



Robert Matthew Ward
4/9/1953 - 3/19/2017

son of Les Jr. and Joanne Ward
grandson of Leslie Arthur and Elizabeth Ward

Robert Matthew Ward (63), of St. Johns, MI, passed peacefully at his home on March 19, 2017 with family by his side. Calling himself "naturally lucky", Rob enjoyed his life in spite of many arduous years of polycystic kidney disease that began in his mid-30's, including 20 years of dialysis. He outlived his life expectancy by several years, while maintaining a positive outlook on life throughout his long-term illness. He was kind and friendly to everyone and everything and was admired for his tenacity to endure the adversities of his health.

Born April 9, 1953, Rob was raised in Saginaw Township by Les and Joanne Ward and graduated from Douglas MacArthur High School in 1971. While gifted in math and science, music was always his driving force. He was interested in all kinds of music and musicians and played keyboard for bands of all genres throughout his adulthood. He really enjoyed his last band, The Upstage Crew Blues Band from Grand Rapids, and was working toward a music degree until his illness prevented him from continuing.

Rob was an avid reader and enjoyed conversing on pertinent subjects. He was also a sports car fan and an avid Marvel and DC comic fan. An interest that began in childhood with comic books continued throughout his life, as he watched every TV series and action movie he could at IMAX or 3D theaters.

Rob was a partner of the Listening Room in Saginaw in its early years. He then founded Home Systems Group in Lansing where he sold and installed high-end stereo equipment and home entertainment systems. His last employment was at Peckham in Lansing as a passport call center operator until 2013.

After two previous marriages, Rob married Wanda Loyce Schmidt of Lansing in May, 2004. They enjoyed traveling, gardening, raising chickens, spending time with their grandchildren and living a quiet life in rural St. Johns with their beloved chocolate Lab, Lily, and cat, Taffy. Wanda preceded him in death in October, 2014.

Rob is survived by his mother, Joanne Ward, of Saginaw; sister Jane Ward, of Mt. Pleasant; son Talon Ward, of Orlando, FL; brother-in-law Randy (Laura) Schmidt, of St. Johns; father-in-law Earl (Lynn) Schmidt of Ionia; step-son Larry (Ivy) Schmidt and their children Calvin and Arbor of Williamston; and other members of the Schmidt family.

Following cremation, a celebration of his life will take place at his home when weather permits. Expressions of sympathy may be emailed to WandRWard@hotmail.com. Those wishing to offer a commemorative memorial may consider donating to an animal shelter. Published in Lansing State Journal on Mar. 26, 2017