



Erik Benjamin Pugh

April 22, 1946 - June 7, 2015

PUGH, Erik B.

Age 69

South Haven

Passed away Sunday, June 7, 2015 at the Timbers of Cass County. Erik was born April 22, 1946 in Lansing, the son of Emerson and Marion Pugh. Erik lived a happy, normal life for the first 20 years of his life, but in 1966 his life changed when he was diagnosed with a mental illness he had no control over. He faced his condition bravely and will be remembered for the gentle smile he always showed, the joy he shared spending time with family during the holidays and at family events and his remarkable memory. Erik could remember what gift you gave him for his birthday or Christmas years before, and he was a whiz at remembering dates of birthdays for all his family members.

Surviving are his 4 siblings, Nicki Wetherall of Portage, Karen Smith of Portage, Kristy (Merwin) Wittum of Kalamazoo, Kurt Pugh of Kalamazoo; 15 nieces and nephews; many grand nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Judy (Pugh) Jensen and a brother Emerson L. Pugh Jr. Following his wishes cremation has taken place. A graveside service will take place at a later date in Grand Junction Cemetery. His family requests

in lieu of flowers, you can make a donation in Erik's honor to the American Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by, BANGOR CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I can remember the first time I met Erik. We were in Little League Baseball in Bangor. He attend the small school in Grand Junction, and I was going to Wood School, a one room school west of Bangor. Every once in a while the boys from Bangor would get on their bikes and ride to Grand Junction to play a game against the boys there. Then a week or so later the boys from Grand Junction would make the trip to Bangor.

As we all moved into High School and became teammates, Erik was a member of our football, basketball, and baseball teams. Although baseball was his best sport, Erick was a great team player in the other two. I always remember Erik as shy and reserved, and we always tried to make sure he was included in those special events that took place during our high school days. Little did we know that he had a deeper problem that even he didn't know about.

After college I was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as a medic in the Vietnam War. I had lost track of some of my classmates during those years and Erik was one of them. But after coming home and signing a contract to teach and coach in South Haven, it was not unusual to look into the stands and see Erik sitting there watching my teams play varsity baseball. We would wave to one another, have a brief conversation between innings, then he would silently disappear down the road to the adult foster care home where he was living. It meant a great deal to me to have him there supporting me and my teams.

How we will all miss his great smile and warm presence. He was a happy guy who cared about his family and friends. I extend my deepest sympathy to all of his Family and Friends. We are all better individuals because Erik came into our lives.

Jim McCloughan, Class of 1964

Jim McCloughan - June 10, 2015 at 12:11 AM

RD

“ *God Speed Gooch. Your baseball socks are still trying to catch you after they were thrown off the buss after the Parchment game. My deepest sympathies to the family.*

Rick Dillman - June 09, 2015 at 09:08 AM

RE

*GOOCH you will be missed. A lot of memories together. your friend
Richard j. Ely*

richard J. Ely - July 02, 2015 at 12:46 PM