



Arthur Joseph Primeau

June 7, 1960 - June 7, 2015

Arthur “Art” J. Primeau of Traverse City, died at age 55 from complications with Mantle Cell Lymphoma.

Diagnosed seven years ago, Art undertook the treatment of his cancer in the same way he approached everything else in his life: with humor, patience and quiet strength.

Art received a degree in business from Michigan State in 1982, entering the workforce shortly after, making his mark ultimately in the oil and gas industry, serving employer and client alike throughout the next 34 years with his unique ability to represent and serve the interests of both.

He always found the positive in every person or circumstance; ever the optimist, he approached the highs and lows of daily life with a confidence and integrity that earned him the trust of clients and co-workers, and above all, the respect of his family and friends. Difficult procedures and setbacks in his cancer treatment were no match for his faith in God. His suffering, rather than being an occasion for anger and bitterness, became his offering of love. “Who am I to tell God what to do,” he once said, “I want to go through this in the hope that no one in my family will ever have to.”

Art’s love and devotion to his family was well known and admired. He spent all his free time with his wife Liz of 25 years, and his children, Alex, Evan, Joseph and Sara. He shared the gems of his wisdom while drying tears, comforting with hugs, and offering encouragement. He left a wonderful example of what it means to be a strong and devoted husband and father.

He was the guy his brothers and friends turned to for advice on the small and big decisions of life because he was fair minded and thoughtful in his honest replies. Said one close friend, “You didn’t ask Art advice unless you really wanted to know, because he was going to tell you exactly what he thought, and not what you wanted to hear.”

He was born on June 7, 1960, to Clarence “Cap” Primeau and Shirley (Ed) Nawrock, the second of four sons, including Mark (Karen), Greg (Ipunk) and David (Tonya). He married Elizabeth Ann Oostermeyer on August 4th, 1990, gaining mother-in-law Sharron, who preceded him in death, father-in-law Joe, and brother-in-law Mike (Cathy). He loved being an uncle to Kaitlyn, Katie, Garrison, Grant, Marcel, Spencer and Isabel.

He enjoyed skiing and golf, a good Del Monaco steak, ice-cold PBR shared with his

brothers, laughing and relaxing with friends and family on vacations in Florida, or just being at home. He loved going to his children's sporting events, plays and dance recitals, and considered himself a lucky man. He treasured the every day moments that can be taken for granted, drawing strength from them when things were difficult.

Art loved to tell a good story, and in his remaining hours as family and friends sat together around his bedside, sharing memories, his brother Dave laughed and said "Art was always looking for a story, especially when things weren't going the way he wanted them to, and if I know him, he's expecting a good story to come out of this."

Art died in the arms of his wife at 4:30 in the morning on Sunday, June 7, 2015, entering eternal life the same day he was born. His life is the story, not of a moment, but of one well-lived, a story that tells about a husband, son, brother, uncle and friend, who will be forever loved and deeply missed.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the C4 unit at Munson Medical Center, Dr. Richard Kosinski and Dr. Ethan VanTil for their care and support.

Visitation will be at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 10th from 1-3 pm and 5-7 pm with the Rosary at 7 pm. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Thursday, June 11 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with visitation one hour prior to the mass. The Rev. Fr. Anthony Citro, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church will preside . Memorial contributions in Art's memory may be sent to the Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools (GTACS), and mass intentions to Immaculate Conception Church.

Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and the church.

Please share your memories and condolences with Art's family by visiting www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

JUN 10 **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 10 **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 10 **Rosary** 07:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 11 **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
308 Cedar Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN 11 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
308 Cedar Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I will never forget standing next to Art watching Alex play in the 2008 State Tennis finals with his St Francis teammates. We were all jumping around like little kids as Alex made it all the way to the semi finals. Alex, your dad was so proud of you and the way you beat up on players that never saw you coming. While I didn't know Art very well, the little we did see each other he always greeted me with a wide smile and a firm hand shake and the same sincere statement---" Coach, congratulations on another successful tennis season". The Hughes family is so sorry of the passing of Art and we wish you Peace and strength during this very difficult time of healing. God Bless,
Jeff Hughes

jeff hughes - June 11, 2015 at 05:24 AM



“ In my career, Art was my first boss in the “real world”. In life, though it took time to fully appreciate his impact, Art was my first true mentor. I worked for Art for one year and we ceased being co-workers 25 years go. Thankfully his professional influence, his carefully planned personal sermons and their relevance to my life never parted company. To this day, I draw on his teachings and I retell with great affection the stories of our time together.

Rolling over Michigan highways , perched behind the windshield of my 1990 Ford Taurus, Art spoke of the fundamentals of life and selling,all.....day.....long. Then we'd go for dinner, and a beer (thanks Tom L.! ?), and Art would speak lessons of life and work.....all.....day.....long. Then we'd get up and do it again: meeting prospects, Primeau feedback, tips for improvement, in my face, encouraging me.....allday.....long.

At the time, those honestly seemed to be mercilessly long days that would never end. With the benefit of perspective and cumulative appreciation that only passing time can bring, What I wouldn't give today to spend with Art, just one more glorious day on the road; Driving that awful '90 ghetto Taurus with the great state of Michigan scrolling past us. If I could make that happen, I'd spend the day thanking him and I'm sure I'd end that day wishing in vain for it to go on.

I speak of those days so often and with such affection now, that my friends and colleagues that never met him, actually know Art Primeau by name and they understand his influence in my life. When I speak of Art they hear respect in my voice and they understand the enduring impact he had. As I recount the days of Primeau, they sense the affection and they understand I feel fortunate to have met and worked with him. Stories of Art actually get requested over and over again,by people that never met him,as if they had spent a few of those wonderful days on the road with us.

Cleary Art's presence in my life has endured well beyond our parting. He enriched

my existence and in doing so managed to touch the lives of people he never met. His coaching was timeless and it came to me when it was needed most. In fact, Art's lessons inform my career to this day. So Art, for our time together, for the memories it created & the wisdom it spawned, I am grateful, and very likely, grateful well beyond your awareness. Though your eternal rest has been well earned, my friends and I, we're going to keep on reliving those glorious days on the road, and, if it's o.k., we'll keep you here with us for a while longer.

With Love and Respect,

Dean Nicol

Dean Nicol - June 10, 2015 at 11:50 PM



“Great Spirit, grant Art the strength of eagle wings, the faith and courage to fly to new heights and the wisdom to rely on His own spirit and warm winds to carry him there. Spirit tell him in my heart I have fond memories... Tom LaVanway

Thomas M. LaVanway - June 10, 2015 at 02:01 PM



“Art was my "wing man" for the last 7 years. All through his battle. He taught me so much. Showed me so much. I will miss him every damn day. Our mutual friend wrote words better than I have been able to come up with:

"If long life was the reward for a life well lived, Art would live forever!"

John Corcoran - June 10, 2015 at 09:45 AM



“Liz, Alex, Evan, Joe, and Sara. My deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband and father. Though I haven't seen him in years, Art is my cousin and I remember playing with him and his brothers when we visited his family in Mancelona. My mom, Audrey, is Clarence's sister.

Mark, David, Greg and Uncle Clarence. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn your loss and hold tight to your memories. It is evident that Art had a strong faith, therefor he believed these words..... "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things will have passed away." Rev 21:4

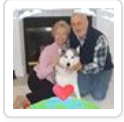
Margaret Dubiel-Zimmer

Margaret Dubiel-Zimmer - June 10, 2015 at 06:31 AM



“ Greg, and all of Art's Family. We are saddened to learn of the loss of your brother, husband, father, and most especially a very worthwhile, respectable individual who began early life in Mancelona. God grant you all peace, and understanding.

Connie-Arlen Turner - June 09, 2015 at 10:40 PM



“ Dearest Liz,
My eyes are filled with tears as I read Art's beautiful and moving Obituary. I am so sorry for your huge loss. Because of your faith and Art's, you will be able to carry on, Be not afraid...Jesus goes before you.
Much love and prayers,
Marybeth Kaak, Cursillista Sister in Christ

Mb Kaak - June 09, 2015 at 09:51 PM



“ Art always looked polished and very neat, We will always remember his friendly smile. As a child Art would say when I grow up I want to be a Lawyer. As a child, He always said the cutest but most sofficticated things (like he was 6 going on 20). We will miss him and his friendly smile. Uncle Jerry & Aunt Carol

Jerry Mader - June 09, 2015 at 09:27 PM



“ I am truly blessed for having known Art. Heaven has gained another Angel. Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Gloria Pramik - June 09, 2015 at 08:05 PM



“ I consider Art a good friend even though we haven't been in touch over the years. Art always had a ready smile and a "get 'er done" attitude and I'll treasure fond high school memories we shared. My deepest condolences to the Primeau family; you are in my thoughts and prayers.
Marie (Couture) Snyder, Sugar Hill, NH

Marie Snyder - June 09, 2015 at 07:27 PM



“ Art & Liz, Peace be with you.

Art, you could sell feathers to a bird and taught me a lot about selling. Everything in life is a "sale" and you were the best. Sorry we didn't share enough. Sorry we didn't stay in touch. But, you should know, that you were an inspiration to me.

Bruce Rizor.

Bruce Rizor - June 09, 2015 at 06:21 PM



“ Liz and kids, I am so saddened to find out about Art's passing. Many years have gone by since we spent time together but you have always been in my thoughts and prayers. You both were such an important part of our life when we lived in Minneapolis. We had many fun memories even if it was such a sort time. Words cannot express the ache I have in my heart for you all. Just know that Art is at peace. He lived with purpose and determination and with dedication to his family. May God be with all of you during this most difficult time.

God Bless You all,
Cynde and John Glantz and Kids

Cynde Glantz - June 09, 2015 at 06:19 PM



“ Hey, Art, wherever you're at and whatever you're doing know on a daily basis I Primo. Your stories follow me. I believe you coined the phrase "living for the stories we can tell." So whether we were playing golf, traveling on sales calls, fishing, or drinking beer it frequently ended in a story we can tell. As a young sales person you gave me a ton of advice, guidance, training. All that advice I still hear frequently coming out of my mouth. So even though it's been some time since we last spoke I take you with me where ever I go.

Primo much love.

Brian Callihan (big fan)

Pamela Smith Brian Callihan - June 09, 2015 at 06:10 PM



“ I remember golfing with Art some 15 years ago out at Briar ridge in Montrose. Just Him and I. We were on #4 a fairly tough dogleg left. He got an eagle from about 140 yards out. "Its in the Hole"



“ Liz, I was so saddened to read of Art's death in today's paper. Some of my fondest memories are the years I worked with him and we shared many laughs... and gripes. I will not forget your wedding; Art had finally met the love of his life. It was evident you were meant for each other. You were the yin to his yang, always a calming presence in his life. He was a man of integrity and faith and he loved his family so much. I pray your memories help sustain you in the coming days. A life well lived and a life taken too soon.

Our thoughts and prayers to you and the kids.

Larry & Mary Nykerk

Mary Nykerk - June 09, 2015 at 01:43 PM



“ Liz and Sara, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your whole family. May the Holy Spirit lift you up and give you the grace to get through this difficult time.
Miss Gina

Gina - June 09, 2015 at 01:05 PM



“ My husband and I worked with Art for a couple years. We all used to joke around and call him "dad" of the PLS family. With both my husband and I losing our fathers this was sometimes not a joke. We would ask his advice on things because we respected him and wanted to know his opinion. To his kids and Liz we are so sorry for your loss. He was a great man and will be missed by many!

Scott & Brittany Sebastian

Brittany - June 09, 2015 at 11:13 AM



“ Quite simply, Art was, is, and always will be one of the finest men I've ever met. Our sincere condolences and prayers for comfort to you, Liz, and your wonderful family.

With heartfelt sympathy,
Tim and Mickie Moeggenberg

Tim Moeggenberg - June 09, 2015 at 11:04 AM



“ I will never forget Art. He was such a pleasure and joy to be around. Whether at tennis matches watching his kids and the team play or just having a drink or meal after a long day. He made everyone feel so comfortable and relaxed. I had the pleasure of spending many hours with Art as we watched Evan and Joe play tennis. I will truly miss those times. I will always remember him when I spend time with Joe and Sara in the years to come. That smile on Sara's face is the same infectious smile that Art always had on his. Art's love of life shows through in Joe, Even and Alex in so many ways as well. I will miss this man that meant so much to not only his family, but this entire community.

Paul Bandrowski Sr - June 09, 2015 at 10:22 AM



“ Liz and Family, Your all in our thoughts and Prayers. Jerry and Lydia Annis



Lydia Annis - June 09, 2015 at 09:11 AM



“ Words cannot express how our heart aches for your whole family at your loss. Please know we are lifting you up in prayer that the Peace of the Holy Spirit may fill this hole in your lives. - The Simaz Family

Caroline Simaz - June 09, 2015 at 08:39 AM



“ Kathy Rakosky (Range Resoruces) lit a candle in memory of Arthur Joseph Primeau



Kathy Rakosky (Range Resoruces) - June 09, 2015 at 07:06 AM



“ Art always had a smile on his face no matter what the circumstances and I will always remember this about him. My deepest sympathy and prayers to your family.
-Jessica FitzGerald (Range Resources)

Jessica FitzGerald - June 09, 2015 at 07:03 AM



“ We will forever remember Art for the love of his family, big smile and candid comments. He carried his cross with strength, humility and an enduring love for God; truly an example for all.
Praying for Liz & family for God to lighten your burden during this time of grief.
The Popp Family

Bridget Popp - June 09, 2015 at 06:58 AM



“ A great husband, father, family man and friend will be deeply missed by his adoring family and friends. We could see the strong yet gentle man in Art everytime we met up whether it be at school, an open house, a beach or athletic event. He ALWAYS had a smile and a positive comment to share.
Our deepest sympathies are with you all during this most sorrowful time.
The Weitzel family

Caty Grillo Weitzel - June 09, 2015 at 06:31 AM



“ The entire Primeau family is being held in prayer at this time. May you feel the love and support embracing you through this most difficult time.

Raelynn Stein - June 09, 2015 at 05:34 AM



“ Liz and Family,

We are so sorry to hear that you are suffering such a loss. You have been in our thoughts and prayers and wanted you to know that it was such a blessing to have known Art and been involved with your family. The last time I saw Art he questioned how on earth I could have a Buckeye and a Spartan in my household as I explained the different paths the boys were taking. I walked away smiling and honestly wishing that time would slow down and we could circle back around to great friends and great times. His effect on people was always positive and his calmness will be remembered. Thinking of you Liz and the kids....and want you to know how truly loved you are.

Molly Buttleman and Family

Molly Buttleman - June 08, 2015 at 07:42 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers for Liz and the rest of Art's family and friends. In addition to all the wonderful tributes of this good Christian man, he was an excellent neighbor, and he didn't even gloat about MSU's superiority over their little brothers from UM.

More importantly, Art has given us a better understanding of Scripture where in Romans 5:3-5 Paul writes "...We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Art will be missed.

Phil Perkins and family

Phil Perkins - June 08, 2015 at 07:04 PM



“ sending your sweet family our love and our condolences... May your whole family feel the embrace of Jesus...

Susie Britten and children.

susan britten - June 08, 2015 at 03:02 PM



“ My prayers and thoughts are with Art's family! May you find great comfort in knowing that Art now has a new body and is sitting at the side of our Lord Jesus Christ! Praise God!!
Kathi Murchie and James...

Kathi Murchie and James - June 09, 2015 at 07:10 AM



“ Liz, you and the kiddos are in our thoughts and prayers. God and your Guardian Angels will watch over your family with Blessings galore. We love you and will see you soon. <3 Betty and Dave

Cousins Betty and David - June 08, 2015 at 01:59 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family.....love hugs and lots of special memories to all of you.....
Gods Blessings, your cousin, Cindy and Keith Balhorn

Cindy - June 08, 2015 at 12:29 PM



“ John Puetz is following this tribute.

John Puetz - June 08, 2015 at 11:56 AM