



Mark Daniel Dowding

October 1, 1962 - April 12, 2017

Mark Daniel Dowding, 54, of Springport, Michigan passed away unexpectedly on April 12, 2017. He was born October 1, 1962 to Maurice "Skip" and Karen (Norris) Dowding. Mark was a talented mechanic, as well as a tool and die maker and excelled at any type of mechanical work. Mark was currently employed at Martinrea in Manchester as a toolmaker. His supervisor has said that he was capable of fixing anything! He always had a dream to become an underwater welder and would have loved the adventure that provided. In 1996, Mark and his brother-in-law, Greg were the entrepreneurs that brought laser production into the family business, Dowding Industries, which is now one of its most successful departments. Mark built and sold several products; a trike motorcycle and various models of woodstoves. He loved hunting and fishing where he could spend countless hours enjoying the outdoors with his children and grandchildren. He was extremely proud of his family and loved being able to share his hobbies with them. Mark especially loved the family farm that his grandparents, Vern and Freda owned. He cherished the woods and the Dowding Park that Vern created back in the Narrows. The park has remained in the Dowding family where Mark was able to help restore, maintain and utilize it for all these years. Being the outdoor enthusiast that Mark was, he treasured his time in the Narrows - there was no place else he would rather be.

Mark is survived by his parents, Skip and Karen; his children, Shasta DeLong,

Liam Dowding, Jeremy Zenker, Danielle and Steven Schofield; former 2nd wife, Lori Dowding; former 1st wife, Beth Moser; sisters Mary Lu (Greg) Harris, Chris (Jeff) Metts; 12 grandchildren and many extended family members and special friends. He was preceded in death by his loving partner, Andrea Iocca, who was his kindred spirit and Liam's mother. Mark struggled with depression after her passing nine months ago. He was also preceded in death by his uncle, Roger Dowding and aunt, Cheryl Savage - Tewksbury, both very special to Mark's heart.

Visitation is Monday, April 17, 2017 at Pray Funeral Home, 401 W. Seminary Street, Charlotte, MI from 2-4:00 pm and 6-8:00 pm and Tuesday, April 18, from 9-11:00 am. A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., at the Dowding Residence, 2898 David Drive, Springport, MI 49284, with Pastor Steve Byrens officiating. There will be a luncheon immediately following.

Wednesday, April 19 at noon Mark will be laid to rest in Clarence Township Cemetery by his family. Pallbearers are: Preston Schofield, Jeremy Zenker, Alex Preston, Johnny Knaggs, Greg Harris, Alan Yokeum, Randy Weaver and Rick England.

In his memory, the family suggests you make a donation to an organization that fights addiction and supports recovery so that others suffering may find peace: Okemos Ingham Families Against Narcotics, 1398 Reef Court, Okemos, MI 48864, or Mason Capital Area Prescription Drug Task Force (Checks to City Of Mason and designate on check "Mason Capital Area Prescription Drug Task Force"), 201 W. Ash St., Mason, MI 48854.

Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Mark on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

APR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Celebration of Life

APR 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Residence of Skip and Karen Dowding
2898 David Dr.
Springport, MI 49284

Graveside Service

APR 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

Clarence Center Cemetery
20962 27 1/2 Mile Rd (at R Drive North)
Albion, MI 49224

Tribute Wall

GH

“ My name is Gina. I hadn't seen Mark in years! And these memories are from so long ago. My mom my brother Rob and sister Jane lived across from the Narrow Lake bar. Mark was the first boy I kissed. It was on the bus bringing us home from kindergarten. Only once and we thought it was kind of yucky. But we would go to a cemetery with Canda Anthony that I think was between the Dowding tool and die company and a dirt road up on a hill. I wasn't scared because Mark was with me. I also remember that we were the last kids to get dropped off so sometimes we'd fall asleep and the bus driver said to us one day "to bad you fell asleep. All the other kids got ice cream " we said really?! He said no I'm just kidding but we would try to stay awake just in case. I've thought about Mark through the years but life gets in way. This is going to sound so cliché but I truly am praying for your family!!!

Gina Himebaugh - April 23, 2017 at 07:32 PM

JG

“ When I was a teenager my father, my uncle, Mark and I went out to push deer during gun season and we found the nice buck he killed during bow season from his famous beach tree, he never found it during bow season even though it had died roughly 100 yards from his stand. The buck was rotten and stunk terribly but Mark cut it's head off and put it in the back of the truck. While my father and uncle rode in the back with the stinky deer head i rode up front with Mark and the song "oh that smell" came on the radio. Had us all in tears laughing. RIP Mark.

Jerry Green - April 19, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 18, 2017 at 07:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 18, 2017 at 09:20 AM



“ *The love for our children is beyond measure. We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Roger and Ann Allen*

Ann Allen - April 18, 2017 at 08:07 AM



“ *Denny and I were so very sorry to hear about Mark. I remember him best in his teen years when I had the pleasure to work for and with Skip and Karen. He and his buddy Eric kept everyone on their toes.*

Rest in peace Mark. Our whole family remembers you fondly.

Dennis and Steff Baker

Stephanie Baker - April 17, 2017 at 10:40 AM

JD

“ So sorry to here about Mark, he was a good friend.

Jimmie Drinkwater - April 17, 2017 at 09:34 AM



“ Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.



April 17, 2017 at 08:43 AM

ML

“ 16 files added to the album New Album Name



mary ludowdingharris - April 17, 2017 at 07:58 AM

SW

“ Skip, Karen, Chris, Mary Lou and family.

Believe in your faith and become closer because of it. Hopefully time and memories will give you some relieve in this devastating loss. Thinking of you..all my Love

Steve Wilson

Steve Wilson - April 17, 2017 at 07:13 AM

TB

“ *It's been three days since I heard the news of Mark passing and have been thinking of our friendship from years ago when we were best friends. That time in our lives we did everything together; running all over Narrow Lake, fishing, hunting, swimming and tunneling in large snow drifts that would cover the road between our house and Dowding Tool Shop, took a flying lesson with his dad and invited me to go to Disney with him and his family. Mark and I hung out everywhere and did everything together. This was in the early 70's to mid 70's and I find myself realizing the greatest thing that ever happened to me was because of Mark. One day we were talking about girls because girls were awesome to us. He told me there were a lot of girls at my church so from then on I was going to church with Mark and his family all the time. Because of that invite, over time, I came to realize and understand that there was a God and He loved me enough to send His son to die for me. I gave Jesus my life and there is nothing more important than that. Thank you, Mark!! Tim Brooks*

tim brooks - April 16, 2017 at 09:07 PM

MD

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



mary lu dowding-harris - April 16, 2017 at 07:15 AM

TB

“ So sorry to hear of Mark's passing. Our condolences to the entire Dowding Family.

We were neighbors with the Dowding's on Narrow Lake, in the 70's. Our family and the Dowding's family were connected in many ways from business, church, and friendship.

Mark, my Brother Tim, Eric Gross and myself were the four usually running around narrow lake hunting fishing swimming and playing pool at the Dowdings.

There's one story I tell all the time out here in Arizona of Mark that always has and always will crack me up!

We lived across from Dowding Tool on Narrow Lake road. Mark was over at the house and we were just hanging out in the yard doing whatever.

Our yard was a sloping lawn with a counter sunk patio. We had a bunch of old 2x4's stacked up on the patio with nails still in them. Mark decided to jump down on the patio and sure enough, he landed on a 2x4 with a big nail sticking up through it, and NOW!!! through Mark's shoe and foot,,,,,OUCH!

We were home alone, no adults and clueless as to what we should do!

Mark is stuck there with a 2X4 literally stuck to his foot. Tim and I help him into the house and lay him on the floor. The only person we could think of to call at the time, was Grandma Dowding. Grandma Dowding came down to the house and Mark is laying on the floor with his arm laying on his forehead in obvious discomfort.

Grandma Dowding assessed the situation and came up with the best method of removal, so she coached him as to the PLAN!!!!

She pulls out some SMELLING SALTS from her pant pocket and gave Mark a brief description as how to use them if he felt faint from the removal process! Grandma Dowding carefully removed the shoes laces from the shoe, then pulled the tongue of the shoe toward the toe. In the meantime, Mark is leaning up on his elbow reading the instructions on the smelling salt, a tad confused as how to use them. While reading the instructions, Grandma Dowding RIPS the 2x4 and shoe, off Mark's foot without a warning, thinking he was ready and OH MY!!!!!! you should have seen his face! He had the biggest O face and BIGGEST eyes, you have ever seen! It was as if someone just stuck a cattle prod to his backside and lit him up! He frantically started huffing the smelling salt like he was hyperventilating. He had the smelling salt stuck up to his nose and it was not even cracked open in working condition! He was sniffing the smelling salt like a scuba diver running out of air! I guess the subliminal thought of it working still satisfied the need.

He then laid back on the floor relieved he was minus a 2X4 and nail, while Grandma Dowding dressed up the wound!

Thanks Mark for sharing our youth we all had at Narrow Lake!!!

Ted and Wendy Brooks

Ted Brooks - April 15, 2017 at 06:56 PM

RS

“ *Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of mark. You are in our thoughts*

Ronnie and Jayne Sears - April 15, 2017 at 05:42 PM

JW

“ Absent from body, present with the lord.
Deepest sympathy. Jack Williams



jack williams - April 15, 2017 at 05:40 PM

DH

“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. I had the pleasure of getting to know Mark in my later 20's. He was a pleasure to talk with, laugh with and just to be around. Even though it has been a couple of years since him. I always knew when I did run into him I would always be greeted with a handshake and a smile. He will be great missed by all those who had the pleasure of having Mark as part of their lives.

Donald Hull - April 15, 2017 at 01:05 PM

MC

“ The Dowding family, Sorry to hear of your loss of Mark. I remember growing up with him & Marylou & Chris. I also remember the times at your house after church and the times at his Grandparents farm. He will be missed. I'm keeping you all in my prayers.



Marion Cardinal - April 15, 2017 at 12:30 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 15, 2017 at 10:52 AM



“ *Chris, my heart goes out to you and your family in the loss of your brother. May you be surrounded by the love of others, and know my love is with you, too. Praying for you. Diana*

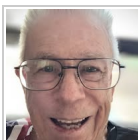
Diana Dorr - April 15, 2017 at 08:49 AM



“ *The Slear Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



The Slear Family - April 15, 2017 at 08:41 AM



“ *Skip, Karen & family. We are saddened to hear of your loss. We remember the times spent with Mark and your entire family. Our prayers are with you.*

Tom & Carol (A to Z) Amrozowicz

Thomas Amrozowicz - April 15, 2017 at 08:10 AM



“ *I'm sorry to hear of Marks passing. Prayers for the family.*

Sarah Vahs Buttrick - April 15, 2017 at 02:27 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 14, 2017 at 09:46 PM



“ *I will always remember Mark as he grew up with our kids he will be missed.
My heart is broken for your loss and I pray that you will be comforted by our Heavenly Father, family and friends.*

Loretta J. England - April 14, 2017 at 08:40 PM



“ *Phil and Trish Knight purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



Phil and Trish Knight - April 14, 2017 at 08:13 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 14, 2017 at 07:15 PM

FW

“ *My sympathy and prayers to Skip and Karen and all the Dowding family. Praying especially for comfort and strength for you as you go through this difficult time of Mark's passing. Fran Wirt*

Fran Wirt - April 14, 2017 at 07:13 PM

JB

*Karen and Skip I am so sorry to hear of msrks death please gsve sll the family
Our sympathies
Love to all Jeannie*

Jeannie bernheisel - April 14, 2017 at 08:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.*



April 14, 2017 at 05:42 PM

JH

“ *Sorry to hear of Marks passing. He was a Great friend and he will be missed. Jerry Heisler*

Jerry Heisler - April 14, 2017 at 05:28 PM

MH

“ *Mark was very good friend to my father always there for friends and family he will bw miased by many thought and prayer to the family*

Michelle Elizabeth and David Hosack-Friz - April 14, 2017 at 05:12 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark Daniel Dowding.* ”



April 14, 2017 at 05:05 PM