



Robert Kevin Brettnacher

January 26, 1953 - August 26, 2023

Robert Kevin Brettnacher, age 70, died August 26, 2023 after a long and courageous battle with dementia. Kevin was born in Lafayette, Indiana, the eldest child of Robert and Joann (Ruppert) Brettnacher. In 1984 he married his longtime sweetheart, Kathryn (Katie) Ritter and he re-located to Michigan.

In his youth he was a star athlete at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana. He received an undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Industrial Education and Master's Degree in Education from Marygrove College. In Michigan he was a drafting teacher and coached football and wrestling at the Romeo Community Schools. He spent countless hours coaching with the Romeo High School Wrestling program. Kevin was a beloved coach and mentor to his students. He helped and influenced many students throughout his career.

In addition to his lifelong love of sports, Kevin was an avid outdoorsman and woodworking craftsman. He particularly enjoyed fly fishing, hunting with friends, and relaxing at his retreat in the Upper Peninsula. Many friends were the beneficiaries of his assistance with home improvement projects. Kevin rarely missed watching or attending football games at Purdue University. Kevin was a true friend and gave generously of his time to help his family and friends. Once you were Kevin's friend, you had a friend for life. His numerous friends remember him as kind, generous, fun-loving, and devoted to all whom

he loved. He also loved his Siberian Huskies and had eight different dogs over the years. You would often see Kevin around Royal Oak running his Huskies at all hours and in all weather.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Katie Ritter, brother Joe Brettnacher (Pam), brother Dan Brettnacher (Allison), brother-in-law Doug Jewel. Brother-in-law Tom Ritter (Linda), sister-in-law Becky Ritter, several nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and his dog, Arya. Kevin was preceded in death by his parents Joann and Robert (Bob) Brettnacher and sister Elizabeth (Eppy) Jewell.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors in Royal Oak, Michigan. (www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com). A memorial Mass is planned for 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 31 at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Madison Heights, Michigan. At 9:30 AM the family will greet visitors at the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association or the Michigan Humane Society. A Celebration of Life will be planned for a later date.

Cemetery Details

Oakview Cemetery

1032 N. Main Street
(south of 12 Mile Road)
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

AUG 31. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church
28353 Herbert Street
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Memorial Mass

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church
28353 Herbert Street
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Kevin was absolutely a lovely man when I worked with him in Romeo. He was kind and a great lunch buddy. I only have good memories of him and I fondly remember him attending my son’s Bar Mitzvah. Rest in Peace my friend.

Mindy Herman - September 04, 2023 at 05:52 PM

TJ

“ Thomas J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Kevin Brettnacher.

Thomas J. - August 30, 2023 at 01:55 AM



“ Robert Kevin Brettnacher was an extraordinary person who was admired, respected and loved by family and friends alike. I will always cherish the memories of our cousin Kevin and the entire Brettnacher family during our childhoods in Lafayette, Indiana. We pray for his beloved wife Kathryn (Katie) and his brothers Joseph and Daniel as well as their dear departed parents (Robert and Joann) and sister Elizabeth. Grant unto them O Lord Eternal Rest and The Perpetual Light Shine upon their immortal souls. Amen

Thomas Ruppert - August 30, 2023 at 01:45 AM

MG

“ *Kb. What a legend. I had him for 8th grade math in the mid 90s and was lucky to know him as an adult. He was so gracious and let me send him snail mail that he had to assemble. I already miss his pep talks of wisdom.*



Megan G - August 29, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Like many of us, I had Coach Brettnacher as a mentor on and off the field during the years at RJH. He was one of those people that always focused on the positives and found a way to motivate the best behaviors and attitude out of his students and his athletes. After graduating from college, we were reunited several times at the Royal Oak Brewery in the late 90s. We are all better because of this man! Scott Trbovich.*

Scott Trbovich - August 28, 2023 at 09:38 PM