



Kenny Roderfeld

June 11, 1951 - August 30, 2021

Kenny Roderfeld, 70, of Alton, died peacefully on Monday, August 30. Born June 11, 1951, to Alvin “Slick” Roderfeld and the late Lucille (Pavelek) Roderfeld. He was the oldest of four children.

He was a 1969 graduate of Alton Senior High School and played on the 1968 AHS football team with a winning record of 9-0-1. He attended Western Illinois University majoring in architecture until a swimming accident in September 1971 left him paralyzed. A quadriplegic at age 20, he changed his major and graduated from SIUE in 1977 with a degree in Business Administration and Marketing. In 1979, he received the SIUE Outstanding Young Alumnus award for professional achievement.

Despite over 65 rejections at interviews, often due to wheelchair inaccessibility, Kenny was determined to get a job. He kept trying until he was offered a position at First National Bank in Alton in the auditing department and became a computer programmer at their data processing affiliate, MIPCO. He later worked as a program analyst at Mercantile Bank in downtown St. Louis until 2001. Kenny received recognition at each place of business for his outstanding work ethic.

Kenny was a determined advocate for individuals with disabilities and was instrumental in working with college officials to obtain wheelchair access with electric doors at SIUE and an elevator at LCCC. He worked closely with Alderman Tony Vambaketes to obtain sidewalk cutouts in Alton. Kenny served as chairman of the board at IMPACT, center for independent living for

individuals with disabilities.

Kenny enjoyed cheering for the St. Louis Blues and Cardinals. He loved trout fishing trips to Bennett Spring, MO, going to the Alton Little Theater, and playing trivia and Jeopardy with caregivers.

Despite his health challenges, Kenny maintained a positive attitude. During his hospitalizations, he always took an interest in the staff asking where they went to school and about their families. He had amazing recall of the stories they shared, even years later.

Kenny lived 50 years as a quadriplegic, a testament to the excellent and loving care provided by his parents and family. His family is eternally grateful to his caregivers who became like family, continuing that excellent level of care and compassion. If you were fortunate enough to have crossed paths with Kenny, you know firsthand what a special individual he was and indeed felt blessed to know him.

Kenny was an active parishioner at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Alton and St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey helping with their auctions by donating sports memorabilia he collected throughout the year.

He was a godfather to his cousin Sharon Godfrey, nephew Michael Means, nieces Alicia Orris and Colleen Schoeberle, and family friends Kathleen Wiegand and Amy Pruetzel.

Kenny is survived by his father Alvin Roderfeld, three sisters: Pat (Jim) Means, Shirley (Roger Motley) Roderfeld and Joyce (Brian) Semmler; three nieces: Jacquelyn (Tomas Alarcon) Means, Alicia (Max) Orris, Colleen (John) Schoeberle; nephew Shawn (fiancée Bethany Frick) Semmler; a step-niece Roanna Motley, a great-nephew Milo Orris, great-niece Lucy Orris, his aunt Willetta Lundahl and many cousins. Kenny was preceded in death by his mother Lucy Roderfeld and his nephew J. Michael Means.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private funeral service was held on September 7, 2021. A celebration of his life will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Saturday, June 11, 2022 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church Community Center.

This Celebration of Life is an opportunity for Kenny's friends to gather together and share their stories. As part of this celebration, Kenny asked that we have a shoe collection for those in need. As you know, Kenny was confined to a wheelchair for 50 years and his hope was that every child, every person, who can walk will have a good pair of shoes to wear. Receptacles for new and gently used shoes (children and adult) will be available in the Gathering Space from June 4-12, 2022. The shoes will then be given to area organizations to give to those in need. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 11. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

St. Ambrose Catholic Church Community Center

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenny Roderfeld*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Kenny Roderfeld*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM