



## Mark Scholes

July 28, 1979 - July 9, 2024

Mark Scholes, 44, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in a tragic swimming accident while on vacation with his family in Ludington, Michigan.

Mark Timothy Scholes was born on July 28, 1979, to Gary H. and Carrie (Branson) Scholes in Geneva, IL. He grew up in Batavia, IL, and graduated from Batavia High School in 1997. He graduated from Aurora University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and Secondary Education and a minor in Political Science and International Studies in 2001, where he graduated top of his class and received the Spartan Award. In 2011, he completed a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration at Iowa State University.

He married the love of his life, Heidi (Fagen) Scholes, on April 10, 2002, whom he had known since middle school, where they first met in Miss Karstens' 8th-grade social studies class. They had four children – Austin, Andrew, Aaron, and Aidan – whom he cherished and were his source of pride.

Mark began his teaching career in education in 2003 in Illinois before moving to Iowa in 2006. He taught in Albia schools for seven years and was head coach of the girl's tennis team. He then moved into administration in 2013 as assistant principal of Oskaloosa Middle School and has served as head principal for the last five years.

Mark was many things to many people, but most importantly to us, he was a husband, father, son, grandson, brother, nephew, uncle, and friend. Mark absolutely loved his family and found his purpose in them. He embodied the spirit of a true servant, and his breadth of involvement reached across many facets of the community. One of his favorite things was being involved with activities his children were in – helping as a team coach, as a cub scout leader, Promenade announcer, and so much more. Mark loved fishing, baseball, the Cubs, Bears, and Blackhawks, history, politics, traveling and writing. He loved old movies and music, Skittles, Pepsi, and Mountain Dew. His sense of humor and zest for life was contagious.

Mark is survived by his wife, Heidi; his children, Austin, Andrew (fiancé – Lauren Milledge), Aaron, and Aidan; his parents, Gary H & Carrie Scholes; his father and mother-in-law, David & Patricia Fagen; his sister, Jodi (Jay) Merkel; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Gretchen Fagen Nowag, Dave (Betsy) Fagen, Kirsten (Mark) Stek; his nieces, Sarah (Jake) Krouse and Megan (Braeden) Merkel; his nephews, Jakob and Ethan Stek and Kurt (Amanda) Nowag.

His grandparents, Jerry & Irene Branson and Harold & Phyllis Scholes, preceded him in death, as did his beloved dogs, Izzy and Addie.

In Christ, he found everlasting life, and his spirit will live on through the strength, courage, and character of his wife and sons.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oskaloosa, with Rev. Fr. Joseph Phung presiding and Pastor Jon Nelson eulogizing. The service will be live-streamed at the Parish Center, the St. James Episcopal Church, and Mark Scholes Funeral ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)). Burial will be in Forest Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 3-7 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Oskaloosa Middle School for Media Center Advancement.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
secretary@forestcemetery.com  
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUL 16.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory  
2116 N 3rd St  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 672-2181  
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

*The family will greet visitors from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral chapel.*

## Mass of the Resurrection

**JUL 17.** 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
311 First Ave. East  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
oskystmary@diodav.org  
<https://stmarysosky.com/>

*To accomodate the large number of attendees, Mark's service will be live-streamed to St. James Episcopal Church, just south of St. Mary's, to the St. Mary's Parish Center across the street North of the church or on Mark Scholes Funeral ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)).*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mark Scholes*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - July 14, 2024 at 08:01 PM

HM

“ *Mark's mom and my mom played softball together, so I have fond memories of us kids keeping busy during their games. He was a kind person, all the way through to his core. My condolences yo his whole family.*

Hayley Thomas Morganegg - July 18, 2024 at 08:54 AM

DS

“ *I'm a better person for having known you Mark. My thoughts are with your family...*

Daniel Selby - July 17, 2024 at 08:24 PM

KF

“ *Kynison & Dennise Cauthron family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Scholes.*



Kynison & Dennise Cauthron family - July 16, 2024 at 04:17 PM

GR

“ *Grainger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Scholes.*

Grainger - July 16, 2024 at 10:56 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark Scholes.



July 16, 2024 at 10:56 AM



“ Albia S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Scholes.

Albia S. - July 16, 2024 at 10:13 AM



“ Bryan Elliott (i-Ready) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Scholes.

Bryan Elliott (i-Ready) - July 16, 2024 at 09:35 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark Scholes.



July 16, 2024 at 09:35 AM



“ The time I shared with Mark as principals in Oskaloosa system will always be a bright spot in my heart. I could always call him or walk down to talk with him and was met with a chuckle or smile. He would listen, volunteer to help, or take it upon himself to make sure it got done. He loved his staff and students. He worked hard to try to get the best from everyone. Mark, my friend, I am proud to have known you and am better for it. Our prayers are with your family.

Stacy Bandy - July 16, 2024 at 12:50 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mark Scholes.*



July 15, 2024 at 03:04 PM

PU

“ *Phil & Kara Rich (Lauren’s aunt & uncle) purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mark Scholes.*



**Phil & Kara Rich (Lauren’s aunt & uncle)** - July 15, 2024 at 03:01 PM

CC

“ *Craig and Mason Campbell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mark Scholes.*



**Craig and Mason Campbell** - July 15, 2024 at 01:31 PM

PS

“ *Pella Middle School planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Scholes.*

**Pella Middle School** - July 15, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark Scholes.*



July 15, 2024 at 01:01 PM

“ I remember Mom and Dad bringing you home from the hospital after you were born. I thought that you got switched at birth because you only made baby noises and I thought that when you were born, you should know how to talk already. I loved having a little brother. You are me, and I you. We had a really good relationship. We never really fought as siblings sometimes do. I always felt safe being with you. You calmed me. I remember our first trip on an airplane going to see Grandma and Grandpa and I was scared and crying and you again made me feel safe. You kept saying "it's ok Jodi. We will get there ok" and held my hand. I remember so many fun times going to Disney World and our trips to Northern Wisconsin. I remember our big tire swing in the back yard and playing lots of baseball, we played catch all throughout our childhood. I got to watch your games. You played baseball, basketball, football and kept yourself very busy. You were so smart. Except one time, you thought Crisco went in macaroni and cheese instead of butter. You made me laugh. We used to watch boxing fights on Saturday nights and leg wrestle with Mom and Dad. You loved your security stuffed animal dog and named him Fike. I have a million memories with you. You were the first person who I told when I got pregnant, besides Jason. I remember you being so excited for Sarah to be born. You were the best uncle to Sarah and Megan. You were proud of Sarah for going to Aurora University, like you did. You were an incredible father to your boys. You never missed their games. I'm going to miss Thanksgivings with you. It was so nice to see you and Heidi and the boys then. You were an incredible brother. You grew up to be an outstanding adult. You touched so many lives. I knew you were going places when you finished college and met Heidi. She was perfect for you. You worked hard and did very well. Your boys are your legacy. I will do my best to be there for them and Heidi. I am so proud of you. I wish that I could actually be telling you these things in person. I loved you so much. I don't know how to help Mom and Dad get through this. I will do my best though. I know that you would want that. I will be there for Heidi. I will be there for Austin, Andy, Aaron and Aidan. I promise you. I know you are in heaven. I hope it's as beautiful as we have heard.

Jodi Scholes Merkel - July 15, 2024 at 01:20 AM



“ 247 files added to the album Life Tributes



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - July 14, 2024 at 03:52 PM

SK

“ Uncle Mark's presence will be missed so dearly. He was such a positive, well-spoken person. He was kind, compassionate, and a natural leader. There was never a dull time when he was around. Whether it was playing whiffle ball at my grandparents or playing at the park at their old house in Batavia, he was always so involved with his family. He showed up for everybody's events and special occasions. You knew you could count on him to be there for you. One of my favorite memories with Uncle Mark was when he and Heidi took me with them and Austin to Indiana Beach. They set up a tent for us in the hotel room and we watched Scooby Doo. He took me on a roller coaster too because I was scared. Such a great memory I have with him. He also introduced me to the video game Donkey Kong when I was young! Family gatherings won't be the same without his infectious attitude and bright smile. He left his legacy in our world and will be missed so much, by so many. I love you Uncle Mark!

Sarah Krouse - July 14, 2024 at 01:19 PM

MM

“ Uncle mark was always the best uncle ever. I always looked forward to seeing him and the family and I will always cherish the fond memories that we have with him. My favorite memory with him is when he picked me up at the halfway point between Illinois where we live and Iowa to take me to a Max Frost concert at Iowa State. We went to dinner together and they were able to show me around the school, and it was so much fun. The concert was so fun too, I will forever be grateful for that amazing memory with him. He was always all of our biggest supporters, and I know he loved his job and his family so much. A couple weeks ago, when we met at Portillo's for Andy's graduation, he was so excited to tell me all about his recent golfing endeavors and it was nice to connect with him about something we both love. I always loved going to East China Inn with him and the family and we would all catch up and crack jokes and just live in the moment. I wish I could turn back time 🥹. I miss you so much, Uncle Mark ❤️

Megan Merkel - July 13, 2024 at 10:49 PM

BK

So sorry for your family's loss.. I didn't know Mark personally. But my kids all knew Mark as a coach teacher, friend. Mark left deep impact on my kids. So truly thankful they had Mark as their teacher coach, friend... So so sorry for the loss of your uncle. Mark's wife and boys . Deepest sympathies to the family..

bill Knowles - July 14, 2024 at 09:10 AM

RC

“ Rhonda Callison lit a candle in memory of Mark Scholes



Rhonda Callison - July 13, 2024 at 07:39 AM

RC

Mark never missed an opportunity to be kind, share a positive message, smile, encourage students, and spread his energy. We were fortunate to know him and see what a difference he was making in the middle school. Our deepest, most sincere sympathies to Heidi and their sons. Mark truly made a huge difference in our community and he will be deeply missed. Prayers for the entire family.

Doug and Rhonda Callison

Rhonda Callison - July 13, 2024 at 07:46 AM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss. You have my sympathy.



Cinda Barnes - July 12, 2024 at 11:33 PM

CO

“ During Mark’s time in Albia, I was fortunate to get to know him well through our shared work in the social studies department. Mark and I also worked as field inspectors for Pioneer Hi-Bred International a few of those summers. Since the job consisted of working consecutive days and being away from family, we often shared casual evenings together grabbing dinner, playing bags, golfing, or just visiting in the hotel lobby. In both our teaching and summer roles, Mark impressed me as a disciplined guy who was not afraid of hard work. He placed attention on the details, yet always had the time of day for others. Most apparent to me, was the love and pride he had for his wife and their four sons (who then would have only been young boys). Someone like Mark is long remembered. He was truly a great human being. My heart and prayers are with his family.

Chad Otdoerfer - July 12, 2024 at 09:16 PM

LK

“ Mark was an integral part of the Albia Schools team of educators. It was my pleasure to know Mark the seven years he taught and coached in Albia. His work ethic, love for his family and the love he had for teaching helped shape the lives of many. May you fly high Mark with the Eagles. My sincere prayers for your family and friends. Thank you for sharing this awesome guy. Your love for our Lord will sustain us as we go forward. Amen. Sincerely, Lana Kaldenberg retired Central Office Administrative Assistant Albia Community Schools.

Lana Kaldenberg - July 12, 2024 at 06:43 PM



“ I was in Mr. Scholes's first class on his first day of teaching in Albia. From that point on he was one of my favorite educators I've ever had, but he also became a good friend. I will forever be grateful for having known Scholes.

Riley Waters - July 12, 2024 at 06:32 PM

BW

“ Becky Williams lit a candle in memory of Mark Scholes

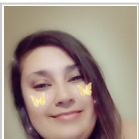


Becky Williams - July 12, 2024 at 06:08 PM

AN

“ I remember Mark and Heidi playing cards with me the first year I went to Ludington with the family. It helped me feel so welcomed and comfortable. ❤️

Amanda Nowag - July 12, 2024 at 04:23 PM



“ I really enjoyed having him as my professor last semester. Professor Scholes did a wonderful job explaining the material, making the material relevant to us students and having wonderful discussions. He often talked about his job of being a Principal and would tell us about him announcing for the track meets.



I am really sad to hear about his passing. I will be thinking about him and his family.

Maranda Hickey - July 12, 2024 at 04:22 PM

LG

“ You could tell mark genuinely cared for and loved his students. He loved the community and this is a tough huge loss for all.

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**lynette Gordon** - July 12, 2024 at 03:43 PM