



Gregg Alexander Sonntag

January 21, 1948 - February 28, 2024

Gregg Alexander Sonntag

Gregg Alexander “Moose” Sonntag passed away on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, surrounded

by his family at home. He was born on January 21, 1948, in Geneva, IL and grew up in

Wheaton, IL as the third oldest of six children. He was affectionately nicknamed Moose by one

of his elementary teachers. The name fit so well that family and friends still call him that.

Gregg’s parents had a cottage on Brandywine Lake in Gobles, and as often as possible, the

family would spend weekends in Michigan. Gregg loved to waterski, fish, and sometimes look

for mischief while hanging out with friends on those visits. In general, he was a fun-loving

rambunctious kid, who just couldn’t resist “toeing the line” from time to time.

While working concrete construction, Gregg met his boss’s niece Gretchen – his wife-to-be – in

1970. On April 22, 1972, the two became one and remained so for almost 52 years. They

started out in Wheaton, but in 1976 decided to strike out on their own. With Gregg's fond memories of the Gobles' area, moving to Michigan was an obvious choice. They bought a chunk of land and settled down to start a new life. Gregg worked the automotive assembly line at Pullman Industries for a few years until he found work in the concrete construction trade again. Between 1976 and 1978, both Gregg and Gretchen became Christians. Hearts were changed and the decision to start a family moved to the forefront. In 1981, their son Peter Gregg was born. Within a year after that, they decided to become foster parents, and through that, eventually adopted their sons Joe and Jim. With three little boys aged only months apart, chaotic fun became the norm and love was in his heart.

When Gregg and Gretchen made the decision to homeschool their children, life was good all the way around – until Gregg had a massive heart attack in 1988. Doctors said he wouldn't live, but God had a different plan for this moose of a man. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Over a period of 36 years, he faced numerous health challenges starting with the need for an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), which required multiple replacements. His health journey included a significant stroke, chronic

back pain likely due to his work, hip replacements, a femur fracture due to a fall, prostate cancer, a spiral fracture in his arm from another fall, and septic shock from a rare bacterial lung infection. Amid these conditions, his heart health progressively deteriorated, leading to congestive heart failure that significantly reduced his activity levels and strength.

When Gregg was younger and healthy, he enjoyed golfing, woodworking, rooting for the Chicago Bears, hunting, fishing, and motocross – some riding, but more so watching his younger brother ride. As he aged, he was content to watch all those activities on TV with the exception of the Bears, who continually disappointed him. In spite of all that Gregg endured, in every situation and season, his confidence and faith in his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ remained strong, and he was always “. . . prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks (you) to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (I Peter 3:15b) Gregg’s hope was this: “But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (I John 1:12-13) And if Gregg was alive today, he would tell you that hope can be yours as well.

Surviving Gregg are his wife Gretchen; three children, Peter (Monique) Sonntag of Allegan,

Joseph (Anna) Sonntag of Galesburg, and Jim (Amanda) Sonntag of Otsego; five grandchildren – Merissa Thorpe, Keelee, Sophie, and Autumn Sonntag, and Emma Sonntag; three great grandchildren – Elijah Sonntag, and Raelynn and Taiven Thorpe; four siblings, Al (Diane) Sonntag of Rogersville, MO, Meredith Piper of Aurora, IL, Marcy (Jim) Becker of Winfield, IL, and Glenn (Deanna) Sonntag of Allegan, MI, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Dorothy Sonntag, and George's second wife, Margie Sonntag; brother Gary Sonntag, and nephew Joel Piper.

According to his wishes, cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association. The family invites close friends and family to join them for an open house style Celebration of Life on Saturday, April 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sonntag's home, 09772 35th Street in Gobles, MI.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

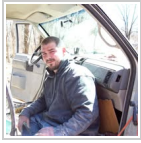
Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **20**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Sonntag Open House
09772 35th St.
Gobles, MI 49055

Tribute Wall



“ <https://youtu.be/yG1fCcSynws?si=vVjpdssof1RAMTMs>

Pete Sonntag - February 28, 2025 at 11:27 PM



“ *It's been a year since you left us, but it still seems like it was only yesterday...*

Pete Sonntag - February 28, 2025 at 11:24 PM



“ *This is the memorial video that was played at Gregg's service.*

<https://youtu.be/jBz4CRFs7j4?si=MWRuKloscGXTRq13>

Pete Sonntag - May 26, 2024 at 11:22 AM

BW

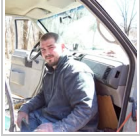
“ *He was such a wonderful man and beautiful Christian. He led his family well and had such a great sense of humor and a kind heart. I have fond memories of his entire family. He and Gretchen were such a team and loved each other and the Lord so much. My prayers and thought go out to all of you. I just lost 3 siblings in 3 years but because of our Lord's marvelous grace I will see them again someday. And we all know the same about Gregg. Safely home.*

Bonnie Williams - March 30, 2024 at 09:22 PM

GS

Thank you for sharing, Bonnie.

Gretchen Sonntag - March 31, 2024 at 06:11 AM



“ 2 files added to the album *Family Pictures*



Pete Sonntag - March 12, 2024 at 04:51 AM



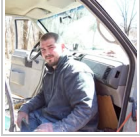
“ *My condolences to Gretchen and the family. I remember Greg being a great guy and kind hearted! Rest in Gods peace Gregg.*

Ed Jeschke - March 07, 2024 at 07:46 AM



Thanks, Ed.

Gretchen J Sonntag - March 12, 2024 at 10:01 AM



“ Below is a poem that I came across that I feel its very likely how my dad's finally moments may have unfolded as he completed his journey in this life and began his everlasting life. He wouldn't have been thinking about himself in his final moments, he would have been thinking about those of use who he was leaving behind.

*When tomorrow starts without me
And I'm not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did that day
While thinking of the many things
We didn't get to say*

*I know how much you love me
As much as I love you
And each time that you think of me
I know you'll miss me too*

*So when tomorrow starts without me
Please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name
And took me by the hand*

*The angel said my place was ready
In Heaven far above
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love*

*But as I turned to walk away
A tear fell from my eye*

*For all my life I'd always thought
I didn't want to die*

*I had so much to live for
So much left yet to do
It seemed almost impossible
That I was leaving you*

*I thought of all the yesterdays
The good ones and the bad
I thought of all the love we shared
And all the fun we've had*

*If I could relive yesterday
Just even for a while
I'd say good bye and kiss you
and maybe see you smile.*

*But then I fully realized
That this could never be
For emptiness and memories
Would take the place of me*

*And when I thought of worldly things
I might miss come tomorrow
I thought of you
And when I did
My heart was filled with sorrow*

*But when I walked through Heaven's Gates
I felt so much at home
When GOD looked down and smiled at me
From his great big golden throne*

*He said
This Is Eternity
And all I've promised you*

*Today your life on earth has passed
But here life starts anew*

*I promise no tomorrow
For today will always last
And since today will never end
There's no longing for the past*

*You have been so faithful
So trusting and so true
Though there were some times
You did some things
You knew you shouldn't do*

*But you have been forgiven
And now at last you're free
So won't you come and take my hand
And share this life with me*

*So when tomorrow starts without me
Don't think we're far apart
For every time you think of me
I'm right here
In your heart.*

Pete Sonntag - March 04, 2024 at 05:01 AM

GS

You are right, Pete . . . and I think that is just what Dad would have been thinking. Thanks!

Gretchen J Sonntag - March 05, 2024 at 04:52 PM

NN

So sorry to hear about Greg's passing. I remember back when we were neighbors. Those were the days. And your boys have all grown up and blessed you with more kids to love. May God be with you all until we all meet up in Heaven with our loving Father. My prayers are with you all. God bless you. Nancy Nunn

Nancy Nunn - March 05, 2024 at 05:04 PM

MB

*Dear Family:
Those are the perfect
words for us right now.*

Marcy Sonntag Becker - March 06, 2024 at 12:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Family Pictures



Pete Sonntag - March 04, 2024 at 02:55 AM

PG

Gretchen, we are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless, Kevin and Pat Goin

pat goin - March 04, 2024 at 07:35 PM

GS

Thank you.

Gretchen J Sonntag - March 05, 2024 at 04:50 PM