

A EULOGY FOR LYLE

I am Allan.

Lyle was my kid brother. He was more than a brother; he was a gift, a friend, a confident, a travel companion, and a sharer of love for dogs and German shepherds, in particular.

Lyle was born on October 13, 1941, five days (and five years) after my birthday. He was a gift for me. At least, as I remember it, our parents, Ethel and Bert, said he was my birthday present and I received none other.

He was my playmate and I was very nice to him, at least I thought so. However, we did have a bit of an accident when he was two years old. I was pulling him on a sled over a snow bank, and he fell off. I wouldn't have been a big deal, except that he broke his collarbone. He never ever blamed me for his first medical problem.

When Lyle built his famous two-story icehouse, I was in the background as an engineering consultant. I was happy to let him take the limelight and get his picture in the newspaper.

When Lyle was ten and I was fifteen, our dad bought us a motorboat and we learned to water ski. Lyle was my boat driver when I was teaching my latest, um, girlfriend how to ski. He was good at handling fast vehicles even back then; and he did have a mirror in the boat.

I looked up to Lyle, as he got older, with his Jeep, motorcycle, speedboat, camping trips, scuba diving and all of his many friends. I was the studious one, spending all my time at college studying, and only hearing second hand about all his dangerous adventures.

In 1964, Lyle was my best man when Nanci and I got married and 33 years later I was his best man.

Lyle's first dog was a German shepherd, and Lobo had a litter of puppies. Nanci and my first dog was also a German shepherd, and Kimm had two litters. Our litters were planned, but unfortunately, Lobo's was a complete surprise for Lyle.

Lyle was a fabulous uncle for our kids. Tammi remembers all our camping trips during which Lyle joined us. Jeff actually lived with Lyle when Jeff was finishing his BS degree from the University of Minnesota. And, of course, Lyle attended both of their weddings in 1998. Although we never lived in the same city after Nanci and I moved from the Twin Cities, Lyle always came to visit us in all our cities across the country.

On July 28, 1996, Lyle and Elaine got married and I was Lyle's best man. At that time, I gifted my fifth-birthday present to Elaine, and she and Lyle became a perfect couple. I could go on and on about all of our memories from our visits to Elaine and Lyle in Minnesota and Florida and their visits to us in Anchorage and Tucson and all the trips we took together, but I have said enough and these memories are for Elaine to share.

We cherish the extra dozen years that Lyle got from his transplant and his latest six months where he got to see Elaine established comfortably in their new condo.

I am now mourning for Lyle in private, with Nanci at my side, with Tammi and her kids, Aaron and Nadia, visiting from Pennsylvania, providing additional comfort, with our two Maine coon cats, and, of course, with my constant companions, our three standard poodles, Garrett, the therapy dog, and twins Coco and Cappy.

Lyle, you were my brother for almost 67 years, and we will all miss you.

Allan . August 13, 2013

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Lyle became my little brother in 1964 when I married Allan. He and my late younger brother were very much alike in their love of adventure. I can remember them as teens picking up+ girls, which meant Lyle drove the jeep, and my very large brother literally picked up the girls.

There was always laughter and love. We watched Lyle through many death defying feats that got our adrenaline up just by watching.

He was always one of the first to visit us whenever we moved to a new city.

He spent a lot of time with our children and our dogs.

We had many great trips from camping in tents to cruises.

The transition from Minnesota to Florida was a great one for Lyle who so loved the water, boats, jet skis, and just being out on the lake, river, or sea without the cold weather that had started to really bother him.

I really feel that Lyle had all of his dreams come true. He found the perfect life mate in our precious Elaine. He had the daughter of his heart in Stacy. He always had a dog by his side.

He loved people, travel, and, yes, always adventure.

Lyle was a loyal friend with life long relationships.

He will be long remembered and dearly missed.

Nanci -- August 2013

A EULOGY FOR LYLE

I'm Lyle's sister, the oldest of three children . I was 11 1/2 years older than Lyle so of course my job was babysitting him and brother Allan. He was always such a cute kid, but was only 6 years old when I left home for college. After I left home in Duluth, our Dad bought a speed boat and Lyle and Allan really bonded together and with my Dad enjoying water skiing, his cabin and outdoor activities. I must say I'm sorry I missed sharing those years.

Lyle and I reconnected when he moved to Minneapolis. By then I was married with 3 kids and they were the ones who enjoyed Uncle Lyle the most. During this sad time my children, Beth, Steve and David all sent their love and remembrances which are unanimously expressed by our daughter, Beth as follows: "I am thinking of many lovely memories of my Uncle Lyle. He was a fun loving young uncle....He taught us how to water ski and took us kids on jeep rallies and camping trips which we all loved. I remember going to visit him in his bachelor pad in Minneapolis and playing with his dogs, Lobo, Ashley and Shadow. He was always fixing things...the boat, the jeep, computers...you name it! He was one of the first people. I ever heard of that worked on computers at Control Data."

Allan and his wife, Nanci and their children, Tammi and Jeff all sent their fond remembrances. His nieces, nephews and cousins really loved him and he included them in many of his activities. His cousin Judy wrote about the stability and contentment that he brought to Elaine and his positive influence on her daughter, Stacy. He loved Elaine so much and was so happy. We all know how hard he fought to overcome so many medical issues and know he lived a much longer and fuller life because of Elaine.

I appreciated him as a caring and helpful brother. He always made sure that we were plowed out when he plowed the neighborhood with his plowing service. He was so wonderful when our mother moved back from Calif. He grocery shopped, took her to appointments and of course fixed things for her

Our family was thrilled when Elaine came back into his life. Everyone tried to get the confirmed bachelor to give in. When they finally got married at age 50, I discovered that we had much more in common enjoying classical concerts, museums and even taking a 49 day cruise together.

We will have many wonderful memories that we will hold dear... And I am so thankful for the gift of these last 6 months. He was so sick in Feb. that we almost came back from a cruise in Chili. He rallied and got to move into the beautiful new condo they bought in downtown St Pete. He helped select the new furnishings and made sure Elaine was settled, comfortable and, as hard as it will be, she will be able to move forward.

Lyle, we will miss you as our brother, uncle, cousin, friend and very special person. All our stories and memories will be forever in our hearts. I love you and will miss you.

Arlis -- August 2013