



John Gaalswyk

July 1, 1955 - October 14, 2008

John R. Gaalswyk, age 53, of Fort Collins died on October 14, 2008 at Poudre Valley Hospital. A viewing and visitation will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr., Ft. Collins.

John's funeral service will be held on Sunday, October 19 at 1:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins. John's cremated remains will be buried at the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Juvenile Diabetes Association or to the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. John was born July 1, 1955 in St Louis Park, Minnesota to Arie and Corolyn Gaalswyk. He grew up in Sioux Falls. After graduating from high school, he worked all over the west and up into Alaska as a heavy equipment mechanic in the construction industry. John moved to Fort Collins in 1983 where he was the owner of JR's Mobile Service as an auto mechanic. He married Charlene Liggett-Taylor on July 13, 1987 in Sioux Falls.

John was an avid motorcycle rider and raced in his youth. He loved anything involving speed including downhill skiing and sky diving. He was scuba certified and owned an ultra light airplane. John lived his life to the fullest – he pushed the limit. He would want to be remembered as a good and honest man and mechanic. John is survived by his wife, Charlene; their daughter Kari Gaalswyk; his father, Arie Gaalswyk of Fairmont, MN, his brother, Joel Gaalswyk of Spring Green, WI; his sister, Judy Gaalswyk of Rapid City, SD; fifty-one 1st cousins; and one nephew, Ian Thomas of Parker, CO.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Gaalswyk*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *John Gaalswyk*

Ron Gullickson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kari and Char, On behalf of all of us at Rivendell, I extend deepest sympathy. Please know that our thoughts are with you. Love, Kate*

Kate Duncan - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr Gaalswyk,
We were sorry to read of your son's passing in the Sioux Falls paper. You were among our favorite teachers at Augie. One of our daughters is a current Augustana student and on the soccer team. Our sympathy to your whole family.*

Bob and Ann (Forsch) Timmons - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We knew John and have known the Gaalswyk family for many years. We visited John and his business in Colorado 1986. John was a salt of the earth type guy, a good man. His family and many others will miss him. We were neighbors to the family in Sioux Falls for a number of year, we lived on Patrick Place.*

Les and Sherry

Les and Sherry Carson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ John was a special and kind man who was an icon for integrity. John always was a pleasure to visit with and be around. His work was always trustworthy and thorough. On a number of occasions, I would ask John to complete some work and he would convince me that the work wasn't needed and he didn't want me waisting my money. The world would be a better place if it were filled with people like John. You will be missed and our prayers go out to Charlene and Kari and the rest of John's family. May God grant you peace.

Francis Gillis - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Very sorry to hear of your loss.

The Formans - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Char, Bill and I were so sorry to read of JR's passing. He was such a good and genuine man in all relationships. We missed having him as our mechanic these past few years and wish we had done more to keep the friendship current. Our thoughts are with you and Kari. Sincerely, Ginny and Bill Slauson

Ginny Slauson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ We remember the many many years that John kept our fleet in great repair. John was our master mechanic from day one back in May of 1983. I personally remember going water skiing with John & Char at Horsetooth after a hard days work. Our deepest sympathy to Char, Kari, and the Gaalswyk family. Our prayers are with you.

John Puma - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dear Char & Kari,

I am so sorry for your loss. I had only met John a few times but he must be a most awesome man to have raised such a wonderful daughter. My thoughts are with you in this difficult time. Remember that the pain you feel now is because of the great love you have. That pain over time will transfer into smiles with fond memories touching your hearts. He will always be with you in those memories.

*All my sympathies,
Lisa*

Lisa Winta - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *I am saddened to hear of John's passing. The Gaalswyk family has been special to me for many years- Arie, Corolyn, Judy, Joel, and John. I send special hugs to Arie, Judy and Joel. I wish you all the best and join you in celebrating that life of vitality and adventure that so characterized John.*

*with love,
JD*

J. D. Thompson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Judy and family - I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. It is so hard to lose someone that young. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Sally (Thompson) Sundby - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ *Our Thoughts and Prayers are with you*

Will & Linda Wood - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *JR and Char were great neighbors, our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Ron & Jennifer Wood - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Arie,
My heart goes out to you. How terrible to lose a son. John sounds like a truly wonderful man; and I know he must have been since he was your son. Please know that I will keep you and all of John's family in my thoughts and prayers. Maureen*

Maureen Diggins - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *Arie, we were sorry to learn of the loss of your son, John. Helen and I send you and John's family our condolences for your loss.
In Christ,
Roy and Helen*

Roy & Helen Kintner - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *John will always be the gold standard of mechanics and a good friend. His quick smile and laugh were trademarks of his good nature, which he shared freely. He was truly a master at his trade, and his skill was matched by his honesty and integrity, ingenuity and creativity. His love and pride of Shar, Cary, and family made its way into every conversation - and I'm sure they were his greatest treasures. I am among many that will miss this fine man that lived his life fully and well. My heart felt condolences go out to all of the Gaalswyk family.*

Frank Stonaker - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *My sympathy to my Gaalswyk friends, to father Arie, brother Joel, and sister Judy. I had lost track of John but remember him as the adventurer of the family and so was shocked to learn of his passing. He will be remembered.*

Arthur Huseboe - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VN

“ *Arie, Judy and Joel:*

VR and I were saddened to learn of John's death. We have such fond feelings regarding the Gaalswyks. Our memories of our days together at Augie are so special.

Joyce and Ronnie.

VR and Joyce Nelson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *Dr. Gaalswyk and Joel, My condolences on the loss of your son/brother. Signed: Ron Gullickson, Augustana College Class of '65, now living in Bellevue, NE, working for Lockheed Martin Corporation and also owner of a small business in Omaha.*

Ron Gullickson - October 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM