



Michael Pargeon
June 24, 1966 - Jan. 26, 2018

Michael "Mike" Paul Pargeon was born June 24, 1966, in Oskaloosa, the son of Paul and Beverly (Dawley) Pargeon. Mike was graduated from Montezuma High School in 1985.

He was the first wrestling state qualifier for Montezuma.

On November 21, 1992, Mike was united in marriage to Gretchen Ludden at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Traer. Two daughters were born to this union, Emily and Olivia. Mike started working for AWE in 1992 and became a part owner in 1993. In 2001, Mike became the sole owner of the business. He enjoyed helping anyone in need. Mike was a coach and a mentor to younger kids. He loved anything with wheels, camping, boating, snowmobiling, and riding his motorcycle. Mike especially enjoyed being on the farm with his family and traveling. He and his girls traveled to 35 states and four countries together. Mike died at the age of 51 at his shop in Traer from a heart attack.

He was preceded in death by his father; and a brother, Richard. Mike is survived by his mother; his wife; two daughters, Emily Pargeon of Charlotte, Iowa and Olivia Pargeon of Traer; three brothers, Wes (Gina) Pargeon of Montezuma, Curtis (Julie) Pargeon of Urbandale, and Daryl (Allison) Pargeon of Montezuma; a sister, Jana (Bill) Freeborn of New Sharon; and 12 nieces and nephews, Caitlin Studley, Erica Podhajsky, Beau Freeborn, Aliya Pargeon, Rachel Freeborn, Brett Podhajsky, Mya Pargeon, Kate Pargeon, Harlea Pargeon, Ava Pargeon, Jake Pargeon, and Rett Pargeon.

Services were held Feb. 3 at North Tama High School. Please direct memorials to the family, a donation will be made at a later date.

Michael "Mike"

Paul Pargeon

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Michael "Mike" Paul Pargeon died Jan. 26 at his shop in Traer from a pulmonary embolism.

Services will be Feb. 3 at North Tama High School at 10:30 a.m. Memorial should be sent to the family, a donation will be made at a later date. Overton Funeral Home in Traer was in charge of arrangements.

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Ryan Heithoof.

Jim is survived by his wife Janet; daughters, Renee Scott (Todd) and Rita Holt (Rick), his favorite sisters: Iowa Ann; brothers Jerry and Dave VanDee, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be made to St. Labre Catholic School, E. Tongue River Rd, Ashland, MT 59003 and St. John & Paul Catholic Church building fund.

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Mike Pargeon Was About Little Acts of Kindness

TRAER — Mike Pargeon was all about little acts of kindness. A lifetime of them.

"If you ask anybody in town about Mike, they'll have a story about him. Seriously. He knew everyone around here," said Mark Mason, a clerk at Whannel's True Value hardware store.

The Traer businessman died at work last week of a pulmonary embolism. He was 51 years old. While he never sought thanks or recompense in life for a lot of things he did, the town turned out to say thanks and celebrate his life at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at North Tama High School.

"There's no other place in town large enough to hold a funeral this size," North Tama Superintendent David Hill said. "We expect a large turnout."

"If you don't have a Mark Pargeon story, you missed out on a really great person," said Patty Calderwood, secretary to the athletic director at North Tama, who served on the local Jaycees with Pargeon.

Pargeon, an Oskaloosa native and 1985 Montezuma High School graduate began working at AWE Auto Service in 1992, the same year he married his wife, Gretchen. He became part owner, and sole owner in 2001.

Mason provided a little snippet of Pargeon's character.

"The first time I ever met him was several years ago in the wintertime," he said. "We had a pretty heavy snow and the plows came by and filled in my driveway and left about four feet of snow there. I was shoveling it out, and I'm about 10 minutes into it and a long way to go. And here's a pickup truck with a plow blade."

It was Pargeon. He waved at Mason to get out of the way and cleared the driveway.

"He said, 'How's that?'" Mason

recalled.

"I said, 'This is great! What do I owe you?'"

"He said, 'Forget it. I'll get you next time.'"

"That guy would give you the shirt off his back and find another one if you needed it," said Joe Morris, an insurance agent who had business dealings with Pargeon through insurance claims.

"When we'd talk, he'd say, 'How is your family?' He really paid attention to stuff like that."

All those little — and big — acts of kindness added up. In 2013, Pargeon received a community service award from the Traer Chamber of Commerce.

"Mike is the kind of guy who supports his family, his friends and his community without a lot of pomp and circumstance," chamber officials wrote in presenting the award, as reported in the Dec. 24, 2013, Traer Star-Clipper.

"He's a behind-the-scenes kind of guy," chamber officials continued. "He is the guy who shows up at the (annual city) Winding Stairs Festival to work nights and offers whatever piece of equipment they need to help set up on Main Street. He's the guy who gives employees an early out or extra time off so they can go to a meeting for one of the service organizations in Traer." He and his business supplied vehicles and support for a large-scale disaster drill.

"He's also one of the people looking out for our kids," chamber

officials wrote. "When kids have made some bad choices, he's set them straight and taught them how to be accountable and correct their mistakes."

Calderwood said Pargeon was able to talk one-on-one with young people and get through to them. She also said Pargeon would host bonfires outside his business — a safe place for young people to meet and have fun.

He'd provide equipment, labor and moral support for projects such as renovating the outdoor athletic facilities and football field or for play equipment in the city park, Calderwood said. He'd also turn out to support school athletics.

And while he wasn't "out front" on projects, he was a unifying force. "He could bring oil and water together because of his personality," Calderwood said. She also said Pargeon and his wife, who serves on the North Tama school board, are part and parcel of each other's endeavors.

"He's just one of the nicest guys I've ever known," Morris said. "I don't think I've ever seen him mad. I had a client drive through his building," when the driver's foot slipped off the brake onto the accelerator. Pargeon's immediate concern, Morris said, was the driver, not his building.

Calderwood agreed, while Pargeon doesn't have his name anything in town other than his family, his footprints are everywhere.

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