



## Derek Stevens Arneson

May 11, 1971 - May 31, 2024

Derek Stevens Arneson, 53, of Holly Springs, NC passed away on May 31, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. He was born May 11, 1971 in Tisdale, Saskatchewan, Canada. He came into this world as a tiny preemie of 3.6 pounds. He fought his first good fight and he survived to grow into a healthy young boy. Always a precocious child, school was very easy for him; so that allowed him to experiment with other things. Such as cooking, hockey, football, three-wheeling and camping. He also starting swimming at an early age, and at sixteen completed his Bronze Medallion Lifesaving Certificate which is the most respected aquatic award. Most of his high school education was at the Hudson Bay Composite High School; however he graduated from North Battleford Comprehensive High School. He then enrolled in the Biological Sciences Program at SIAST – Kelsey Campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. After graduation he was hired by the Neuro-Science Department at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1996 he married in beloved wife Shawndel Slobodian in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In 1998, the young couple packed up all their belongings and their “good dog” Jaspar and headed for the new adventure in North Carolina. He was employed by Piedmont Research Center, a Cancer Drug Discovery CRO and remained with the site when it was purchased by Charles River Laboratories. The pinnacle of his twenty-five year career as Associate Director of Facilities was designing and building a State of the Art Cancer Drug Discovery Facility in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Nothing brought him greater joy than being a

dedicated and loving father to his sons Noah and Joshua. He was a fervent supporter to the Lacrosse Community as both his sons excel as lacrosse players. Derek was a loyal and dedicated Type A personality; who always needed to get things done ASAP, and then tell everyone else how it should be done as well. Derek could often be found on the tailgate of his truck with a cigar in his mouth and his loyal and cherished companion Bullwinkle by his side. He leaves to mourn his loving wife Shawndel, his sons Noah and Joshua. His mother Gale Arneson; and his step-father Clifford Edwards. His brother Christopher, his wife Jodi and his two nieces Hailey and Emily. Also his two nephews Leland and Natasha and Marshall and Brittnay Slobodian and their families. There are too many close friends and members of his Lacrosse Family to mention individually who will also feel the impact of his loss.

Derek fought the good battle to the very end. But the opponent was much stronger. Sometimes Cancer cannot be beaten!

The Family would like to welcome you all to the HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Apex Campus, 2080 E Williams St, Apex, NC 27539 for a casual Celebration of Life for Derek Arneson from 3:00-6:00pm on Tuesday June 11th. We will have a Remembrance of Derek's Life at 4:00pm. If anyone would like to speak, they are welcome to do so. Please feel free to mingle before and after the Remembrance. A light lunch will be provided along with coffee and soda.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Cancer Society or organization that is dear to your heart.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

Hope Community Church Apex  
2080 East Williams Street  
Apex, NC 27539  
<https://gethope.net/apex/>

*Remembrance of Derek's Life at 4:00pm*

# Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Shawndel, Joshua, Noah, our hearts are with you. Derek was such a wonderful person with a huge heart. We have so many memories from long ago that remain in our hearts. All of your Canadian friends, send love, peace and prayers . Derek you will be missed. Love Lisa, Corey, Sophie, Kody, Josee & Ralph*

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**Lisa Marie Kreese** - June 11, 2024 at 03:54 PM

DJ

“ *It was heartbreaking to hear the news about passing away of Derek. He was such a gem of a person, and I can't express how sad I'm to hear this news. My sincere condolences to your entire Arneson family and I pray to God to give you enough strength to navigate this challenging period of your life. Lots of love, care, and hug!*

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**DJ** - June 11, 2024 at 09:24 AM

TB

“ *Tracy B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.*

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**Tracy B.** - June 11, 2024 at 08:42 AM

KC

“ *Kevin C. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.*

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**Kevin C.** - June 11, 2024 at 07:07 AM

PC

“ *Piedmont Service Group and CMS Controls purchased the Caring Condolences Gift Basket for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.*



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**Piedmont Service Group and CMS Controls** - June 10, 2024  
at 02:47 PM

TR

“ *I was so shocked to hear of Derek's passing. Sending my love & condolences to Shawndel, their sons & the rest of the Arneson family.*

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**Tamikka Reams** - June 10, 2024 at 01:16 PM

KM

“ *Kimberley & Mark Malone purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.*



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**Kimberley & Mark Malone** - June 10, 2024 at 12:25 PM

KM

“ *Kimberley & Mark Malone planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.*

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**Kimberley & Mark Malone** - June 10, 2024 at 12:25 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.*



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June 08, 2024 at 05:03 PM



“ *Our heartfelt condolences to you and the boys, Shawndel. He was taken much to soon. 💕💕*  
*Jerry and Dorothy Danielson*

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**Dorothy Danielson** - June 07, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to Arneson family. This news made me sorrowful. Derek was one of the first global colleague that I get to know 10 years ago starting as in assistant position. From the beginning he was making me feel supported, relaxed and important part of the work. If I can ever be at least half of colleague that Derek was to everyone, I know I have made success in my life!*

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**Saara Horttanainen** - June 07, 2024 at 02:26 PM



“ *Derek was one of the first people I met at the company we worked for and he immediately left such a positive lasting impression in so many ways. Friendly, always willing to help with anything you needed, a genuine care for people, and a great sense of humor. He will be sincerely missed. I know how special Shawndel and his boys were to him and we'll be keeping you in our prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Max Kjellgren** - June 07, 2024 at 12:18 PM

JS

“ Keeping the Arneson Family in my warmest thoughts as you navigate through this difficult time and wishing you all hope and healing when you're ready.

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**jennice Salters** - June 07, 2024 at 11:13 AM

JB

“ Hard to describe what a great human being he was. He did so many things to the fullest and seemed to always make time for anything I needed. Always had the "can do" attitude and a pleasure to work with. Very sorry for your loss.

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**JB** - June 07, 2024 at 09:47 AM

AI

“ Derek, you were the most genial, helpful, caring, hardworking person. I met you in 2011 when I moved to NC with Keiko and you were so supportive and reliable. Nothing was ever too much trouble. I always worried about your insomnia but you lived for your family and work, and there was no way to stop you from working in sickness and in health, rain, shine or snow. We will all miss your sense of humour and your omnipresence.

*Deepest sympathies to Shawndel, Joshua and Noah from the whole Synnott family.*

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**Aidan** - June 07, 2024 at 06:09 AM

JJ

“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Prayers to you and your family.  
*Janice & Daryl Jackson*

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**janice jackson** - June 07, 2024 at 12:18 AM

CH

“ Derek and I worked together for 23 years. I spoke with him every day. Sometimes he was my first and last call of the day. Derek, you will be missed. You were my rock at work and we always seemed to be on the same page. I could ask you for anything and never had to worry if it would get done. I will miss you my friend and all the laughs we shared. You were a good friend and colleague.

chassidy hall - June 06, 2024 at 09:06 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.



June 06, 2024 at 08:44 PM

AM

“ Adam C. Mathias planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.

Adam C. Mathias - June 06, 2024 at 08:44 PM

DM

“ Condolences to the Arneson Family.. Josh, I'm so sorry about the loss of your Dad ... I know how much he meant to you ... all of you. Prayers for peace and healing during this difficult journey. Much Love ...

Deborah McKinney - June 06, 2024 at 06:36 PM

LT

“ My deepest condolences to the Arneson family. Shawndel, you, your sons and your entire family are in my heart and my prayers. Derek’s memory and spirit will stay with me. Praying for your strength and healing during this time. With Love, Lynnelle Thorpe

Lynnelle Thorpe - June 06, 2024 at 06:11 PM

DD

“ Lunch and shopping with Derek was always one of the things I looked forward to in my trips to NC, you will surely be missed. Warmest wishes to Shawndel and the boys. David Dolph

David Dolph - June 06, 2024 at 05:03 PM

DD

“ I’ve worked with Derek for several years and you could not find someone as dedicated, passionate and responsive as Derek. I always looked forward to seeing him, taking him out to lunch and dragging him to a store during my trips to NC. His crowning achievement and legacy will be the state of the art facility at RTP that he put his heart into. Derek, you will surely be missed, deepest condolences to Shawndel and the boys.

David Dolph - June 06, 2024 at 05:02 PM

BJ

“ I’ve known Derek only for a brief time but he made a indelible mark in my professional life. In midst of challenges at work I would always draw inspiration from Derek. He had a never give up attitude and was very sincere and committed in everything he did! You will be in our memories and hearts forever!

Bincy John - June 06, 2024 at 04:11 PM

EH

“ Derek was always that welcome smile when walking into the NC site! His love for his family was palpable. It was an honor to have the opportunity to share part of his journey. My deepest sympathies to Shawndel, Joshua and Noah.

emily Hickey - June 06, 2024 at 03:50 PM

DL

“ I met Derek through working at Charles River when Piedmont onboarded. He was always our go to guy. I enjoyed our work chats and chit chats over the years. He was such a charming person with a great personality.  
I am sending my deepest condolences to Shawndel the boys and all of the Arneson family.  
Derek will be missed.  
Darlene Laferriere

Darlene Laferriere - June 06, 2024 at 03:32 PM

SZ

Oh my gosh Shawndel.. I am so heartbroken to hear about Derek. I'm so sad for you and the boys. I'll be thinking of you and if you need anything just call.. Love Shelley

Shelley Zeeben - June 06, 2024 at 04:53 PM

SD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Derek. My condolences to you Shawndel and family. May God give you all strength, peace and comfort in your time of need and the many days to come.  
Shanika Douglas



Shanika Douglas - June 06, 2024 at 02:48 PM

JC

“ Prayers to the whole Arneson Family----Our Twins enjoyed their time with him and his son at Marist Lacrosse-----also Derek was the first person that I meant when we arrived at Marist --- great guy! Love the Covey's

Jim Covey - June 06, 2024 at 02:47 PM

TA

“ Derek, you were and will remain a force to be reckoned. You are unmatched and your absence always will be felt. There's so much to say yet there's few words to appropriately express anything. Keep everyone up there on their toes, okay?

Tabitha - June 06, 2024 at 02:30 PM

BH

“ Shawndel and the boys; We are so sorry for your deep loss. Derek always brought so much joy to everyone he met. We are so grateful for having been friends with him and will always hold his memory so dear to our hearts. Bruce & Hardee

Bruce & Hardee - June 06, 2024 at 02:00 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.



June 06, 2024 at 12:51 PM

EM

“ My deepest sympathies goes out for Derek's family, and friends It was such a privilege and honor to work with Derek. He was always a kind and thoughtful person that made everyone smile and laugh. He was always quick to ask how everyone was doing and if there was anything he could do to help you out. I will always appreciate your advice and assistance that you never hesitated to provide. See you again brother!

Eric Meyers - June 06, 2024 at 09:55 AM

AN

“ Derek,  
we all met in the fall of 2019 and immediately became family.  
You will always be in our hearts and memories.  
The DiBlasios - Mark, Annette & Matthew

Annette - June 06, 2024 at 09:40 AM

YF

“ Your Marist Lacrosse Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.



Your Marist Lacrosse Family - June 06, 2024 at 09:10 AM

YF

“ Your Marist Lacrosse Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.

Your Marist Lacrosse Family - June 06, 2024 at 09:10 AM

TI

“ Thank you for always being kind and real! You'll be missed!

Tiffany - June 06, 2024 at 08:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.



June 06, 2024 at 07:56 AM

CF

“ Charles River Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Derek Stevens Arneson.

Charles River Family - June 06, 2024 at 07:56 AM

AM

“ Derek - You had a big heart, you were the kindest soul, and you loved your family more than anything. I am honored that I got to call you my friend and that we were able to work together for 15 years. I hope everyone that knew you can find comfort in their memories with you 💕💕

Love you Man,  
Smurf

Amber - June 05, 2024 at 09:18 PM

DA

“ So sorry to hear of his passing.  
Joanne remembered babysitting him when she was 17..." he was so small, I never saw a baby that small".

David. - June 05, 2024 at 09:01 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Derek Stevens Arneson.



June 05, 2024 at 07:52 PM

JH

“ Derek, we were not of the same blood but we were brothers! We spent a lot of nights and weekends working together, one thing that Derek was passionate and strong about was family. There never was a moment where he wouldn't talk about his family. He would always tell me I need to be there for my wife and kids. Derek and Scott were my mentors we were the three amigos and would do anything for each other. Shawdel, Noah, and Joshua always came first in Dereks life and conversations!!! I love you all!!! Derek I will always and forever miss you. I know you would tell me to suck it up and be strong but not having around hurts.



Jonathan Hacker - June 05, 2024 at 07:47 PM