



## Mark "Mark Van Ark" Pryputniewicz

October 8, 2025

Mark D. Pryputniewicz (aka Mark Van Ark), 71, of Ft. Collins, CO, passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. He leaves behind his brother Steve Pryputniewicz, Forestville, CA; his sister Rutha Pryputniewicz, Burns, OR; his sister Sarah Chetnik, New Hartford, NY; his sister Vanya Pryputniewicz, Burns, OR; his long-time friend, Beth McPhail, of Ft. Collins, CO; and several nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life, where Mark's enduring legacy will be honored, will be held Sunday November 9, 2025 at 2PM to 5PM at Avogadro's Number, 605 S Mason St, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Mark was a brilliant musician. Music was his life. When he was 12 years old, his brother Steve taught him a few guitar chords. Thus began a passion for music that led him on a life-long journey devoted to the art. Masterful with guitar, he was also a self-taught pianist. He formed numerous bands, and performed with them at various venues. Throughout his travels, Mark created his own style influenced by blues, jazz, R&B, soul, funk, classical and country, which he called "phillabilly". He composed countless tunes, and recorded numerous CD's, both solo, and with other musicians and singers. His music will endure.

Mark will be remembered not only for his musical talent, but also for his love

of family, his story-telling skills, his lively sense of humor, and his caring heart. Mark lived his life according to his own terms. He had a positive outlook, and he didn't let his illness get him down. Rather, he was always moving ahead. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, and his fellow musicians

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 9. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Avogadro's Number  
605 S Mason St  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ My God, I grew up with Mark all through high school in New Hartford, NY. We spent much time together listening to the Beatles and Rolling Stones. I vividly remember being with him at the New Hartford Shopping standing outside a small record store. He says to me, "you gotta hear this". It was Live at the Regal by BB King. My life was changed. I fell in love with the blues and to this day, I love it. We were close back then I played bass for him in many bands. We were young and learning but there weren't too many days that I didn't see him. Finally, somewhere in the mid 70's he changed. Not sure what happened but a very good friend of ours Marian Rashap and I drove him to Rochester and dropped him off so he could go to his brother Steve's home. Never saw him again but often thought about him. Rest in Peace my Friend.

Dennis Polanowicz - January 05 at 09:46 AM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album Mark Van Ark



Joann McKenna - November 08, 2025 at 02:17 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album Mark Van Ark



Joann McKenna - November 07, 2025 at 04:17 PM

TQ

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mark long ago when we were both teenagers. We briefly played in a band together. A truly talented musician and a good friend.

*My thoughts are with Mark's family. So very sorry for your loss.*

*Tom Quayle*

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**Tom Quayle** - November 04, 2025 at 06:48 PM

DB

“ I was saddened to hear of Mark's passing. So many memories of growing up across the street and playing with Mark growing up. Sleeping out in the woods, Spookyland trail, Jodju (yeah, bad spelling but that's what we called him), learning and playing guitar with him ... Please accept my sincere condolences. I wouldn't have changed anything from my childhood on Oxford Rd, and Mark was a good friend and playmate that made it all good memories. Oh yeah, one day I was in the basement and he said 'You have to hear this ,,' and put on Sgt Pepper for the first time I heard it..I was blown away.

*-Don Backman*

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**Don Backman** - November 03, 2025 at 07:53 PM