



## Mark K. Kotyla

August 17, 2018

It is with the utmost sadness that I write this post. My best friend for the past 30 years and husband for the past 27 years was diagnosed with aggressive b cell non hodgkins lymphoma last Monday. Like any other health issues Mark has ever faced, we planned to face this head on and were committed to beating this. Plan:15 weeks of treatments, then in January, he could recover and celebrate in Florida. However, it wasn't long before we realized this health issue would prove to be much more challenging than we could have ever imagined. On Wednesday, Mark was readmitted to the hospital whereby, we were told the cancer had spread to his liver. At 9:30 PM, this past Friday, the love of my life, father of our only daughter, Cassidy passed away surrounded by tremendous love and his family. It's been a roller coaster ride of emotions.

I've been making calls to friends and clients since Saturday morning. I've been honored by those of you who have shared your memories of Mark. My heart is filled with joy when I think of how Mark must be feeling hearing everyone express their feelings of sadness but grateful he had been in their lives. Upon Cassidy's return from a business trip on Wednesday, she quickly ran up to find him in his bed. He remarked on how difficult of a year it has been for her since she had lost several friends due to unfortunate accidents. He told her that sometimes life doesn't seem fair but you always need to move forward. I met Mark 30 years ago and was immediately attracted to him because of his love of life and sense of humor. We made a commitment to one another on May 11, 1991 to love and honor one another, in sickness and in health. August 7, 1997, we were blessed with a beautiful daughter. While plagued with many health issues, Mark never complained and tried to live a full life whenever possible. I will forever be grateful I attended happy hour at the Farmington Marriott 30 years ago and introduced myself to Mark. It didn't take long to fall in love with you and I will forever keep you in my heart and admire the honorable, loving and courageous person you were especially during the last week of your life. Your "girls" will forever miss you but know you will guide us. I love you Mark and I miss you with all my heart.

Mark is survived by his wife, Chantal, daughter, Cassidy and mother Kazimiera Szlaban. We would like to thank Dr. Barry Steckler who was Mark's family physician and friend for the past 40 years. Dr. Steckler always offered support and clarity to Mark's health care

issues, to Dr. Solomon and all the Doctors and compassionate nursing staff at Hospital of Central CT who worked so hard to give Mark a fighting chance. Thank you to all of Mark's clients, extended family and friends who share our pain and have blessed us with countless stories which we will cherish forever.

Mark's wake will be at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford on Wednesday, 5:00-8:00 pm. Funeral with Military Honors will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford on Thursday at 10:00 am.

Reception in the Parish Center to follow. While making funeral arrangements, Chantal came across this and feels it's Mark's message to all of us. Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me: I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all. I could

not stay another day. To laugh, to love, to work, or play: Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that place at the close of day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembering joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow; I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I've savored much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me. God wanted me now - He set me free.

Note: parking for the funeral will be available on Outlook Rd, Robin Road, Dover Road and the Beth David Synagogue parking lot. Cassidy & I are in the process of establishing a Music Scholarship at Conard HS in Mark's memory. Donations in lieu of flowers can also be made to St Thomas the Apostle Church Capital Campaign Fund / Mark Kotyla's Memorial Fund. We would like to create a flower garden in his memory.

# Events

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**AUG** **Calling Hours** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

**22**

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Molloy Funeral Home

906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT, US, 06119

**AUG** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

**23**

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St. Thomas the Apostle

872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT, US

# Comments

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“ Chantal, Kazi, and family,  
I just learned of Mark's passing today, Aug. 28th. I cannot tell you how sad I am for you all. Mark was a wonderful person with a great sense of humor. He and I had a lot of fun when we worked part-time together. I really enjoyed his company and know everyone thought he was fun loving and kind.

My thoughts are with you during this time of deep loss and grief.

Marty Leonard

Marty Leonard - August 28, 2018 at 07:11 PM

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“ Chantal and family,

I'm deeply sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.

Sam Bianchi

Samsaim Bianchi - August 23, 2018 at 09:35 AM

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“ Each of us is on the journey of life, each as distinct as stars in the sky. Some seemingly far whereas others closer, shining more brightly. Mark was one of those stars close to us, shining uniquely for each one of us, lucky enough to be part of his journey.

Some are a beacon of light for one another. Mark certainly was. He showed us strength and courage to continue going no matter what AND focused on the joyful moments life brought him as he fulfilled his many dreams. Dreams met more recently included spending the winter in a home purchased in Florida and to live long enough to see his delightful daughter Cassidy graduate from college, just a few weeks ago!

And of course, whether on his boat in Connecticut or the beaches of Florida, being near water provided Mark with time to de-stress from the burdens brought on by his health challenges.

And always by his side his cherished wife Chantal, my sister, totally devoted to him from the time their eyes interlocked.

We will miss the special blessings Mark brought to holiday gatherings as he showed us time and time again how special and precious each of us was to him.

Most of all, we will miss his physical presence and his dance moves - who would

have thought? Yet know beyond a doubt that he remains present in our heart always.

We are reminded that we never know when it will be our last day, our last breath. We're also reminded to be kind and loving to others, to let go of being so serious and like children to "Play well" together in this game of life.

Mark reminded us to take ake time to be grateful for those in our life.

May Mark look upon us from heaven and send us signals of his eternal presence.

We will love you, always. Jocelyne

**jocelyne** - August 22, 2018 at 02:51 PM



“ I will never forget the lessons I learned from Mark, just being lucky enough to be part of his family.

He nailed it!

I will miss him greatly and try to be more like him.

Anything u need , let me know.

**Scott Biondi** - December 02, 2018 at 09:16 AM

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“ Jim and Laura Lami purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mark K. Kotyla.



**Jim and Laura Lami** - August 22, 2018 at 01:42 PM

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“ Chantal and Cassidy and family,  
Please accept our deepest condolences on Mark's passing. He was a terrific guy and was always willing to help out with Clean Up Days at Church. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you.

Michael and Kathy

**Michael DeConti** - August 22, 2018 at 10:35 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mark K. Kotyla.



August 22, 2018 at 09:47 AM

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“ Chase Wagner & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark K. Kotyla.



**Chase Wagner & Family** - August 21, 2018 at 02:42 PM

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“ DSD Business Systems purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mark K. Kotyla.



**DSD Business Systems** - August 21, 2018 at 02:31 PM

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“ Sending lots and lots of love to you, Cassidy and your whole family.  
Pamela and Charlie Hilborn

**Pamela Hilborn** - August 21, 2018 at 09:32 AM