

John Sauter

John Leland Sauter, 48, passed from this life Aug. 12, 2011, at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck. John's wishes for his body to be donated to the University of North Dakota School of Medicine have been carried out, with cremation to take place at a later date.



John Sauter

A time of remembrance for family and friends will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Bismarck Funeral Home, 3723 Lockport St., Bismarck.

John was born Jan. 7, 1963, in Bismarck, the son of Edwin and Mabel (Hertz) Sauter. He was raised and educated in Tuttle, graduating from Tuttle High School in 1981. John graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1985 and earned a master's degree from UND in 1991.

Always interested in politics and public service, John completed internships with Rep. Byron Dorgan and the office of the state tax commissioner while attending UND, and later worked at the Tax Department in a full-time position. He was a part of the campaign staff for Kent Conrad in 1986 when Conrad was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

After receiving his MPA, John served as the coordinator for the North Dakota Children's Services coordinating committee. John worked in a variety of fields throughout his career, including real estate and property management. At the time of his death, he was a self-employed property manager with ADRY Management.

John married Judy Tinjum on Oct. 17, 1987, and they had two sons, Adam Bryant and Ryan Daniel. John was a proud father and cherished his time with his sons, from trips to Cub Scout camps, his and Ryan's road trip to Montana in the summer of 2010, and his and Adam's mutual interests in CD and album collecting. A special experience the three of them shared and will be remembered was a hot air balloon ride over the Black Hills.

John's life journey led him to Gale Sazama, and on Aug. 11, 2011, John and Gale were married in Bismarck, expanding his family to include two stepsons, Nathan and Jesse. Although his and Gale's life journey together had only just begun and was too short, their journey and the time they had together was filled with love, happiness, and precious memories. John and Gale enjoyed spending time together, having deep conversations about many different interests and topics.

Those who knew John will always remember his true love of music and concerts. He enjoyed finding a good deal on music by shopping at many different pawn shops and loved reading Agatha Christie books. John enjoyed spending time with his many friends and having intellectual conversations about politics and religion with the different people in his life. He enjoyed spending time with his faithful companion, his dog, Harvey. John always said Harvey found him, and not the other way around.

John volunteered with the MS Association and Beginning Experience. He was very active with Beginning Experience and liked being able to give back by helping others with the healing process. He was a member of the Optimist Club of Bismarck and the Bismarck Masonic Lodge.

John is survived by his wife, Gale Sazama-Sauter, Bismarck; his sons, Adam and Ryan Sauter, Bismarck; his father and stepmother, Edwin and Ella Sauter, Bismarck; two stepsons, Nathan (Minneapolis) and Jesse (Bismarck) Sazama-Damlo; his stepsister, Bonnie Clark (Kim) Halvorson, Lincoln; his aunt, Mae McFerren,

Mesa, Ariz.; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his mother; his grandparents; and his mother-in-law.

Go to www.bismarckfuneralhome.com to sign the online guest book or to send a message of condolence.