



Ivan Loy

August 9, 2022

Ivan Dale Loy, 62, of rural Fort Collins, CO, died of an unexpected heart attack while working in the fields with his beloved goat herd on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

Ivan was born on June 9, 1960 to Pearl (Price) Loy and Clyde Loy in Broken Bow, Nebraska. Raised on the family farm, he attended a two-room school house in the nearby village of Berwyn before graduating from High School in Ansley, NE (1978). He earned his bachelor's degree in education (1982) from Kearney State College (now Univ. of Nebraska, Kearney), specializing in mathematics in which he was supremely gifted. Right out of college, he taught for a year in Lewellen, NE before returning to work with his father on the family farm and taught Music and Math in the Ansley schools. In 1993 he moved to Laramie, WY, to pursue a master's degree in math education at the University of Wyoming, which he completed in 1998. After moving to Fort Collins in 1994 Ivan started teaching at Front Range Community College , Larimer Campus, where he spent the rest of his career, retiring in 2018.

It was shortly after he moved to Laramie, on August 9, 1993, he met his life partner Mark Lee. He discovered a new sense of self, love and community, and was embraced by the LGBTQ+ community. Over the years, many students looked to him for courage and inspiration in their own life struggles. Ivan and Mark had a religious, but not legal, "Holy Union" commitment

ceremony in 1995 at Metropolitan Community Church Family in Christ, where Mark was the pastor.

Growing up, he was part of Ansley Baptist Church, playing piano regularly for services. He also accompanied a traveling gospel quartet who performed for concerts and revivals through central Nebraska. In college he was part of the Roger Williams Foundation and Campus Crusade, and served on the state board of the Nebraska Baptists. Later he tended to follow Mark's ministry calls, being a member of MCC Family in Christ, MCC Light of the Plains in Cheyenne, and Plymouth UCC in Ft Collins. For the last five years Ivan returned to his roots and became deeply involved in the progressive American Baptist Church, Ft Collins.

Ivan was particularly passionate about teaching young people that others had overlooked or given up on. He could teach every class, but particularly enjoyed and excelled with the development courses, where he was able to inspire hope and accomplishment in students who had despaired of learning math. His tagline, "Math is fun!" was both joke and goal. Ivan exhibited a unique mix of teaching skill, interpersonal compassion, and patience with his students. He was deeply involved in developing innovative instructional methods. He served as Vice President of COAID (Colorado Association of Developmental Education), helped coordinate state COAID conferences, and introduced those methods to his school. He received recognition for his significant contributions to the state of Colorado community college system as 2015 Faculty of the Year. Colleagues nominated him for Master Teacher at FRCC many times, and he was honored as Master Teacher of 2014-15.

After he bought a small acreage north of Ft Collins in 2000, he and Mark started raising Boer goats. What began as a couple of goats to keep the weeds down, became a business and passion of selling market goats for the 4H programs. For a time they sold registered stock, but in recent years

returned to commercial animals. During the summers they took the herd to various places to do weed control, especially on leafy spurge. Many will remember seeing the herd at the old Ft Collins Water Plant on Overland Trail, and there are stories of escaped goats wandering through exurban neighborhoods. Ivan died while working on one of these weed control pastures.

Ivan loved sharing the goats with people; colleagues from school and friends from church would bring their kids and grandkids out to play with the goat kids. He was a skilled farmer and herdsman, but always mourned deeply when anything from a chicken to a llama was hurt or died. He loved every living thing, even replanting tomato thinnings that had sprouted too thickly into their own peat cell.

Ivan and Mark loved to travel. Over the years they backpacked in the Sierras, Big Horns and Wind River mountains and car camped throughout Colorado. They enjoyed cruises in the Caribbean, central America, and particularly Alaska. They visited many western national parks, discovering the desert parks of Utah in just the last couple of years. There were trips to London and Paris, Australia and Canada; a long car exploration of Wales where he found artifacts and places from his mother's Price ancestry; and a spiritually and politically profound pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel.

He is survived by his life partner the Rev. Dr. Mark Lee, his sister Lois Clay (Gary); and his nieces and nephews: Michael Clay (Ashley, children Sebastian and Lincoln), Tammy Neel (Chris, children JoAnn and James), Derek Clay (Shelly, children Kolten and Bayler), and Brittany McDermott (Daniel, children Scott and Jackson). In addition, he leaves a great cloud of witnesses from the church communities he participated in, and multitudes of students and colleagues.

Cremation has been performed. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, August 27 at 11 a.m. MDT at American Baptist Church in Fort Collins with the Rev. Kimberly Salico-Diehl officiating. It will also be streamed on Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89882047305?pwd=Q3RIWFAYR2hRWHLzV2trclJLL0RuQT09> Meeting ID: 898 8204 7305 Passcode: ABC4JC.

Interment will be in the family plot at the Village Cemetery in Ansley, Nebraska at 11:00 am on September 3, 2022. Memorial donations may be made in Ivan's memory to the scholarship fund of the Ansley Spartan Foundation <https://spartanfoundation.online> .

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (MT)

American Baptist Church
600 South Shields Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

JE

“ Nice man. Good heart. Taught me in a remedial math class. He would never get frustrated nor leave anyone behind. His enthusiasm for the class was great. It rubbed off on all of us. One of the good ones.

Jeremiah - July 15, 2023 at 12:17 AM



“ Ivan Loy

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM

MA

“ My favorite math teacher! He truly made "math fun". I had the opportunity to take several math classes here at FRCC and I always chose Ivan. His positive energy and attitude made the classes so enjoyable. He always had a great joke or two to share with the class. My favorite joke, "how does a barber know he's cutting a math teachers hair?", by the square roots!! Peace be with you.

Margaret - August 26, 2022 at 07:37 AM

LM

“ I enjoyed having lunch with Ivan in the cafeteria. I loved his sense of humor. I also visited his little farm and enjoyed seeing him among the animals there. Sorry you had to leave us, Ivan.

Laura Manuel - August 25, 2022 at 08:54 PM

RR

“ I met Ivan when serving as a Dean, at Front Range Community College. One of the biggest obstacles to students graduating was the Math requirement and that's one of the places that Ivan transformed people's lives with his dedication and loving spirit. He was one of the most patient professors that I ever met. Each summer when Mark and Ivan would have their summer party I observed his love for animals which my son shared. My son Kyle loved going to their house and he thought it was a place of magical joy which was true. The world was a better place because Ivan was in it. I am sending my love and prayers.

Dr. Rosemarie Russo

Rosemarie Russo - August 21, 2022 at 06:42 PM

JK

“ I was lucky and blessed enough to be assigned to Ivan's class my first semester at Front Range. He spent countless days trying to convince me that "Math is fun!" (I still disagree.) I've struggled with math since I began school, which was extremely frustrating as I tended to excel in all other subjects. Ivan was the first person in my schooling who ever took the time or made an effort to truly help me understand. He patiently answered questions that should have been explained to me years ago. He never stopped encouraging me to keep at it, even when I wanted to quit (and there were a LOT of those times). He made jokes and told silly stories to make me smile when home was crazy. And he never, ever lost faith that I'd graduate. And without him, I doubt I would have. I nearly cried when I learned he didn't teach College Algebra - I was terrified of trying to pass a math class with anyone else teaching it, especially the last one I needed in order to get my degree. But Ivan being Ivan, he knew my learning style and knew the best instructor to teach me in that same manner. And because of him, I DID succeed and graduated with a Business degree. Ivan saw me in his class a total of FOUR semesters (I won't lie, there were some duplicates in there!) - and he never gave up on me...
Math will never be fun for me (sorry Ivan!) and I have yet to meet a fraction which I'd want to be friends with... But I will also never forget the one teacher who TAUGHT me math.
Ivan, I know you're watching from above to make sure the alphabet stays in math (where it does NOT belong). I'm not sure how much kids are selling for by the pound currently, but Brodie is 6'5" now so send me a sign if you see me struggling financially. Rest in peace, knowing you made such a difference to so many - especially me. ❤️

Jenniffer Krell - August 20, 2022 at 09:33 PM

TB

“ *Mr. Loy was a teacher of mine in high school, he got the tough job of teaching me math skills and helping pass the toughest subject ever. He was so patient and kind to me, something a kid like myself at that point in my life really needed. Later in life I got to know him as a friend and. I will miss his stories, insight and posts of his life that he shared with all. He will be missed a great deal, rest in heavenly peace Mr. Loy.*

Tara Berry - August 20, 2022 at 03:09 PM

NT

Ivan was the most patient (I was his math student for more than one class) , kind, generous and loyal friend one could meet. I am glad we got to know each other well because my life was made richer and fuller. I will miss you beyond what words can convey. Rest in heavenly peace.

Namuyaba Temanju - August 20, 2022 at 09:58 PM