



## Ryan Lee Fjelstad

April 03, 1975 - February 08, 2023

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Ryan L. Fjelstad, age 47, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at his home in Lake Mills, surrounded by his loving family, with the care and comfort of MercyOne North Iowa Hospice.

A service celebrating Ryan's life will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Bethany Lutheran Church, 201 Franke Street in Joice, Iowa, with Pastor Bill Peters officiating.

Visitation will be from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Schott Funeral Homes-Mittelstadt Chapel, 902 East Main Street in Lake Mills and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church.

Cremation will follow the service, with inurnment at a later date at Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, rural Joice.

Memorials may be directed to Bethany Lutheran Church in Joice.

Ryan Lee Fjelstad was born on April 3, 1975 to parents Gary Allyn and Nancy Ann (Brekken) Fjelstad at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea, Minnesota. He was baptized at North Prairie Lutheran Church, rural Leland, Iowa and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Joice. Ryan graduated with the Lake Mills High School Class of 1993.

Now, this obituary should not be ordinary, because Ryan was anything but ordinary. Sure, he enjoyed hobbies like working on cars, shooting guns, and spending time with his family, but Ryan's life cannot be summed up in a few words, or a few paragraphs. And believe us, some of the words people would use to describe him shouldn't be used in the newspaper!

Humor was Ryan's best medicine. When he was faced with a colorectal cancer diagnosis a couple of years ago, he shared the photos of his backside with anyone who wanted to see them. And if you were somehow able to avoid seeing these photos, congratulations. Let's just say they were "invasive." Uffda. Always trying to look at the bright side of things, Ryan never let his illness be the focus of his day-to-day living. (Except for that one time...and it got him a really good deal on an engagement ring!)

He insisted on having a "big party" instead of a traditional funeral because he thought no one should be sad. Well, who's having the last laugh now, Ryan? We will be sad. Our grief will be mixed with laughter and stories to share (some stories more appropriate than others), but we will be sad.

Growing up, Ryan was blessed with great parents and a big brother Al, and he is related to a large portion of north Iowa, through both the Fjelstad and Brekken sides. Even with all those people keeping an eye on him, he still managed to get into mischief. (This is the part where Ryan would

blame his wrong-doings on his friends, even though we all know better.) He loved to reminisce with his buddies, Jay, Dan, Justin and Josh about all the wild times they had together. And, when someone Ryan knew was in need, he would be the first person to lend a hand, give support, or even give the shirt off his back. He was a self-less man.

Later in life, Ryan was lucky enough to get Andrea Belshan, his Love of a Lifetime, to marry him. The two were wed on September 25, 2022. Between them both, they have four great kids to be proud of: Matthew, Andrew, Taylan and Olivia. Ryan and Andrea made each moment count and they brought each other joy.

In addition to his wife Andrea, and the four kids: Matthew, Andrew and Olivia of Lake Mills, and Taylan & Ashley of Kensett, Ryan also has a beautiful granddaughter, Carly Rose. His parents, Gary and Nancy Fjelstad and brother Al "Axel" of Lake Mills; best friends Jay Clough of Saledo, TX, Dan Rice of Lake Mills, Justin Brandsoy of Forest City, IA, and Josh Hagen of Stevens Point, WI; and many extended relatives and countless friends will also miss his smiling face. The cats: Luna, Honey Bear and Kibby will miss being fed. His work family from Larson Manufacturing and the crew at Teluwut all played huge, supportive roles in Ryan and Andrea's lives, particularly over the past few months, and they will undoubtedly feel his absence.

Waiting to welcome Ryan into Heaven are his grandparents: Leonard & Evelyn Fjelstad, and Elwood & Gladys Brekken.

# Events

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15  
Feb

**VISITATION**  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Mittelstadt Funeral  
Home 902 East Main  
Street, Lake Mills, IA  
50450

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16  
Feb

**VISITATION**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Bethany Lutheran  
Church 201 Franke St.,  
Joice, IA 50446

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16  
Feb

**FUNERAL SERVICE**  
1:00 PM

Bethany Lutheran  
Church 201 Franke St.,  
Joice, IA 50446

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