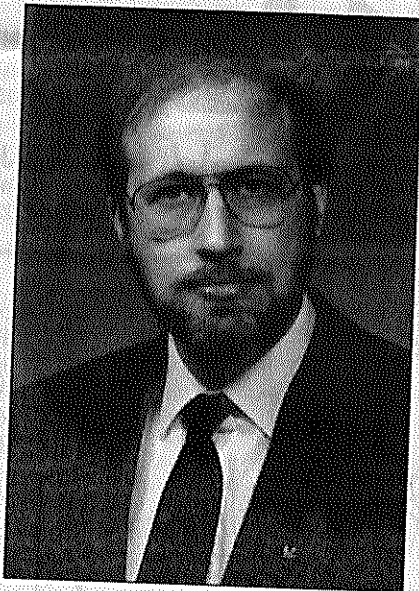


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Wayne Philip Sears 5-5-2016

Wayne Philip Sears, our beloved brother and uncle, passed away unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack in his Chicago home on April 13, 2016.

Wayne was born April 21, 1952, in Waterloo, Iowa, to Donald and Margaret Sears. He attended schools in Geneseo and Traer, Iowa, before moving with his family to Grinnell when he was 11 years old. Wayne graduated from Grinnell High School in 1970 and subsequently attended Northeast Missouri State University and University of Illinois Chicago.



Wayne lived in Emporia, Kansas, and the Kansas City area, with brother Chuck's family, then moved to live with sister Gail's family in Oak Park, Ill. He settled in downtown Chicago where he lived until his death.

Wayne's caring personality drew him to a 25-year career as a psychiatric technician. He was loved and respected by patients and co-workers alike. He worked extremely hard, often volunteering to work holidays and double-shifts so others wouldn't have to.

Wayne lived a principled life, underpinned by a strong sense of right and wrong. He never held a grudge, and worked hard to make things right. Though he was not quiet about his theological beliefs, he had a quiet faith that guided his actions, words, and deeds. He tried to be the best he could. He loved his God. He had the Holy Spirit in him. He took the knocks of life, yet never got bitter toward people who wronged him. We already miss his kind words. If we shared with him how someone betrayed us or hurt us, he would say, "Read this Psalm, and you will understand how God will take care of the wrongs and you can continue to live in peace."

Wayne was usually pretty quiet in groups, unless he found an audience for politics, sports or religion. He was very bright, humble, loyal, and hard-working, and generous to a fault. His kind and gentle spirit prompted him to give his money to other people, so much so that he sometimes couldn't pay his own bills. That is truly putting others' needs before his own. He even lost a job because he was unwilling to rat out his friends.

Music played a big role in Wayne's life. He started as a child with piano lessons from his Grandma Sears, then played trombone in the Grinnell school bands. He eventually learned guitar and keyboards and loved to jam with others for pleasure. He studied music therapy in college. He loved to give CD recordings of personalized playlists to everyone in his family.

Above all, Wayne loved and was loved by his family. He made it a priority to attend all family weddings and gatherings maintaining close, loving relationships with all. Whether it was celebrating a birthday in Chicago, a Christmas in Grinnell or family trips to Scotland or Alaska, Wayne enthusiastically joined in. Losing Wayne is like a link missing in a strong family chain.

Wayne was preceded in death by his mom and dad. We rejoice in their reunion in heaven. He is survived by his siblings, Chuck Sears (Char) of Bates City, Mo.; Gail Petrich (Rudd) of Oak Park, Ill.; Joyce Otto (Mark) of Grinnell; Bruce Sears (Susan) of Yakima, Wash.; Joel Sears (Honor) of Spokane, Wash.; and Joann Pierce (Wayne) of Oak Park, Ill. Wayne leaves behind 21 nephews and nieces plus 24 great-nephews and great-nieces with two on the way.

A memorial service will be held on May 14 at 11 a.m. at Newburg-Chester Congregational Church in Newburg, Iowa, followed by interment at Chester Cemetery. The family will host a meal after burial to fellowship and celebrate Wayne's life. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Chester Cemetery to purchase new trees and repair stones: mail c/o Joyce Otto, 3342 50th St., Grinnell, IA 50112.