



Derek R. Dexter

December 28, 1968 - May 1, 2024

Derek Richard Dexter, Sterling Heights, Michigan

On Wednesday May 1 2024, Derek experienced the best moment of his life and we experienced the worst moment of ours when, at 6:08 pm, his heart simply stopped beating. He is now experiencing eternity while we are grieving. We are not sad for him. Our mourning is for ourselves for all the moments we won't have his smile and his hugs and his help.

Derek was born in Carson City Michigan on December 28, 1968. He graduated from Carson City-Crystal High School in 1987 and Michigan Technological University in 1992. In the Summer of 1991, he met his soulmate, Kelli, at Camp Living Waters in Luther Michigan. Within 6 weeks, they were engaged and they were married the next summer. During their 31 year marriage, they were blessed with three beautiful children: Kaylee Alexandria Raulston (Chris), Nathaniel Grant Torrey Dexter, and Maximus Daniel Charles Dexter, and two amazing grandchildren: Silas Christopher Sandow Raulston and Soli Deo Gloria Raulston. He is also survived by his bonus parents, Hugh Grant and Rosalie Green, his brothers Fred Hargett (Kay) and Bob Hargett (Linda). He was preceded in death by his parents Stephen Torrey Dexter Jr, Shirley Ann Gooding and his brother Stephen Torrey Dexter III.

Derek's family went far beyond blood relatives and are far too numerous to name here. He had many moms and dads, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, because he loved people - pretty much everyone he met. And what he loved most was helping people. He was "acts of service" personified. Everyone that knows him has a story to tell about something he had done for them.

Besides loving his family and helping people, Derek's other passion was running. He was proud of his 2:59:57 marathon PR and his 16:54 5K PR, both achieved after age 40. The older he got, the faster he got. He also loved watching Kaylee dance, Nate dive, and Max swim. Derek and Kelli enjoyed traveling and just being together. The quote above their bed summarizes their relationship: "This is true love. Do you think this happens every day?"

Visitation Sunday from 2:00 -5:00 pm and Monday from 12:00 pm until the time of the Funeral Service 1:00 pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica. Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 5. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

MAY 6. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
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Tribute Wall

KM

“ Dear Kelli, we were so sad to hear about Derek’s passing and our hearts and thoughts are with you and your family as you go through this sad time. Ava, Alex, and all of our family remember Derek so well from all the years with the Marlins. He was so dedicated to the team and gave so much to the swimmers and families; great memories from those years. We are so sorry for your loss ❤️

Karen Milana - May 08, 2024 at 07:27 PM

JJ

“ Truly saddened to hear of the passing of Derek. My heart and prayers go out to Kelli and children. I only knew Derek for a few short years, but in that time I came to know a genuinely selfless individual. Always there to help out the GoalMakers running group, checking up on us, to make sure we made it back safely. Pacing us in races, encouraging us. He and his family opening up there home for summer and Holiday parties. What a fine human being. Thank you Derek. You will truly be missed by all who knew and loved you!

JOHN R TOON, JR. - May 07, 2024 at 09:46 PM

EF

“ Our family lifts up your family in prayer. Mr. Dexter was our kids’ favorite teacher at The Academy and our hearts hurt for you.

Erdman Family - May 07, 2024 at 05:26 PM

JW

“ Our family attended the Academy Co-op for 3 years. I had the chance to assist Derek in his candy-making & gym classes, and my son had him each year for gym. He was a teacher who worked well with others, and the assistant teachers & students appreciated that. My son is graduating this year, and when listing his school highlights, mentioned "having Mr. Dexter as a gym teacher". We are beyond sorry for the Dexter family at such a huge loss. We're thankful for the hope that we'll see him again in Heaven someday.

Julie W. - May 06, 2024 at 09:44 AM

MB

“ Derek was such an amazing person. He had such a huge impact in the lives of my children at the Academy. They loved doing gym class with him. Whatever he did, he made it fun and brought such a positive attitude to it. Our prayers go out to the entire family. He will be dearly missed.

Melissa Barney - May 05, 2024 at 09:33 PM

LL

“ Praying for comfort for the family, Derek was such a nice man. Loved traveling with him and Kelli. Cal and Linda Leazenby

Linda Leazenby - May 05, 2024 at 05:46 PM

JT

“ Joanne, Karen, Rex & Theresa purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



Joanne, Karen, Rex & Theresa - May 05, 2024 at 12:56 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Derek R. Dexter.*



May 05, 2024 at 01:56 AM



“ *Kelli, Kaylee, Nate and Max we are so sorry for your loss our condolences to your whole family.*

Derek was a wonderful husband, a caring and fun father, and a blessing for all to be around. We rejoice with you in the fact that he is now in the arms of Jesus and you'll see him again one day!

May you be comforted by the presence of the Holy Spirit, by the unconditional love of Jesus, our Savior, and by the sovereignty of our God!

*We send our love to you all
The Raulston Family*

The Raulston Family - May 05, 2024 at 12:18 AM



“ *Mark and Beth Hurley and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek R. Dexter.*

Mark and Beth Hurley and Family - May 04, 2024 at 11:40 PM

MF

“ Mark and Beth Hurley and Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



Mark and Beth Hurley and Family - May 04, 2024 at 11:40 PM

DL

“ Dan and Mary Landon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek R. Dexter.

Dan and Mary Landon - May 04, 2024 at 08:40 PM

DL

“ Dan and Mary Landon purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



Dan and Mary Landon - May 04, 2024 at 08:40 PM



“ Derek taught me how to pump/swing. He was an extra big brother. Always loved when he (and family) stopped by the house for a piece of pecan pie. ❤️

Heather Kile - May 04, 2024 at 07:18 PM

TF

“ Thomas Stoudt & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



Thomas Stoudt & Family - May 04, 2024 at 07:08 PM

SM

“ Derek was uniquely himself never put on airs and he was always willing to help a friend.....he did that for my late hubby Mark when he was having troubles running Derek encouraged him to see a certain chiropractor to aid in helping Mark.....not to mention Derek was a good cook I still make his mango chicken!....every now and again when I would make it I'd text him saying it just wasn't quite as good as his.....give my Mark a GREAT BIG hug from me❤️❤️until we meet again in Glory!!.....Susan Michael

susan michael - May 04, 2024 at 07:01 PM

YF

“ Your Baby Fever Friends purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



Your Baby Fever Friends - May 04, 2024 at 06:54 PM

JL

“ You'll be missed more than you ever know! When I dealt with my health scares last year, you were always a constant source of comfort, guidance and support. It really helped me get through the dark times. We are all better for being a piece in your amazing life, my friend.

Jessica Landelius - May 04, 2024 at 04:07 PM

RS

“ Couldn't have asked for a better friend growing up. Always did things the right way. Years could go by and he would have the same reception, running up to me and literally jumping on me with a giant hug.

Rusty Stone - May 04, 2024 at 02:45 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



May 04, 2024 at 01:46 PM

TB

“ The Rumbuc's & Benninger's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek R. Dexter.

The Rumbuc's & Benninger's - May 04, 2024 at 01:46 PM

HD

“ HFII Swim and Dive purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



HFII Swim and Dive - May 04, 2024 at 11:51 AM

AF

“ Aaron Fritz lit a candle in memory of Derek R. Dexter



Aaron Fritz - May 04, 2024 at 11:34 AM

AF

“ I've known Derek since jr high. I don't think I've ever seen a happier human. He was always so caring and literally had a smile on his face at all times. Seeing him on Sundays at macomb was always a joy..you will always be remembered

Aaron Fritz - May 04, 2024 at 11:34 AM

JL

“ Derek made my family & I feel welcome when we joined Macomb Christian Church years ago. He was always encouraging, friendly & helpful & I am blessed to have met him. My sincerest sympathy to the Dexter family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Jen Lisow

Jennifer Lisow - May 04, 2024 at 10:30 AM

JT

“ You will never be forgotten. I had the honor to run with you on the track your last day. You ran a 19:05. 5k for fun! Everyone who new you will miss you.

john tarantino - May 04, 2024 at 10:19 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Derek R. Dexter.



May 04, 2024 at 10:12 AM

AM

“ Abby & Michael planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek R. Dexter.

Abby & Michael - May 04, 2024 at 10:12 AM

PL

“ We are going to miss you.

Pamela Lumetta - May 04, 2024 at 10:09 AM

DB

“ I was Derek's high school track and cross country coach for four years. He was very dedicated and a great teammate. So sorry about his passing.

Donald Baese - May 04, 2024 at 07:02 AM