



David Kromarek

September 19, 1977 - January 14, 2009

David Kromarek, 31, Bismarck, passed away January 14, 2009 at his home with family by his side. A celebration of David's life will be held at New Song Church, 3200 N. 11th St., Bismarck, at 4 p.m. Saturday. David asked that his funeral be a celebration of his life, and that pizza and Mountain Dew be served afterward. After having five daughters, Larry and Sharon Kromarek delivered their first son, David, on Sept. 19, 1977. Larry was so shocked he checked three times to make sure it really was a boy. David's middle name, Dean, matches his dad's. David smiled and laughed his way through life. Even though his legs began to betray him when he was just a boy, he kept smiling. Years later, his parents would learn the reason he had perpetually scraped knees and scrawled handwriting was that he had a rare form of muscular dystrophy called Friedreich's Ataxia. His younger brother, Dusty, and older sister, D'Ette, also have the disease. But his disability never stopped Dave from joining tackle football games on the playground or wrestling as a grade-schooler. David never felt the need to join the crowd by wearing the latest fashions; he was happy wearing knee-high green tie-dyed socks with a red pair of shorts. He attended Bowman Elementary School until 1988, when his family moved to Bismarck. He attended Miller Elementary School, Simle Middle School and Century High School -- and touched lives everywhere he went. From the classmate who recalled how he shot his wad during a school auction to buy a trinket from the cutest girl in the class, to the way he shunned any special treatment from first-grade friends, to Taser-ing himself during a

high school criminal justice class. He was fearless, and thought everything was funny, particularly all of his family's stupid jokes. David and Dusty spent many a summer day with their dear friends and cousins Amber, Brandy, Crystal and Denver Engesser snowmobiling, three-wheeling, camping, fighting, laughing and playing. Every summer, David and Dusty would spend two weeks with the Engesser kids. David loved the Engesser kids because they treated him no differently than anyone else. From Denver pushing David down a hill toward a creek in his wheelchair to David pushing his wheelchair down a flight of stairs at Denver because he was mad, they laughed and cried together to the end. Sometimes it took a little extra work to get him on a snowmobile or into a car, but the Engessers did it without hesitation. David attended two years of college at the University of Mary, but was beginning to lose his speaking abilities by then. When he was little, he always said he wanted to be a father and a priest, but he would have to settle for eight nephews and four nieces -- whom he treated like princes and princesses, buying them extravagant presents like trampolines and Game Cubes and MP3 players. He lived out the rest of his adult life in the care of his parents in Bismarck -- and although he could not walk, talk, feed or dress himself, he could smile, and accepted whatever came his way. By the time he died, David's body was tired and worn. His 105-pound body had shrunk even smaller. He had a steel rod in his spine to keep it from curving. An electronic pump was embedded in his hip to prevent spasms. A feeding tube was in his stomach because he was unable to swallow. Tendons in his groin had been cut earlier to prevent leg spasms. The socket had been stripped of his left leg to prevent it from rubbing against his hip. David was willing to undergo any surgery, any indignity, to keep living life to its fullest. But by Wednesday, Jan. 14, he'd done all he could do, and went home to be with his heavenly father after saying goodbye to his earthly family. He died in his home. David will be missed, but his family is so glad to know that he is running down the streets of Heaven today. He is survived by his parents Larry and Sharon of Bismarck, sisters Daryla Mark Schreck of Wichita, Kan., Danel Tim Smith of Colorado

Springs, Colo., D'Ette Jeff Ruggles of Bowman, N.D., Deena Scott Winter of Lincoln, Neb., Doreen Paul Quist of Bismarck and brother Dustin, of Bismarck. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Bernard and Bessie Engesser and Frank and Inez Kromarek. Flowers may be delivered to the New Song church during regular business hours. David will be cremated and his ashes scattered over the Little Missouri River near the Fischer ranch south of Marmarth.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ We are so sorry for your loss but we know that David is now at peace & painfree. We are giving a memorial in his name to Elks Camp Grassick. You are in our prayers.

Deb Pierce - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Kromarek family.

Josh Abelseth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Larry and Sharon---Attended David's "Celebration of Life" service this afternoon. What a Blessing, an uplifting of the spirit within us. The life of this young man is an inspiration to ALL. If at any time we think were having a tough day we have to think of David and his straight forward attitude toward life. I can visulize David and our Lord and Savior dancing and praising GOD together.--Blessing to you Larry and Sharon,may the Peace of GOD rest upon you and your family. In HIS service---Jeff

Jeff and Ramona Roper - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Though I am filled with sorrow for your family, I couldn't help but giggle to myself thinking of David with Gloria, Tiny, and the Engesser Grandparents..... God my be the one in for the surprise with them all together:-My prayers are with you all. I am missing you today and often. My deepest sympathy to you all. May your faith be a source of comfort to you all. To my good friend Daryla...I miss you. Love and Prayers, Lorrie Marquart & family PS All three of my children will read the wonderful article in the paper. What a life lesson

Lorrie Marquart Schlosser - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I did not know David very well, since you left Bowman many years back, but I want to give you all a hug and say how sorry I am that you have to face the sorrow of David leaving. We have the assurance of his heavenly home and the promise of that grand family reunion but it still is hard to walk that path of grief. Many people in the community are thinking and praying for you and your families-- please know you are thought of. In love and sympathy, Patty Schaff Sadowsky

Patty Sadowsky - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Our prayers and sympathy are with you during this difficult time in your life. It has been a long struggle to heavens gate. Sharon & Larry are wonderful, loving parents. Your faith & love is so inspiring to others. You are God's Angels doing your work here on earth. You touch & inspire everyone you come in contact with. Your family is very blessed to have you in there life. God is with you always. Your family is beautiful and touch many lives. With Love & Sympathy Tracy & Gloria West

Gloria West - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.*

Alison Hawn Paulson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *To Larry, Sharon, and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you. It was very, very difficult to hear about David passing. We had lots of great times in elementary school together. David was definitely one of a kind and always lived life to it's fullest each and every day which everyone should do, but very few actually do it. David could always find something positive out of any situation even if there wasn't even any positive to be found. Good friends are easy to find--GREAT friends are very hard to come by---David was definitely a GREAT FRIEND and always will be. Once again, my thoughts and prayers are with the family.* Sparky Watson

Sparky Watson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *Sharon, Larry and family We were so very sorry to hear about David. Our son Sparky and David went to elementary school together here in Bowman. It was always a joy to have David come over to spend time at our house. We have some very fond memories of David and will never forget his big smile! The article that Deena wrote was great! Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very sad time.* Karen & Lee Paulson and family

Karen Paulson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *Larry and Sharon God definitely gave David to the right family here on earth to love and care for. God has a special Angel in Heaven now! We will keep you in our thought and Prayers as you travel this difficult journey.* Gordy and Peggy

Gordy and Peggy Carlson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ A little tear fell on my Bismarck Tribune this morning as I read of the passing of David. Not so much in sadness but because of the touching, caring and wonderful way the story was written! David was a remarkable young man considering the cards he was dealt. I will forever remember his smiling face that graced the hallways of Bowman Schools. May the Peace of the Lord be with all his wonderful and caring family. I too can picture him running down the streets of heaven today. God Bless You!

Russ G Werth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Kromarck Family, My deepest sympathy to your family for your loss. It was a great pleasure to have known David 19 of his 31 years on this earth. David always laughed at my jokes, he was pretty much the only one who would! You can bet that he is enjoying himself with his new body in heaven and being in the presence of the Living God Himself!

Blaine Clausnitzer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ David, I will miss you, I knew you only for a short time but fell in love with your great smile and gorgeous hair. We sure had fun giving your dad a bad time when you would come to see me. I know GOD welcomed you home with open arms and you are doing all those things you missed out on. I pray GOD comforts your family and I will be praying for them all. Until we meet again. To Larry and Sharon, I am sorry for your loss, I will be praying, GOD certainly knew the right parents to give David too. He had a blessed life here on earth. God bless Sincerely Stephanie

Stephanie Nottestad - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I just wanted to say I read the beautiful article in the Tribune and then David's Obit today. It was so moving, what a wonderful mark he left in this world. I was a classmate of David's when he lived in Bowman and my husband knew him when we lived in Bismarck. He was an amazing man and I hope you are finding comfort in the memories that you have. Dr. Jim and Mia Stafford

James and Mia Stafford - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ To the Kromarek family, friends and relatives, Our hearts go out to you in the loss of David. May you find comfort, strength and hope in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. No doubt David is running in his heavenly body with no pain and no restrictions. Just pure joy and comfort. We cannot be with you as you celebrate David's life but know our thoughts and prayers are, and will continue to be in the days ahead. David was truly blessed to be loved so deeply.

Jennifer and Steve Wild - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I am so sorry to hear of your great loss. I pray that memories of David will help you through this difficult time. I remember David's great smile every time I seen him. You were truly blessed to have him in your lives. His eternal life with God will be awesome and I am sure he will be waiting to see each of you some day. God Bless all of you! Janet Schapp

Janet Schapp - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FK

“Deena, nice article the other day in the Bismarck Tribune. A heart-felt tribute to David. Larry, Sharon, and Family: The obituary was inspiring. Of course, we say our good-byes at these times to our loved ones, but in the words of C.S. Lewis, "only for a while." May God grant blessings to your family at this time and eternal rest to David. I will offer a Mass for this intention this coming week. In Christ, Fr. Chris Kadrmas

Fr. Chris Kadrmas - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“We would like to wish our condolences to Davids family. I hope all is well. And I hope you know that just because he is out of sight doesn't mean he is out of mind.

Ryan & Katie Foust - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“what i remember most was his great and mischevious smile as he made jokes and pulled pranks during and in between classes. may the good memories comfort you as you celebrate his life.

joy steinback - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VK

“Our home in Bowman in 1977 was purchased through you, Larry and I remember you saying the fee will help in paying for a washer, dryer to wash those diapers. What a journey, ours and yours each unique and diverging with God present in every moment. "Long has the night of sorrow reigned, the dawn shall bring us light. God shall appear, and we shall rise, with gladness in his sight." Love and prayers, Rosemary and Vern K.

vern and rosemary kadrmas - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Your family has been in my thoughts and prayers since I visited with Wes Dacar and found out that David was not doing very well. Deena your article and David's obituary gave me a window into David's personality which was nice since I did not get to know him before you left Bowman. I also hope the article inspires many to live life to the fullest. God blessed your family with such a wonderful person and he also blessed David with such a caring family. God bless you at this time of loss.

Michelle Dacar - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Larry & Sherry and family So very sorry for the loss of your beautiful son, David. Earth will be a bit lonlier. But God says to store our treaures in heaven . You have. He will be with you but he will have the joy of heaven and I know you know all that . So know we share your grief and with tears rejoice with you. God bless you bunches.

Rick and Evelyn Greisch - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ Tiny, Gloria, Grandpa and Grandma Engesser are waiting with open arms. I can only imagine the fun they are having. We will all miss him. If we could all learn to be as happy as Dave was with the misfortunes he was given. My love to the whole family, Sandy, Jayden, Janci

Sandy EisenbarthEngesser - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Sharon, Larry, and family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. If there is anything we can do please give us a call. "What the mind has once known, the heart will never forget"

Rich and Bev Hausauer - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I was fortunate enough to get to know Dave during my college years. He was truly one of the finest individuals I have known, and although we fell out of touch, I will miss him dearly. I met Dave on the way to class one day when I noticed he had gotten his wheelchair stuck off of the main sidewalk in some rocks. I went to offer some assistance, only to be told to go away because I wasn't a pretty girl. Dave was many things to many people, but I will always remember him as a "ladies' man". My heart and prayers go out to all of Dave's family and friends.

Joshua Marzolf - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ To the family, we were saddened to hear and read about David, yet we also celebrate with you the celebration of his life. He brought much joy to so many. We thank you for sharing him with us as well as so many others. God bless you, Steve and Karen Boelter

steve and karen boelter - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Dear Sharon and Larry, I read last in last week's paper the article David's sister wrote about him. Ever since then, I have been thinking so much about him, and all of you. Then, today I read David's obituary. I don't know exactly how you feel, but I have a good idea of how you feel. Our daughter, Heidi, died when she was 35. She was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor 3 years before that. Her struggle was minor compared to David's, but the end loss is the same. We learned a great deal from Heidi and Harold, her husband, those three years. We learned both how to live, and how to die. Like David, Heidi was courageous, gallant, and lived as fully as she could throughout the years. We will never stop missing her, but we are so very thankful to know that she is home with Jesus, one hundred percent perfect in every way. I admire all of you so very much, and praise God that there are parents like you who love and care for their children under the most difficult circumstances. I pray that He will draw you very close to Him, and give you peace and strength. God bless you all. In His love, Sylvia Lillibridge

Sylvia Haas Lillibridge - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ We were sadden to read of David's passing. The article Deena had written in the Bismarck Tribune was wonderful. It's been a long time since your Bowman days. I remember Tina & Sherman & kids spending lots of time with all of you. Brings back good memories. Our hearts & prayers are with all of you.

Peggy Lindstrom - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I ocassionally took care of David when I was a CNA for St Alexius Home Health Care...It was a pleasure to be of assistance for David...May your family greet a sense of peace to know that David is in a better place; a place where all sorrows and pains are diminished. May the Lord bless you all as you walk through this part of life with David.

Lonnie J Privratsky - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Dear Kromarek family,My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. David was very fortunate to have such a loving family, and I'm sure your lives were greatly blessed by his presence.May flocks of angels sing thee to thy rest.....Godspeed, David KromarekSincerely,Paul J. Ohm

Paul J. Ohm - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ David touched the lives of all of us at Manchester. His courage and brightness is an inspiration in our journey of life. God bless your family today and always.

susan gerenz - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ David was a wonderful person. I will always remember him. I'm just sorry we never had much time to spend together. David and his famiy will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Danielle Volk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. David was a wonderful person and it was so much fun to work with him! Because we lived across the street and my son Kendal was able to meet and get to know David he became a volunteer at a nursing home and became very involved in our church and now wants to be a minister! No matter what kind of day I was having just coming to work for David and seeing his bright smiling face turned my whole day around and now thinking about him often has helped me through some really tough days since I myself am in a wheelchair now. He touched so many lives in such a positive way that he will be missed greatly but always remembered well! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Jody Keller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Dear Sharon and Family, I am so sorry to hear of David's passing. May God's grace and comfort surround you, and your entire family during this most difficult time. When our David passed away, you were such a dear friend and source of faith and comfort for me. I imagine that both of our David's are now running together, free of any pain and suffering. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you and yours! Love, Lora

Lora Baker - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ To David's family and friends, I am sorry to hear about your loss. I am glad I got the chance to visit with David, Larry and Sharon not too long ago. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. God Bless and cherish the many happy memories David has left with all of you!

Amber Kosmicki Baumeister - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Hi, We just wanted to pass on our condolences to you and your family. God blessed you with a special young man who enriched your lives many times over. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Juanita Mosbrucker and Jerry Aase*

Jerry and Juanita Aase - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM