



## Mark A. van Voorst

September 9, 1953 - May 21, 2026

Mark A. van Voorst, 72, of Middle Grove, passed away on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family, after a long and courageous battle with significant health challenges.

Mark was born on September 9, 1953, in Holland, MI to Bruce and Marilyn (van Hekken) van Voorst. After spending much of his youth living overseas, Mark returned to the US and was a 1975 graduate of Hope College with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and political science, and a 1978 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity in pastoral counseling.

Mark dedicated nearly 50 years to the intellectual and developmental disabilities field, beginning at the Jefferson County ARC in 1978. He moved on to the Lexington Center in 1987 where he began as Director of Rehabilitation and worked his way up to Associate Executive Director before leaving in 2001. His career path then took him to New York City, where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer at Lifespire, Inc. until 2017. After leaving his position at Lifespire, Mark returned to the ARC system as the Executive Director of The ARC New York, where he left a lasting impact through his dedication, leadership, and focus on the future. Throughout his career he remained committed to strengthening the care and outcomes for the community he served.

While in college Mark was an avid soccer player and later enjoyed racquetball, target shooting, and was a prolific reader. Faith has been

important to Mark, especially in recent years. A devout Christian, Mark was honored to be re-baptized with his daughter shortly before his passing, by Pastor William Pitcher. Mark also enjoyed his time at the group Mondays for Men at the First Baptist Church in Amsterdam, NY.

In addition to his parents, Mark is also predeceased by his stepmother, Barbara van Voorst.

Mark is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate of 30 years, Cindy (Perry) van Voorst, whom he shared some of his favorite memories. He is also survived by a daughter, Elizabeth (Matthew) Fiorillo; stepchildren, Michael (Heather) Hanson, Peter Buanno, and Jennifer (James) Keller; grandchildren, Emily and Sarah Fiorillo, Cole and Morgan Hanson, Ella, Lillian, and Maxton Buanno, and Juliette Keller; 3 sisters, Kathy (Hugh) Marchmon-Robinson, Susi (Michael) Prins, and Carol van Voorst (William Garland). He also leaves behind his canine companion, Slate, who was always by his side.

Mark was a great man who will be remembered for his kindness, honesty, intelligence, humor, and love and devotion to his family, but above all he was humble. He was surprised by the impact he had on so many people both personally and professionally.

Cremation took place at Park View Crematorium, Schenectady. At his request there will be no services. The family will hold a private celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, it was Mark's request that donations be made to Tunnels To Towers Foundation or Wounded Warrior Project as he felt very indebted to the men and woman who gave so much so others could live.

"Well done, good and faithful servant".

Arrangements are by Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc., Johnstown. To express online condolences, visit [www.halgasfuneralhome.com](http://www.halgasfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *It's all been said by those who knew him better. We worked together on an ARC project in Watertown in 1986. I'm eighty-four years old and have yet to meet more than a handful of men of such character.*

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**Jack Riley** - June 08 at 07:12 AM

JF

“ *I extend my deepest sympathy to Cindy and all of Mark's family. While I only knew Mark for a short time, I feel we got to know each other well at the Mondays for Men scripture discussions at First Baptist Church in Amsterdam.*

*Mark asked probing questions and offered keen insights into the meaning of scripture. It was an honor to be present at Mark's and his daughter Liz's baptism just a few short weeks ago. Everyone there felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was an evening none of us will ever forget.*

*Mark was a humble man. By his life, he was an example of dignity and grace. It's hard to say goodbye to a friend, but I know Mark is at peace in the presence of the King of Glory. Peace to you my friend. You touched my life and I will love you always.*

*Jim Falato*

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**Jim Falato** - June 07 at 04:36 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mark A. van Voorst.



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June 05 at 12:33 PM



“ It is with a heavy heart that I reflect on the passing of our former President/CEO of Lifespire. He was a leader who believed in me, challenged me to grow, and entrusted me with opportunities to help build and strengthen a more comprehensive Human Resources department.

*His door was always open, and one of the qualities I admired most was his humility—he welcomed constructive feedback and valued the perspectives of those around him.*

*I am grateful for the impact he had on my professional journey and even more grateful to know that his relationship with Christ flourished throughout his life. His legacy of servant leadership, wisdom, and kindness will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.*

*May his family find comfort in God's promises, peace in cherished memories, and strength in knowing that his life made a lasting difference. Well done, good and faithful servant.*

*Rest in eternal peace ~ Cassandra Dancy-Potts*

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**Cassandra Dancy-Potts** - June 03 at 08:00 PM

KK

“ Mark was at one point my boss and became a dear friend of mine for over 20 years. We met through my sweetest friend, Cindy, and then built a special relationship and bond where we talked about work, life, retirement, Christianity, and shared our favorite books and gospel music.

Mark was a devoted family man who adored his wife and loved his children, and his compassion extended generously to his friends—always offering a listening ear and wise counsel. But what truly set him apart was his radiant, contagious love for the Lord. He embodied “the city on a hill” that our Lord and Savior spoke of in Matthew 5:14, shining brightly with faith and kindness.

Mark is and will always be one of the wisest men I have ever known. His kindness and insight have left a lasting impact on my life. He will forever be missed but never forgotten.

Rest in peace, my dear friend. Your memory will always hold a cherished place in my heart.

Kamelia Kameli

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**Kamelia Kameli** - June 03 at 07:07 PM

PG

“ Mark and I worked together for many years. He bravely fought as an advocate and fostering positive change. All of us will miss him. He was a unique professional and a friend. May the goodness of God be with Mark, Cindy and his family. He will be missed.

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**peg gould** - June 03 at 04:04 PM

JB

“ I didn't know your husband but I heard all about his kindness and love for you Cindy from Kathy Oneill. So sorry for your loss 🥹❤️❤️

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**Judy Barillari** - June 03 at 03:33 PM

KO

“ *What I remember most is Mark’s kindness and positivity. Thank you Mark for loving my dear friend Cindy so deeply and the happiness you gave her.* ❤️

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**Kathleen O’Neill** - June 03 at 03:26 PM