



Nilsson "Gunnar" Edward Degerberg

August 15, 1954 - September 5, 2017

Nilsson Edward "Gunnar" Degerberg, age 63, died peacefully in Nashville, Tennessee on September the 5th of lung cancer. Gunnar was born on August 15, 1954 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania to Robert Clayton Degerberg and Patricia Krugler Jackson. He lived in the Wilmington-Philadelphia area until 2000 when he moved to Nashville and met the love of his life William Ronald "Ron" Browning. Gunnar attended the University of Delaware and graduated from The Restaurant School in 1983 with an Associate's degree in Restaurant Management. Gunnar worked in the restaurant business and auto sales for many years, but it was with his final career as a house stager that his impeccable sense of design and style really shone. Every residence that Gunnar ever lived in was meticulously decorated and arranged, woe be to the person who moved a single item an inch out of place. Gunnar was a voracious reader, especially of mysteries. he enjoyed old movies and could identify almost any actor at a single glance. His love of all things Coca-Cola was famous. He drank it constantly and had an extensive collection of Coke memorabilia. At Christmas there was always a beautiful tree decorated with Coke-themed ornaments. Gunnar's outsized personality was unforgettable, he will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Gunnar loved sailing. As a companion, an integral part of Ron's vocal workshops and master classes, he became a source of inspiration for Ron and his work. A gifted artist, he used his own paintings in his home staging. Gunnar was the best storyteller, and one of the most charismatic and fun loving people. He is preceded in death by

his brother, Kristopher Anthony Degerberg. He is survived by his life partner of 17 years, Ron Browning of Nashville, Tennessee; his siblings, George Nelson Degerberg, III (Virginia), Josephyne "Jodie" McCormick Payne (George), Katherine Susan Degerberg (John Parker), Willis Anthony "Tony" McCormick, Mary Degerberg Leyden (Jim); his nephews and nieces, Jackson Hill Payne, James Joseph Leyden, Lee Standish Payne, Robert Scott Layden, Amelie Grace Leyden, Jacob Judson McCormick, and Kristina Myland McCormick; his seven step-siblings, and the Browning family. In addition to Ron, Gunnar is survived by the two remaining members of the "Sedona Six", Amy Rao Mohan and Stanley Joel Churchwell. A Memorial visitation will be held Sunday, September 10th from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Nilsson "Gunnar" Edward Degerberg

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ Dear dear Gunnar....
You will always hold a special place in my heart and bring an extremely large smile to my face. I have so many fond memories of sharing wine, music and great food in Philly. You, Nan, Tim and all the other friends who shared so much laughter and friendship. My cactus named after you. Rest In Peace lovely man. You will never be forgotten!

Loretta - March 06, 2018 at 08:07 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this. Please accept my deepest condolences. May your memories warm your heart and bring a smile to your face in time. My hope is that God will give you the strength and power you need to cope with the loss of your loved one. Isaiah 40:29

Carla - September 13, 2017 at 04:29 PM

LL

“ Had a visitor from Australia this past week that sang a song she had written.

"We'll stay together for ever, yet one of us will leave first; will it be you?or will it be me....? Who will be left as "one" loving two...we'll stay together forever..."

Dear Sweet Ron,

The page has turned, this chapter is complete... Life will bring you love and joy at every twist and turn.... I know this is true for you Ron. You are filled with such great enthusiasm & energy...What a gift to have shared between you and Gunnar.

Much love, Linda & Skip

Linda Hochberg & Skip Lawrence - September 12, 2017 at 07:07 PM

JH

“ Our hearts and prayers for you and the family!

John and Casey Harris - September 11, 2017 at 06:48 PM

MD

“ Our love and prayers Gunnar and Ron. Gunnar was such a funny guy his sense of humor his spirit his smile, such a light. He will we greatly missed.

Melissa Seay Delgado - September 10, 2017 at 04:35 PM

SC

“ It was our pleasure to host Ron and Gunnar for three consecutive years as Ron coached singers for the Castleton Festival in Virginia. Gunnar will be remembered by anyone who ever spent time with him for his refinement and wit. Thank you for driving all the way to attend Norman's memorial service five years ago. Rest in Peace, dear Gunnar; you left us far too early.

Sandra S. Cartwright-Brown - September 08, 2017 at 01:02 AM

WA

“ I always looked forward to seeing GUNNER when he would get his haircut with June it was always a joy to see him and get him riled up. He and Ron I always envied their loving relationship and hope someday I find someone that loves me that much. Ron my heart goes out to you I know you must be in so much heartache..... You are in my thoughts....

Wayne - September 08, 2017 at 12:50 AM

KD

“ So very sorry and will continue to pray and send loving energy your way Ron. Gunnar will be missed by many.

Kandes Dungey - September 07, 2017 at 03:40 PM

M(

“ So sorry for your loss thinking of you at this difficult time

Mechelle Mcurtry (Dekmar) - September 07, 2017 at 09:09 AM

BT

“ Our deepest, heartfelt condolences to Ron. We met Gunnar last year in Palm Beach when our dear friend Jodie was ill. Lloyd and I were honored to have met him and spend time at dinner with his bright beautiful soul. He was a special man and please know that our hearts are with you during this time of grief.

Ben Williams & Lloyd Terry - September 07, 2017 at 03:55 AM

CC

“ I met you briefly, years ago, and remember your smile and warmth! Rest well. Godspeed.

Christy Chambers - September 07, 2017 at 03:55 AM

MF

“ Sending condolences and sympathy from Atlanta. May you, Ron, and Gunnar's family and friends be surrounded by love, holding good memories of a truly vibrant human being, forever.

Melissa Gordon Rhine and Family - September 07, 2017 at 03:36 AM

CC

“ Handsome, tall, funny, unique, gracious, loud, direct, cool, warm, caring, creative, striking, impeccable, love/loving/loved.....his Ron!

Be well on your new journey!

Cynthia Capers - September 07, 2017 at 03:00 AM

MB

“ So sorry Ron, my thoughts and love will be with you . I have fond memories of my bidding buddy at our reunions.

Mary "Pudge" Bowling - September 06, 2017 at 11:27 PM

PL

“ We remember Gunnar with joy. His joy! It was contagious and everyone who was lucky enough to be with him shared in it. We send our love and condolences to Ron and Gunnar's family with hopes that their grief may be tempered by all of our gratitude for Gunnar in our lives.

Pat & Pete Luboff - September 06, 2017 at 10:47 PM

BH

“ We are having Sheperd's Pie tonight in honor of the fabulous Sheperd's Pie Gunnar bought to Vanderbilt after my awful surgery and fed everyone on the floor!! He was wonderful and we are all so blessed to have known him. Love you!!!

Bobby and Barbara Holder - September 06, 2017 at 10:34 PM

SF

“ May you gain strength from our Lord Jesus Christ during this time of grief. He was a terrific man. Remember what my granddaughter said when my Billy went to heaven. "Don't you think sometimes God needs a GOOD angel. "

Shirley Fister - September 06, 2017 at 10:29 PM

GR

“ Our prayers and love are surrounding you and your precious family during this time. We love you Ron

Gina Raulston. - September 06, 2017 at 09:50 PM

TV

“ My heart is with you Ron and all the family and friends.

Theresa Votaw. - September 06, 2017 at 09:40 PM