



Steve "Jado" Tjaden

November 17, 1957 - December 5, 2020

Steven (Jado) Ray Tjaden, age 63, of Aurelia (formerly of Storm Lake) died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at St. Luke's hospital in Sioux City following a non-COVID-19-related illness.

Private family services will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. To watch the recording of the service, please visit Steve's tribute wall. Public visitation will take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the funeral home in STORM LAKE. Masks and social distancing are required for guests in attendance at the services. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given to the St. Luke's Children's Miracle Network- 2720 Stone Park Blvd, Sioux City, IA 51104; Aurelia Fire Department- 110 Myrtle St, Aurelia, IA 51005; Aurelia Kiwanis Club- 236 Main Street Aurelia, IA 51005; or Storm Lake Dollars For Scholars- 119 W 6th St., Storm Lake, Iowa, 50588. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Steve was born on November 17, 1957 in Storm Lake, Iowa, the son of Loren and Myrtle (Marnie) (Lemker) Tjaden. He was educated in the Storm Lake Community School system, graduating in 1976. Following high school, Steve worked at Hygrade and furthered his education, graduating from Buena Vista College in 1985.

Steve dedicated his personal and professional life to helping others – through both work and volunteering. No one missed out on his wit or kind and thoughtful ear whenever they needed or wanted advice. His desire to help led him to earning his Master's degree in Social Work in 2014 from the University of Iowa, ushering in the career and mission he'd always desired.

His current job at United Community Health Center in Storm Lake allowed him to use his gift for helping others as a Mental Health Therapist. He had previous stops in the same role at Siouxland Mental Health in Sioux City and CCUSO in Cherokee.

No matter the situation or where, Steve always brought care and good humor to the table and used that to give the help that was needed. The roots of his calling to be a therapist were in those different lines of work. After Hygrade and graduation from BV, he spent time at Genesis, and the Lutheran Group Home, as well as his first (unofficial) therapy job – the bartender at Puff's.

It was there that Steve met the love of his life, Roxanne Steig. The pair were united in marriage on August 4, 1984 at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Cherokee, Iowa. They built a life together that was always based in love. They welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth Frances, and a son, Benjamin Robert Earl, and raised their children alongside Storm Lake – sharing countless memories and life milestones together. His gregarious humor and confidence – his full-throated rendition of "God Bless America" was a sight to see – made certain there was never a dull moment in the Tjaden household.

He had countless interests, including carving, cooking, reading, learning the guitar and was a co-founder of Albatross Rugby. He was a lifelong fan of the Kansas City Chiefs and the Chicago Cubs, and reveled in his favorite teams' long-awaited recent triumphs.

Steve was the biggest fan, though, of his children and their spouses. Whether it was watching both of his kids perform in marching band, Liz in all her choir and musical theater exploits or Ben's woodworking, golf and trapshooting, their successes brought more joy than anything else could hope to.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Loren and Marnie Tjaden, infant brother Larry Tjaden, his older brother David Tjaden and his wife Beverly, his in-laws Robert and Frances Steig, and brother-in-law Russell Steig.

Left to cherish Steve's memory are his wife Roxanne Tjaden, Aurelia, Iowa; children Elizabeth (Jeremiah) Davis, North Liberty, Iowa; Benjamin (Brooke) Tjaden, Muscatine, Iowa; his pups and grand pups, Mya, Carver, Kinnick, Lilly, and Billy; brother Dan (Diane) Tjaden, North Sioux City, S.D., sister Lori (Mark) Lewis, Checotah, Okla.; brother-in-law Roger (Ruth) Steig, Webster City, IA; sister-in-law Dorothy Steig, Indianola, IA; in addition to aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 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>

PRIVATE SERVICE

DEC **10**. 1:30 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 09, 2020 at 02:47 PM

JG

“ *I remember Steve from his job as a bartender at Puffs. He was Always joking around, I would ask him what he wanted to do when he grew up.. He always replied that he wanted to be a carney geek.. We had lots of fun together. Drink lots of beer, and eat at the Lakeshore Cafe. At closing time.. Zeke gunville*

Jane Gunville - April 26, 2021 at 07:28 PM

KH

“ *Steve was a joy to work with at SMHC. Such a kind, caring, funny, helpful, & generous person. I want to take his favorite statement & now apply it to him; “thanks for being you”! My greatest sympathies to his family & loved ones.*

Kara Hovland

Kara Hovland - December 13, 2020 at 07:53 PM

MR

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Steve. I really enjoyed the video tribute of Steve. He had a very infectious smile. Our deepest sympathy to all the family. May Steve Resr In Peace. Amen!



Margie Rahe - December 12, 2020 at 09:03 PM

RS

“ Always considered Steve a good friend. I still remember our time in "Study hall" playing spades at SL High. My prayers for God's blessings and comfort go out to Steve's loved one's.

Rex Strait - December 12, 2020 at 03:13 PM

TJ

“ I worked with Steve at Siouxland Mental Health Center while he worked there. He always had a big hug, lots of laughs, chocolates, and was just an amazing man inside and out. He never missed singing Happy Birthday and making sure everyone heard him singing to you whether you wanted it or not. He never gave us a dull moment. One day he was in such a hurry to get to work, he forgot to put his shirt on! He put his coat on but didnt realize he didnt have a shirt on until he for to work! He also helped my son quite a bit through therapy and just support in general. Sending thoughts and prayers to Roxanne and family. He had a heart of gold and was truly one of a kind. Will miss you Steve.



Tammy Jaques - December 11, 2020 at 08:53 PM

MV

“ *Mark Varenhorst lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Mark Varenhorst - December 11, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Service Recording*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 10, 2020 at 03:32 PM

DY

“ *We send our sympathy to Roxanne ..and Elizabeth and Benjamin as well.. We always found Steve to be kind and friendly through our Methodist Church connections..as was Roxanne in the church library.. Elizabeth's voice brought us joy and Ben may remember catching a fish at our pond. Accept our caring thoughts, sent with Christian Love.
Dwight and Susan Jo Young..*

Dwight & Susan Jo Young - December 10, 2020 at 10:54 AM

BJ

“ *Barbara Laurie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Barbara Laurie Johnson - December 09, 2020 at 07:53 PM

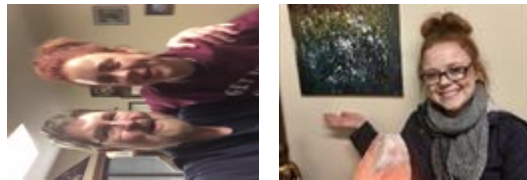
JK

“ *What a wonderful memorial video of smiles and laughter, family and friends. ~An amazing well-lived journey of love and compassion~ Warm hugs and prayers as you celebrate Steve's life.*

Jacque Kae - December 09, 2020 at 06:57 PM

AC

“ *Steve Tjaden was my therapist for about three years. There are so many words I want to say, but no words are enough to express the way he impacted my life. I am who I am today because he believed in me. Thank you, Steve, for being the absolute best therapist. For always going above and beyond the job description. Thank you for lending me a guitar because you knew it was a good coping mechanism for me. Thank you for helping me become the woman I am today. Thank you for treating me like an awesome human, even when I was in complete shambles. Thank you for truly seeing me... for seeing me as a talented, artistic human, not as a broken project. Thank you for always telling me, “You got this!” at the end of every single session. Thank you for putting my paintings on your wall. Thank you so much for always listening to me. Thank you for guiding me through EMDR and for helping me create my safe place in my mind. It’s not going to be the same without you here on this earth. I have so many more things I want and need to say... But for now I’ll leave with this. Steve Tjaden, I got this. Thank you for giving me hope. Thank you for giving me strength. Thank you for being the best human in the world. -Aleigh Cook*



Aleigh Cook - December 09, 2020 at 06:24 PM

BJ

“ Steve was always a very happy and encouraging person for me and many musicians in the area. There was always positive words spoken from his mouth Always ! Thankful and grateful to have been a friend of his. He will be truly missed by many. There just is not enough of his kind walking this earth A very gentle giant of a man Much love and healing sent to his cherished family My Sympathy and Gods Grace
Barb Johnson

barbara johnson - December 09, 2020 at 03:58 PM

KM

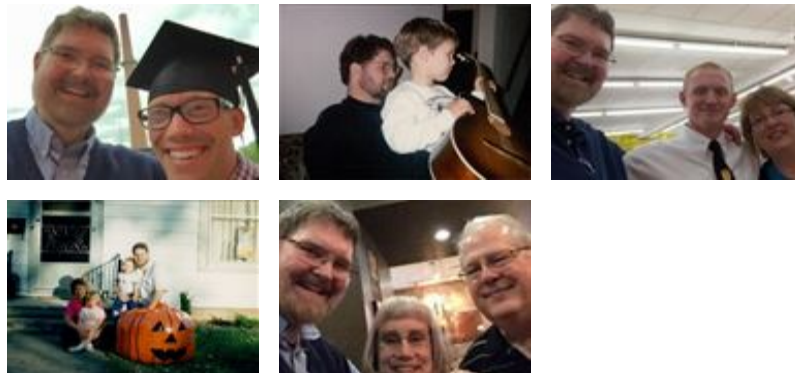
“ Kevin & Julie McKinney lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Kevin & Julie McKinney - December 09, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ 113 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 09, 2020 at 02:44 PM

TB

“ *The Lord has taken a great soul, our hearts reach out to Roxane and Liz. May he Rest In Peace*

Thayne Benz - December 09, 2020 at 10:44 AM

BO

“ *Steve was, to put it simply, one of the finest examples of humanity that I have ever known. Our sincere sympathy and love to Roxanne and family...this world lost such a good man, but I'm sure all those in and of Heaven are reveling in his arrival! Bernie & Ann Onnen*

BernieAnn Onnen - December 09, 2020 at 09:21 AM

BO

“ *BernieAnn Onnen lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



BernieAnn Onnen - December 09, 2020 at 09:18 AM

SP

“ *I always enjoyed running into Steve when I was at school. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to say. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. May the Lord hold you in the palm of his hands.*

Kim and Susan Piercy

Susan Marie Piercy - December 09, 2020 at 09:16 AM

TC

“ A man whose heart truly was bigger than he was....such a giver.....gone too soon...hugs to all of you

Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - December 09, 2020 at 08:50 AM

KP

“ Karla & Gary Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Karla & Gary Pickhinke - December 08, 2020 at 11:12 PM

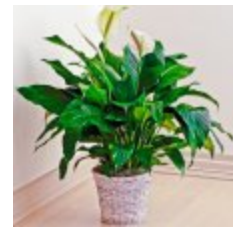
SO

“ The gentle giant, fellow '76 graduate, truly one of the nicest human beings I've ever met, always had a kind word and smile! Deepest sympathy to his family

Steve Oatman - December 08, 2020 at 10:19 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



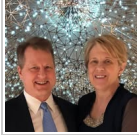
December 08, 2020 at 09:38 PM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Steve
"Jado" Tjaden



Peg Flynn - December 08, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ Steve Tjaden was twenty feet tall in humanity, kindness, good deeds and energy.

We first met in a history class at Buena Vista College in 1984-85 taught by Dr. Cumberland. We had many classes together in the social sciences department. I admired Steve’s intellect and thoughtfulness. Steve was six years older than me, but more worldly by a 100 years. He absorbed knowledge like a sponge. We were young with our lives in front of us.

We became “fast friends” immediately. It was one of those rare friendships that just clicks into place the first time you meet and never waivers, almost telepathic, the cliché “a brother from another mother” describes us well—a rare and cherished human connection. I remember Dr. Perrill commenting on the strength of our friendship and insisting that we make it lifelong, and over the years and miles, we did.

Steve taught me to cook, something I still like to do with full credit for my interest going to Chef Tjaden. We enjoyed trading lunch duties during college at each other’s houses when schedules allowed. He turned mundane tasks of chopping garlic or very, very, very finely chopping cabbage for egg rolls into the most thrilling joy ride achieved through excellent conversation. We have the fondest memories of dinners with Steve and Roxanne and recall there were some fancy cocktails or beers mixed in for good measure. I still crack open those garlic cloves on the side of a chief knife the way Steve taught me, remembering our younger days and my lifelong friend each time.

I imagine many people had this same connection with Steve—he was just that kind of person. Steve regaled us with his “fall down laughing” stories about rugby and life. We could listen to him all day. Will Rogers, Mark Twain, Maya Angelou—had nothing on Steve Tjaden.

I remember when Steve informed us that Roxanne was pregnant (with Elizabeth). The timing was just before we were to leave Storm Lake for Arizona for grad school. He was thrilled, eyes twinkling, smile wide, already a proud father. He again must have inspired, because we soon found our first child on the way too. We have pictures of Elizabeth, "Liz," and our first born, Jacob, together in Storm Lake peaking out a car window together as toddlers. Years later Steve would tell hilarious parenting stories and his "Dad shenanigans".

There were visits across the state occasionally, though we didn't see enough of him and the Tjaden family as we would have liked due to distance and hectic schedules. Social Media and the internet helped keep our families connected as we got older.

*Like George Bailey in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, Steve worked in the Storm Lake community making it a better place.*

In 2001, RAGBRAI went through Storm Lake and Steve and Roxanne hosted our large group. Everyone commented on how the entire Tjaden family were the most wonderful people that they had ever met. It was a great reunion.

It's been a tough year with the pandemic separating us. Our 13 year old beagle, Winnie, coincidentally passed on the same day as Steve. In my mind, I picture her snuggling in Steve's lap—there could be no better place, she was a good judge of character and no doubt would love Steve.

To my friend, Steve, you have left us too soon, you made an impression on our hearts and minds forever. Steve Tjaden, you possessed an original and wonderful character. You touched so many lives with joy—we are grateful to know you.

Melinda and I convey our deepest sympathies to Roxanne, Liz and Ben. We hope to see you in person soon.

With Love,

Scott & Melinda Altman



Scott Altman - December 08, 2020 at 03:02 PM

DD

“ *David Dierenfeld purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.*



David Dierenfeld - December 08, 2020 at 02:16 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.*



December 08, 2020 at 01:22 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.*



December 08, 2020 at 12:24 PM

CB

“ We have so many great memories of Steve..such a nice guy, always had a smile, his laugh and singing birthday wishes were the best...he will be missed by many, our deepest sympathies to Roxanne and family.
Carl and Marsha Boyd



Carl and Marsha Boyd - December 08, 2020 at 12:02 PM

HS

“ Steve was such a nice person he will be missed by many many many people ! 🥹❤️🙏

Howard Schultze - December 08, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



December 08, 2020 at 12:19 AM

DS

“ Prayers to Roxanne and family 🙏🙏



Douglad Sutton - December 07, 2020 at 09:50 PM

CD

“ Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Cheryl DeMan - December 07, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ Steve was my neighbor. He was very compassionate toward his fellow man.



El Heffe - December 07, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



December 07, 2020 at 07:30 PM

JC

“ I went to high school with Steve and still remember his as truly one of the nicest human beings I ever met. We affectionately called him "hair bear" later in his high school career because of his magnificent Afro. His sense of humor was amazing and he always made every situation better. He will truly be missed.

Jeff Cayler - December 07, 2020 at 06:26 PM

PB

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. Steve was an awesome neighbor and would do anything for us. He was so friendly and always had a kind word. Sending prayers and hugs to all.
Keith and Pat Bjorkgren and family

Pat Bjorkgren - December 07, 2020 at 05:14 PM

KG

“ So sorry to hear of your loss, cherish all of your memories! Hugs Roxanne and family!!



Kathy Grienke - December 07, 2020 at 04:49 PM

BC

“ To Steve's family, Steve had been seeing me in person, then thru telehealth for a few months. He was a very nice person, we talked a lot of politics, he and I agreed on politics. Just wanted to say how very sorry I am for your loss. Sincerely, Bryan Chase

Bryan Chase - December 07, 2020 at 04:24 PM

JF

I am so very sorry to hear this news. Steve was a great guy. Loved working alongside him in the Storm Lake Music Dept. So very, very sorry. Judy Fells

Judy Fells - December 07, 2020 at 11:28 PM

BC

“ *Bryan Chase lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Bryan Chase - December 07, 2020 at 04:19 PM

RO

“ *Ronda lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Ronda - December 07, 2020 at 04:19 PM

RO

“ *Ronda lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Ronda - December 07, 2020 at 04:09 PM

RO

“ I am so so sorry to hear this.

Steve was a fellow Tornado classmate. He's was always always a happy and smiling guy! Always saw the positive in everything.

He will be missed. Prayers to entire family.

Ronda Utter Hogan

Ronda - December 07, 2020 at 04:09 PM

JG

“ *Whenever I saw Steve, he was always smiling and ready to share a few minutes of his day with me. He would always post sweet responses on social media that would really brighten my day. He was a great guy and I'll miss him. Sending condolences to his family and friends.*

Jennifer Galm - December 07, 2020 at 04:02 PM

BY

“ *Steve was always such a nice guy. He will be missed.*



Bruce Young - December 07, 2020 at 04:01 PM

TM

“ Terry Mason lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Terry Mason - December 07, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



December 07, 2020 at 02:38 PM

KS

“ Steve was such a fun person and I always left our conversation with a smile. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.



Katie Schwint - December 07, 2020 at 02:12 PM

JD

“ John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



John/Connie Demers - December 07, 2020 at 01:35 PM

MJ

“ Dear Roxanne, and family. My heart goes out to you. Steve was such a bright kind caring gentleman in all he encountered. Loved his great smile and always a hug and selfie. His love for Roxanne and kids was beyond compare. Will surely miss him. Much love and prayers. Mary Jenkins.

Mary Jenkins - December 07, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Steven Smith lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Steven Smith - December 07, 2020 at 01:03 PM

LS

“ Working with Steve at UCHC was a blessing to me. Steve had a wit, sense of humor and a compassion for caring for people. Steve impacted my life in a big way when I was going through a very difficult life event. He would encourage me to stand up and pretend to be superman and say "I can do this" in a loud voice! He also would say to me often "You Got This"! I will never forget the encouragement he would give me daily at work. He has touched many lives with his kindness. Praying for you Mrs. Tjaden and family. In Christ's Love, Lorie



Lorie Stanton - December 07, 2020 at 01:03 PM

TP

“ Todd and Brenda Petersen purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.

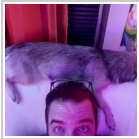


Todd and Brenda Petersen - December 07, 2020 at 12:01 PM

KT

“ I worked with Steve at Siouxland Mental Health. He spoiled the front staff a bit with chocolates on Friday and big hugs. His smile and laughter was contagious. Tjaden family I am so very sorry for your loss. God Bless, Keri T.

Keri Tope - December 07, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ Roxanne and family - sorry for your loss.

Tony Lickiss - December 07, 2020 at 11:53 AM

RH

“ Our deepest sympathies to you Roxanne, Elizabeth and Ben. Steve was always so kind in everything he said and did. I think I speak for all at United Community when I say that he will be deeply missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Rich Gehrig / United Community Health - December 07, 2020 at 11:36 AM

JC

“ Very sad about this. Kindest nicest man I've ever known. Always a friend and I'll miss him.

John campbell - December 07, 2020 at 11:21 AM

CW

“ So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. May God wrap his arms around you at this time.

Cheryl Winterhof - December 07, 2020 at 11:17 AM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - December 07, 2020 at 11:07 AM

MS

“ Mike & Staci Struthers lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Mike & Staci Struthers - December 07, 2020 at 10:39 AM

JK

“ We are so sorry for the loss of our classmate and friend!!! He will be missed by the class of 1976!!! Sending love, prayers and hugs to Roxanne, Liz and Ben in these difficult days.

Jeff and Jane Kestel

Jeff and Jane Kestel - December 07, 2020 at 10:33 AM

JO

“ Jeff & Marjean O'Bannon lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden



Jeff & Marjean O'Bannon - December 07, 2020 at 10:32 AM

MR

“ Big Steve. Always caring and had a minute just for you. Could take any bad situation and find some light in it. Always talking about his wife, his daughter, and son—he loved them so much. Your passion for life will be missed man.

Matthew and Valorie Royster - December 07, 2020 at 10:09 AM




“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



December 07, 2020 at 07:15 AM

DL

“ Steve was a friend to all and missed by so many ! Seen him at Fareway a few weeks ago at Fareway and usually would have visited but with the mask and distancing made it short . We're sending Many Prayers , Much  & Angel Hugs To All Your Family ! May The Light Of Steve's Life Forever Shine On .



Dave & Patti Lange - December 06, 2020 at 11:51 PM

CG

“ Roxanne - My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. My prayers are with you.

Claudina Grienke - December 06, 2020 at 11:51 PM

SB

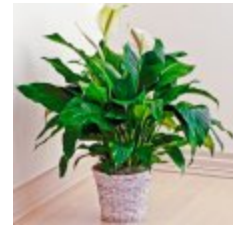
“ Prayers for the Tjaden family. Steve always took time to say “hello” and chat. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathy.



Stacy Bezoni - December 06, 2020 at 11:44 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Steve "Jado" Tjaden.



December 06, 2020 at 10:45 PM

EF

“ Steve always brought an encouraging word and of course a hug along with the longest arm to take his many selfies with everyone. He will be missed by all whose life he touched.

Elaine French - December 06, 2020 at 08:58 PM

CR

“ *what a great guy ALWAYS in a good mood every time I would see him he had a great smile and something nice to say. may his family remember all the good times*

connie roche - December 06, 2020 at 08:08 PM

CR

“ *Connie Roche lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



connie roche - December 06, 2020 at 07:52 PM

PG

“ *OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO ROXANN & FAMILY IN THE LOSS OF HUSBAND & DAD, STEVE. HAVEN'T SEEN STEVE IN A WHILE, BUT HIS MEMORY WAS AS A WONDERFUL MAN. MAY HE RIP.*

*PEACE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE
STORM LAKE, IOWA*

PATTY GUNVILLE - December 06, 2020 at 07:35 PM

PR

“ *We loved seeing what jado was gonna make Roxanne for breakfast! Always a meal fit for a queen! His smile, his laugh, and the love he had for his family and his friends! He blessed many of us with a Happy Birthday song on Facebook! Never gonna be another one like him! Steve and I send our deepest sympathy to Roxanne and kids!*

peg rohlk - December 06, 2020 at 07:28 PM

MY

“ *Mark / Chris Young lit a candle in memory of Steve "Jado" Tjaden*



Mark / Chris Young - December 06, 2020 at 07:23 PM