

## Mark S. Bowman

GHR

11-19-2020

Mark S. Bowman, 64, of Choteau, Mont., died at home on Friday, November 13, 2020, of complications from pancreatic cancer.

Though he lived many places, his birthplace of Grinnell, Iowa, was always home. There he attended school through college before going off to the University of Michigan Law School. His law career led him to St. Joseph, Michigan, where he would serve as City Attorney for many years. Well-liked and deeply respected by all who knew him for his professional acumen, sense of humor and kindness, he remained in St. Joseph for 25 years. When he quit law he took a position at Dartmouth College in Human Resources. He would work at Dartmouth and the University of Virginia for 10 years before his cancer diagnosis.



Faced with a shortened life Mark made a bold decision. He moved to Montana, marrying his longtime companion in a lovely ceremony on Swiftcurrent Lake in Glacier National Park. Together they had many outdoor adventures, from biking to hiking and backpacking in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

He was a lifelong athlete, playing football and running track through high school and college. He had a stint as a camp counselor that changed his life and brought enduring friendships. He competed in many triathlons, more than 20 Chicago-to-Mackinac sailing races and one marathon; he maintained a long winning streak on the New York Times crossword puzzle with an average solve time of 13 minutes. But it was his unique manner of speaking and outlook on life that made him so memorable. "Bye for now" ended phone conversations; "strength and honor" was a creed he lived by; "bite the toad" was how he approached a difficult task. He liked to send birthday cards to everyone he knew because "it guarantees that for at least four seconds each year that person has to think of me."

It wasn't the cards that kept him in mind. He was the most loyal of friends, maintaining friendships over many decades and even more miles. He was smart, funny, unassuming, kind, and a Star Trek devotee.

Among his final goals were to attend daughter Christine's wedding in July, to take a bike trip with two of his brothers in September, and to outlive Alex Trebek. He managed to achieve all three. He is survived by wife Lisa Hudnutt of Choteau, Montana; daughters Elizabeth of Boulder, Colorado; and Dr. Christine (Steve McDonald) of Chicago, Illinois; mother Dorothy Anne Bowman of Grinnell, Iowa; and siblings Chris (Joan) of Urbandale, Iowa; John (Terry) of Westlake Village, California; Kathy Moser of Grinnell, Iowa; Theresa (Dan) Schumann of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; Rick of Las Vegas; and Janet (Joe) Tegtmeyer of Madison, Wisconsin. He is predeceased by his father Glenn F. Bowman. Memorials in his name may be made to the St. Joseph (MI) Junior Foundation (PO Box 585, St. Joseph, MI 49085), an organization dedicated to teaching sailing and water safety skills to all levels of learners.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 28, at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Due to Covid, we will not have an in-person gathering at this time. Instead, friends and family are asked to honor Mark each in your own way and share a photo or a memory of how you celebrated at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/markbowman>. Since we can't be together in space we can at least be together in time to send this man off into the universe to "live long and prosper."