Iowa; brother: Grant (Coleen) Kirkholm of Larchwood, Iowa; sister: Julie (Mark) Reis of Runnells, Iowa; extended family and many friends.

Mark is preceded in death by his grandparents, Ray and Veva Olson and Jens and Gladys Kirkholm.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 11. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Celebration of Life Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Schaller Memorial Chapel, BVU  
610 West 4th St  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - August 10, 2022 at 04:06 PM

DS

“ *Dale Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Dale Sanders** - August 13, 2022 at 11:16 PM

AH

“ *Alice Holloway Huddleston lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Alice Holloway Huddleston** - August 13, 2022 at 09:40 PM

MR

“ *Such a tremendous loss for our community! Mark and his wife frequented Lakeshore and Jimmy's and always left me, personally with a smile. I am deeply saddened by this loss! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and all who have been affected by this tragedy. May God bless you all in your time of mourning!!!!!!*



Michelle Robinson - August 12, 2022 at 12:05 PM

CS

“ *Cathy Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



Cathy Sanders - August 11, 2022 at 09:29 PM

JD

“ *John & Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



John & Connie Demers - August 11, 2022 at 08:03 AM

SS

“ To Nelda and family, Bonnie and Stanley - So very saddened to hear this. My sincerest thoughts and prayers of sympathy to all of you. Mark was a great guy and quite a character! I used to see him quite often in the past walking his dog around Frank Starr Park and always smiling. He enjoyed a full life but will be missed. God's peace and comfort to all of you. Sue Speers

SUE SPEERS - August 10, 2022 at 09:34 PM

SP

“ Our hearts go out to Nelda and family. Mark was a nice guy with a real zest for life. He will be missed by many, but none more than his family. Prayers and condolences. Loren and Sandy Pearson

Sandy Pearson - August 10, 2022 at 11:30 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



August 10, 2022 at 12:44 AM

CW

“ Praying for your family at this time. Delbert and Cheryl Winterhof

Cheryl Winterhof - August 09, 2022 at 08:42 PM

SO

“ May God hold you all in the palm of His hand throughout this ordeal and send His angels to comfort and care for you. Our deepest sympathies go out to you as we continue to keep you in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

*Eunice Kirkholm & Sharon*

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**Sharon L Odehnal** - August 09, 2022 at 08:33 PM

ES

“ Eunice Kirkholm & Sharon purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



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**Eunice Kirkholm & Sharon** - August 09, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



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August 09, 2022 at 05:55 PM

BS

“ BV County Conservation Board and Staff purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



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**BV County Conservation Board and Staff** - August 09, 2022 at 05:10 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - August 09, 2022 at 04:54 PM

FM

“ Fred and Susan Moore purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



Fred and Susan Moore - August 09, 2022 at 02:06 PM

BR

“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm



Bev Reis - August 09, 2022 at 12:28 PM

DJ

“ Debra & Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm



Debra & Kevin Jesse - August 09, 2022 at 11:53 AM

DF

“ Please accept my sincere condolences to Mark’s family & friends. As many have already made a comment about. He was a joy and treasure to work with. Rest easy my friend.

Deacon Ron Forrest - August 09, 2022 at 05:46 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark Kirkholm.



August 08, 2022 at 10:31 PM



“ Mark and BV chaplain Ken Meissner and I led a mission trip to Biloxi, MS to help with the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina. Mark was unflappable, expert in his ability to lead a team doing construction and such a positive force. He loved students and met every challenge with a smile. Mark and Ken were amazing travel companions...and I always felt safe knowing I was traveling with someone licensed to carry a 45;-) He made the transition from police force to BV as tho he were born to work with students. He made BVU a better place. Thank you Mark.

Bruce Ellingson - August 08, 2022 at 10:22 PM

LM

“ *Lee Martin lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Lee Martin** - August 08, 2022 at 09:45 PM

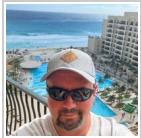
SS

“ *Steven And Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Steven and Colleen Swanson** - August 08, 2022 at 07:16 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to Mark's family! Mark was always the most confident person I knew and every time I saw him he was happy and you could recognize his laugh anywhere! There would sometimes be a long period of time between seeing him and we could always pick up right where you left off and he sure knew how to give ya some shit! He was definitely one of a kind and I am so very sorry for your loss! I know he did a lot for the community and touched a lot of people's lives. I hope you can find comfort through everyone's messages and knowing how he affected other people. Rest in Peace Mark and God Bless to his family!*

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**Matt Starkson** - August 08, 2022 at 05:33 PM

KM

“ Mark was one of those people, that no matter how long since you last saw him, he had something to tell you or reminisce about. That smile he greeted you with just said it all. May you find comfort in the good he did wherever he was or with whatever he was doing. One great man. Our sympathies to you Nelda, Kristin and Tyler. May he rest in peace.



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**Kevin & Julie McKinney** - August 08, 2022 at 04:53 PM

AJ

“ It was so enjoyable to work with Mark at BVU - a wonderful colleague and a great man. I will always remember his smile, kindness and zeal for life. Your family is in my prayers.  
~Amy Jones

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**Amy Jones** - August 08, 2022 at 02:36 PM

MG

“ My deepest condolences to Mark's family. He was a great man and I never saw him without a smile on his face.



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**Mandy Galbraith** - August 08, 2022 at 01:32 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF MARK KIRKHOLM, MAY HE RIP. TO NELDA & ALL HER FAMILY, OUR PRAYERS & SYMPATHY.



JOY, PEACE & LOVE,  
LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

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PATTY GUNVILLE - August 08, 2022 at 01:05 PM

DD

“ I met Mark back in 2011 when I started working at BVU. In the beginning, I struggled to understand his perspective. Mark often approached situations by seeing it through multiple lenses, he lavished by operating in the shades of gray and not giving concrete answers. The first year I worked with him, this drove me nuts! After spending more time with him, I found myself growing from his institutional/regional knowledge and his unique perspective. I became more comfortable in not having solid answers. This even resulted in me occasionally using the term “appropriate exceptions”, which undoubtedly came from his influence. Mark was a great mentor, supervisor, and a kind friend that will be missed by so many who had to opportunity to get to know him.

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Dijon P DeLaPorte - August 08, 2022 at 12:50 PM

RM

“ *Roberta M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mark Kirkholm.*



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**Roberta M.** - August 08, 2022 at 12:18 PM

PF

“ *Peg Harrington Flynn lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Peg Harrington Flynn** - August 08, 2022 at 12:14 PM

BK

“ *Bob & Diane Kenny lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Bob & Diane Kenny** - August 08, 2022 at 12:06 PM

CS

“ *No one was happier or more committed to his family, work and community. We have lost a wonderful man. Deepest sympathy and prayers to Nelda, Kristin, and Tyler.*

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**Connie and Dave Skibsted** - August 08, 2022 at 12:00 PM

PH

“ *Bonnie, Stan and Family,*

*We are so very sorry for the loss of Mark. May God wrap his arms around you all and give you love, comfort and peace.*

*John and Pam Henderson*

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**Pam and John Henderson** - August 08, 2022 at 11:40 AM

PH

“ *Pam And John Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**Pam and John Henderson** - August 08, 2022 at 11:39 AM



“ *Meat & Cheese Wooden Gift Crate was purchased for the family of Mark Kirkholm.*



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August 08, 2022 at 10:49 AM

MG

“ *A dear friend and profound human being who loved his family deeply, Mark was one of kind. His sense of humor, zest for life, passion for conservation, and love of the great outdoors were admirable. Deepest compassion and care to Nelda and his family. He will be missed by so many who share in your grief.*

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**Mary Gill** - August 08, 2022 at 10:42 AM

BE

“ Mark and I had a great time hunting in WY back in the 80's. We made a lot of memories. He will be missed.

*Butch Engel*

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**Butch Engel** - August 08, 2022 at 07:57 AM

TC

“ Always smiling and friendly... that is how we will remember Mark. We are half we could call him” friend”.... Prayers that soon reliving moments with him will be of comfort to his family and less sorrow and pain.... God bless Mark

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**Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh** - August 07, 2022 at 11:49 PM

PS

“It depends.” This was Mark’s signature rejoinder. For Mark, there was never a simple yes or no, black or white, good or bad. Answers are always muddled, ambiguous, and gray. As former director of campus security at Buena Vista University, Mark analyzed every tricky situation from all possible angles – whether adjudicating student judicial cases, or logistical planning for distinguished guests of the university, or tabletop exercises for campuswide emergency training. He had an uncanny knack to set forth complexity with clarity, an irreverent style and a wry sense of humor. Mark was trusted by all for his unflinching willingness to tackle ambiguity at every level. Mark was a great colleague and faithful friend, and will be missed beyond measure.

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**Peter K. Steinfeld** - August 07, 2022 at 10:20 PM

MT

“ I will miss that laugh and sarcasm! What a guy!

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**Mary Timko** - August 07, 2022 at 07:55 PM

FM

“ We will not see Mark's likeness again. When you were in Mark's presence, you felt his zest for life, his good humor, his amazing professionalism and his kindness. It was a privilege to serve with him. To Mark's precious family, Susan and I extend our deepest sympathy. This is just a terrible loss. Fred Moore

Fred Moore - August 07, 2022 at 07:43 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - August 07, 2022 at 07:39 PM



“ R.I.P Mark you will be missed by all who knew you.



Steph Mickelson - August 07, 2022 at 07:13 PM

MM

“ Nelda, Tyler & family our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Mark was such a good guy.

Michelle Munoz - August 07, 2022 at 06:35 PM

CR

“ *Connie Roche lit a candle in memory of Mark Kirkholm*



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**connie roche** - August 07, 2022 at 06:25 PM