



Derek A. Boczkowski

June 3, 1971 - March 5, 2021

Derek Allen Boczkowski, a resident of Rochester Hills, passed away unexpectedly on March 5, 2021 at the age of 49. A son of James and Marlene, he was born on June 3, 1971 in Mount Clemens. He was a graduate of Lutheran High North High School and Central Michigan University and a member of Kensington Church in Troy. Derek was a deeply loved and well-respected event coordinator for 313 Presents, working there for over 25 years.

Derek made an impact on people whether they knew him or not. He was truly selfless - fighting for the little man and making connections within the entertainment industry that changed lives. Through belly laughs and big hugs, Derek was the glue that brought people together. When he wasn't working, Derek enjoyed spending time on the golf course, in comedy clubs, and at Walt Disney World in Florida. Derek was a kind, generous, compassionate soul who made the world a better place for all who knew him. Derek gave of his time, talents and money generously to Rainbow Connection and Give the Kids the World Village.

Derek was predeceased by his beloved father, James. Derek is survived by: his mother, Marlene; brother and best friend, Brian (Julie) Boczkowski, nephew Jack and niece Kate, who were like his own children to him, and dogs Scout and Rosie; and Gina Talkington, the love of his life and longtime girlfriend and their two cats, Jada and Victor. He is also survived by a big

community of friends and extended family.

A visitation for Derek will take place on Tuesday, March 9, from 2:00 to 8:00 pm at Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd., Utica, 48317. Derek will lie in state on Wednesday, March 10, from 12:30 pm until time of funeral service at 1:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 45160 Van Dyke Ave, Utica, 48317. Derek's funeral service may viewed online at <https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/> Due to the current gathering restrictions in place, the funeral home is currently allowing 25 guests to pay their respects at a time. As you visit, please be mindful that others may be waiting to pay their respects. The family asks for your patience. Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Derek's memory may be made to Rainbow Connection, 621 W. University, Rochester, MI 48307 or Give Kids the World, 210 S Bass Rd., Kissimmee, FL 34746.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 9. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home

In State at Church

MAR 10. 12:30 PM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
45160 Van Dyke
Utica, MI 48317

Funeral Service

MAR 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
45160 Van Dyke
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Derek A. Boczkowski*



Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors - March 10, 2021 at 12:13 PM

DO

Beautiful service. My love goes out to Marlene and her family. Love, Donna Lange

Donna - March 10, 2021 at 02:08 PM

MK

Thinking of you and all the great shows we have put on together over the years. Thanks for your heart and for being you. _ Mariah K.

Mariah Kennemer - March 10, 2021 at 02:23 PM

JR

Such a lovely service and commemoration of Derek's life .

Blessings to Derek's family and extended family, of which there are many..

Derek made us feel like we were family. Derek, you are the best, your heart was the biggest, and you were the Gentle Giant of a man.

Honored and Blessed to have shared moments of my life with you.

God Bless ——— RIP my friend!

John Rapp

John Rapp - March 12, 2021 at 11:23 AM

JR

“ I shall forever remember Derek for his generosity, warmth, can do spirit, and empathy for his fellow human beings. I cannot remember a time on our many Bob Seger shows at either the Palace, or DTE, Derek wasn't there for us!

Derek, looked over me as I was having a sudden medical issue during a Security meeting prior to soundcheck at DTE. Derek saw to it that I had proper medical treatment on site, and coordinated my transport to the hospital.

RIP my friend!

Thank you, Derek.. See you on the other side..

John Rapp

John Rapp - March 11, 2021 at 09:09 PM

V.

“ Victor Reed Sr. And Family . . . lit a candle in memory of Derek A. Boczkowski



Victor Reed Sr. and Family . . . - March 10, 2021 at 10:37 AM

MK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Matt Korolden - March 10, 2021 at 08:34 AM

MK

“What do you say about Derek that hasn't already been said dozens of times in the many beautiful messages already shared by family, friends and colleagues?”

Some of the best moments with Derek were on the golf course. On one, sunny afternoon at what used to be Wolverine Golf Club, we stood waiting on the tee box for the group ahead of us to clear the fairway. In the open corn field next to us, a group of goose hunters had set up a blind and decoys. When the inevitable flock of geese eventually landed in the field, the hunter popped up out of their blind and began blasting away scattering the flock back to the skies - hitting absolutely nothing. We laughed until our sides hurt! After several minutes, we settled down and prepared to tee off when Derek posed the following to the group: "Why don't they just shoot the ones still on the ground?" Apparently, our buddy was completely unfamiliar with the idea of a hunting decoy. Needless to say, we had a great deal of fun with that one for many, many years.

Derek possessed a boundless capacity for kindness and generosity. He is, quite possibly, the most genuine person I have ever known. To have been part of his circle, and it's an enormous circle, meant having a true friend and ally on your side at all times.

His physical presence will be deeply missed. His influence on our lives will be ever present.

*Death Is Nothing At All
By Henry Scott-Holland*

*Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.*

*Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,*

*and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched,
unchanged.*

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.

Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no difference into your tone.

Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed
together.*

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.

*Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow
upon it.*

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was.

There is absolute and unbroken continuity.

What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you, for an interval,

somewhere very near,

just round the corner.

All is well.

Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.

One brief moment and all will be as it was before.

How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

Matt Korolden - March 10, 2021 at 08:27 AM

MF

“ *Derek was probably the nicest person I've ever met.*

He welcomed me with open arms as an intern in Palace Marketing and taught me so much about how to navigate that world.

Fast forward 10 years later and he was the reason I found Kensington during a very difficult time in my life.

Thank you, Derek, for being such an amazing person and friend, all of the laughs, and all of the years of Saturday morning hoops.

Deepest sympathy to all of Derek's family and friends.

Mike Ford - March 09, 2021 at 02:55 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 09, 2021 at 02:09 PM

MI

“ *I knew Derek as a kid - my older and Derek were good friends back when we lived in Sterling Heights ...im sure they stayed in touch over the years but I have not seen Derek in forever --- great guy and family*

Matt Iannuzzi

matt iannuzzi - March 09, 2021 at 02:02 PM

BE

“ *Brian's friends at Red Dog Equity purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



Brian's friends at Red Dog Equity - March 09, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 09, 2021 at 01:17 PM

JP

“ We have had the pleasure of Derek coming into our lives and counting him as a close friend for years. His friendship was truly a blessing- Always a thoughtful and caring friend to me, my family and our entire team. The joy and laughter he brought every time you saw him was unquestionably contagious. His generous support for Athletes Unlimited will always be appreciated and remembered. Derek, we will always cherish the great times we had together and all of the memories, (with The Palace being just one of them), and the biggest memory of all: your smile.

Love always,

*Dr. Jeff Pierce and Family
Michigan Sports & Spine Center and Athletes Unlimited Team*



Jeff Pierce - March 09, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 09, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ We worked with Derek for many years in the entertainment business. He was always a nice gentle man. We will miss him greatly. In lieu of flowers we have made a donation to Rainbow connection in his name. Our condolences to his family and friends.
Sam and Joan Cinquemani
Aegis Welding Supply

Joan Cinquemani - March 09, 2021 at 11:00 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 09, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 09, 2021 at 09:44 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 09, 2021 at 09:04 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 09, 2021 at 08:03 AM



“ *Gayle and I have had the pleasure of counting Derek as one of our best friends for almost 25 years. I first connected with him in the course of being booked for piano tunings when the shows would come into the Palace, DTE, Meadowbrook and Freedom Hill and Derek was the one in charge of that particular show. You run into people during your life that are "kind", "professional", "moral", "caring", etc. But not often do all of those characteristics merge in one person. God love you, brutha'. Paul and Gayle Cervenak*

paul - March 09, 2021 at 07:15 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 08, 2021 at 10:52 PM

BJ

“ *Derek, Thank You for coming into my life. Your friendship, the past 30 years, was a blessing. You were truly a thoughtful, loving, and caring friend to me and my family. I will always cherish the good times we had together.*

Thank D!

Brad



Brad Jahner - March 08, 2021 at 10:34 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczowski.*



March 08, 2021 at 10:19 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczowski.*



March 08, 2021 at 05:36 PM

LB

“ Derek was a kind and caring man. We had such a good time with him when he visited us in FL. We send our deepest sympathies to Marlene, Gina, Brian, Julie and family.

Sincerely,
Len and Mary

Len Boczkowski - March 08, 2021 at 05:21 PM

FF

“ From your Levy Family purchased the Pretty Plea se for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



From your Levy Family - March 08, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 08, 2021 at 04:14 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 08, 2021 at 04:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 08, 2021 at 03:34 PM



“ *I worked with Derek from 2011-2016 at the Palace and recently again at DTE. Derek was passionate, hard working and 100% committed to providing the best experience to all who surrounded him. He truly cared and it showed in his relentless pursuit of perfection which is a very difficult bar to set in the concert world. He will be missed by many.*

Mike Willaert-

Michael Willaert - March 08, 2021 at 03:21 PM



“ *Joseph Leahy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



Joseph Leahy - March 08, 2021 at 01:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 08, 2021 at 01:19 PM

PS

“ A tremendous loss. I worked with Derek for many years and ran into him at the Grand Floridian at Disney World a few times. He was always a gentleman and someone you could count on. I will truly miss him!

-Pete Skorich

Peter Skorich - March 08, 2021 at 12:57 PM

LJ

“ Derek was a big teddy bear nephew. We will always remember the joy you brought to the family.

Cousin Stephen & Aunt Linda

Linda Jacobson - March 08, 2021 at 12:35 PM

MC

“ Derek became a great friend. He always made me smile. He had a great outlook on life and love his family and friends. He and Gina always made you feel like you were part of their family. Derek I will miss you!

Mary Coyle - March 08, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 08, 2021 at 11:36 AM

YF

“ *Your 313 Presents Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



Your 313 Presents Family - March 08, 2021 at 10:41 AM

MR

“ *We at the Comedy Castle will miss your laughs and wonderful friendship Derek. You were truly a good friend and I will miss you terribly.*
Mark Ridley

Mark Ridley - March 08, 2021 at 10:06 AM

MG

“ *Derek - Thanks for being a great friend and for keeping our crew together. I will always look back fondly on our days on the Walt Disney World College Program. I wish we had time to make more memories together. My thoughts and prayers are with Gina and the Boczkowski family during this difficult time.*

Mike Grandillo



Michael Grandillo - March 08, 2021 at 12:24 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 07, 2021 at 10:50 PM



“ *Oh my, what a surprise. I lived next door to the Boczkowki's years ago. They were fantastic neighbors and Derek was a great kid. My thoughts and prayers are with Marlene and Brian at this time.*

Ed Mizgalski

Ed Mizgalski - March 07, 2021 at 09:30 PM



“ *Derek always welcomed me and my crew into the Palace no matter how big and goofy the production may have been. He greeted me with hug in the morning along with helping me figure out what ever problems that popped up during the day and gave me a Smile and a hug before we lift at the end of the night. I will truly miss him dearly!!!!*

*Peace & Love
Malcolm Weldon*

Malcolm Weldon - March 07, 2021 at 09:10 PM

JP

“ I am saddened to hear of my old friend. We had a lot of fun together.



Joe Paulus - March 07, 2021 at 08:59 PM

ME

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mike Erickson - March 07, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 07, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 07, 2021 at 04:47 PM

ME

“ Love you my friend! I have a huge whole in my heart and was hoping we would grow old together and have many more Disney Reunions. Rest In Peace and Good Night Castle!



Mike Erickson - March 07, 2021 at 04:37 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.



March 07, 2021 at 03:39 PM

BL

“ Derek you were taken to soon. I have peace in knowing that I will see you again. Prayers for Gina and the rest of your family and friends.



Brandon Lindemann - March 07, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Derek A. Boczkowski.*



March 07, 2021 at 03:20 PM