



Mr. Ripley Elwood Marston Jr.

July 15, 1950 - January 11, 2023

Mr. Ripley Marston Jr., age 72, of Cedar Falls, Iowa passed away Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Ripley was born on July 15, 1950 in Mt. Jackson, Virginia, the son to the late Ripley and Nellie Marston.

Ripley moved to Cedar Falls in 1976, where he took a job as a professor at the University of Northern Iowa. He was passionate about education and physical fitness. Rip started a program, Kindergym, to encourage kids to get start physical activity at a young age. Rip also met his late wife, Nancy Marston while working at UNI.

A lifelong learner and athlete, Rip got his undergraduate degree from James Madison University where he played soccer and ran cross country. He went on to earn his masters degree at the University of Tennessee. Shortly after, he got his doctorate at the University of Iowa.

Ripley filled his days with work, being physically active, volunteering at church, and spending time with his family. He particularly enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports. Rip was always proud of all the accomplishments of his family.

Along with his parents, Ripley is preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Marston. He is survived by his two daughters: Kelly Allen (Brant), of Milton,

GA; Becky Meyerkorth (Ryan), of Rock Port, MO; two step daughters; Andrea Ludwig (Dale), of Clear Lake, IA; Jamie DeVries (Jared), of Clear Lake, IA; nine grandchildren; Taylor Diehl, of Des Moines, IA; Jaylen DeVries, of Clear Lake, IA; Easton DeVries, of Clear Lake, IA; Avery Meyerkorth, of Rock Port, MO; Keegan Allen, of Milton, GA; Ella Meyerkorth, of Rock Port, MO; Mia Allen, of Milton, GA; Audrie Meyerkorth, of Rock Port, MO; Parker Allen, of Milton, GA; his three sisters; Joyce Shirley (Donald), of Mt. Jackson, VA; Sharon Ramos, of Mt. Jackson, VA; Candi Lopresti (Chris), of Mt. Jackson, VA; and many nieces and nephews.

The celebration of Life for Ripley Marston will take place between 2-4 pm on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at Hammond Brethren Church at 1604 Hammond Ave., Waterloo, IA 50702. The burial will be the following morning at 9 am at Greenwood Cemetery in Cedar Falls, IA.

Please visit www.northsidechapel.com/obituaries/Ripley-Marston/#!/TributeWall to share memories and leave condolences to the family.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

Cedar Falls (AE)

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

JAN 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Hammond Brethren Church
1604 Hammond Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702

Graveside

JAN 16. 9:00 AM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery
404 North College Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I was a colleague of Rip's at UNI. I was always glad to see him at the hundreds (!) of teacher education meetings we attended. His positive attitude and sense of humor were always welcomed. I am saddened to learn of his death. Please accept my sympathy.
Mary Bozik

Mary Bozik - January 19, 2023 at 04:44 PM

JM

“ Rip and I became close friends right after he got to UNI. One summer we planted popcorn and after watching it grow we tore it out because the ears were too small. After a few years I realized we had planted popcorn and not sweet corn. Took us at least 5 years to come to that realization. Rip was special and will be missed by all who knew him.

Jeanette Marsh - January 16, 2023 at 06:04 PM

JA

“ Dr. Marsten was one of my favorite professors at UNI (class of 2000). He set a great example of what it meant to not only be a PE teacher, but a good person. I enjoyed volunteering at Kindergym while at UNI, and I would go on to bring my own kids to Kindergym. My condolences to his family and friends.

Jason - January 16, 2023 at 01:34 AM

MD

“ Rip was a fraternity brother at Madison when I pledged, years ago. He set a standard of life for himself and an example for all of us who came later...and he carried both through his lifetime. He was a blessing to all who knew him... Prayers and love to his family, friends and Brothers.
Mark D. Theta Chi

Mark Davidson - January 15, 2023 at 11:43 PM

GH

“ Rip was everything you would want in a brother. Upstanding and ethical to the core and a lot of fun to be around. Had a sneaky sense of humor. Supported everybody around him.

Gary Hale - January 15, 2023 at 04:09 PM

CL

“ Rip and I were fraternity brothers, soccer teammates and good friends. It is hard to find the words to express what a loss this is to us all. He was truly a great person who was a role model and inspiration to me.

Carl Lentz - January 15, 2023 at 03:43 PM

MK

“ Rip was a genuinely good human being and a great fraternity brother. It saddens me greatly to know is gone.

Ment Kidwell - January 15, 2023 at 08:19 AM

LH

“ Rip was my Big Brother as I pledged Theta Chi Fraternity at Madison College in '72. He was inspirational to me, something I believe he carried through all his life. He touched so many.

larry huffman - January 15, 2023 at 07:40 AM

LS

“ Without a doubt, Rip was one of the finest persons I ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Larry Short - January 15, 2023 at 05:38 AM

WS

“ With love, Class of 17&18 PE students purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Mr. Ripley Elwood Marston Jr..



With love, Class of 17&18 PE students - January 14, 2023 at 07:58 PM

JT

“ So sorry to hear about Ripley. Was looking forward to maybe seeing him at our 55th high school class reunion this summer. He was a great guy and will be missed. My condolences to his family. Jamie Thomas SJHS class of 68

James Thomas - January 13, 2023 at 09:39 PM

SD

“ I am so sorry to hear about Rip's passing. He was a true gem to our physical education and health profession. I knew Rip through our IAHPERD association and worked along side him on several occasions. He was always willing to help the next generation of physical educators through so many ways. He will be truly missed by so many of us! My sincere condolences to his family!

Sally Shaver DuBois - January 13, 2023 at 03:30 PM

ST

So sorry for the family of Rip...he was an athletic star at Madison College long before it became James Madison University, blazing the trail for athletes there to come...he led a life to be mirrored by all...

SteveSmith - January 14, 2023 at 01:30 PM

PV

Ripley and I grew up together in Mt. Jackson, VA and graduated from Stonewall Jackson HS and Madison College (now, James Madison University). Rip was a dear dear friend. He was a caring man who wanted the very best for others and proved this determination thru his life and professional career. He will be remembered for all that he contributed. God Bless Ripley & his family!

Peggy Zerkel Vining - January 14, 2023 at 05:04 PM

BR

So sorry to hear of the passing of Rip. He left a wonderful mark wherever he went. JMU was where he honed his athletic skills and his leadership skills. Tricaptain for varsity soccer, president of Varsity Club, and member of Theta. Chi. He was a staunch SEC supporter because of his year at University of Tennessee getting his Masters degree. His Doctorate came from his beloved UNI. He love working with elementary pe students as can be seen through his involvement with Kindergym and his publications with parachutes and students. He was so proud of his sisters, his daughters, and his grandchildren. He left a footprint that won't soon be forgotten. Thinking of his family.

Beth Rau - January 15, 2023 at 08:17 AM

JM

I met Rip as a freshman on the soccer team. He was genuinely nice to me and all of the underclassmen. He was always positive and a quiet leader. Rip was one of the key people in my joining Theta Chi fraternity. I used to kid him about being from the big city of Mt Jackson while I was from NJ. As previously mentioned, Rip was a great athlete but he was a gentleman first and always. His passing is a great loss to all who ever met him.

Jeff McEnteer - January 15, 2023 at 01:13 PM

KP

Rip was one of the first professors I met when I got hired at UNI. One of my favorites. Am out of state and sorry I won't be able to attend. Always will remember his kindness.

Karen Peterson - January 15, 2023 at 02:18 PM

CC

Rip was great colleague of mine at UNI. We were on the Teacher Education Convocation Committee together where we celebrated our future educators. He so much enjoyed that event and we so much appreciated his tremendous leadership. Every Convocation we have held since he retired he attended and it was great to see him. His legacy will live on forever at UNI. My deepest sympathy to Rip's family.

Chad Christopher - January 15, 2023 at 03:04 PM

SM

I only got to know Rip as he was my chief contact with Hall of Excellence planning here at UNI in 2019/2020. In reading everyone's comments, I see that the characteristics of a kind, honorable and sincere gentleman that I met are reflected in the comments of others as well. So happy our paths crossed. My condolences to his family...

Stacy McGauvran-Hruby - January 17, 2023 at 09:52 AM