



## Dennis "Denny" James Ryan

September 8, 1960 - September 11, 2014

Dennis "Denny" James Ryan, age 54 of Melrose, passed away Thursday, September 11, 2014, at Monroe County Hospital in Albia.

Denny was born September 8, 1960, to John and Anne (Lahart) Ryan. He married Carolyn Porstmann on October 31, 1987 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Melrose, IA, and to this union 2 children were born, Allyson and Josey. Denny and Carolyn shared 26 years of marriage.

Denny grew up in rural Melrose and attended school there, later attending and graduating from the Albia High School with the class of 1978. He was a farmer his whole life, and farmed the Ryan Family Century Farm. From 1977 until 1989 he drove a school bus for the Albia Community School District. He enjoyed attending NASCAR races with his friends, especially the race in Talladega.

Denny served on the Monroe County Board of Supervisors from 1990-2014. He served as Chairman on the Board of Supervisors and held numerous appointments while serving, including RSVP, Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa, SCICAP, Council on Aging, Chariton Valley Rural Economic Development Board, Chariton Valley Planning & Development Board, TEA-21 Board, ADLM Emergency Management Board, ADLM Environmental Health Board, Local Board of Health, Enterprise Zone Board, Welcome Home

Soldier, 28E Consortium Board, Rathbun Lake Resort Inc., and Rathbun Land & Water Alliance.

Denny was a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus where he served as Faithful Navigator and was a member of St. Patrick's Church in Melrose. Denny always gave 100%, and he tirelessly donated time and passion to his community while also touching many unseen lives. He was instrumental in both the development of the Honey Creek area of Lake Rathbun and also in the development of 24 hour recycling in Monroe County. Denny was a dedicated volunteer. He was very involved in Helping Hands as well as donating his time for many years to the haunted house in Albia to raise money for the after prom event. Denny had a great sense of humor. Most of all he was a devoted father, husband, and friend.

Denny is survived by his wife, Carolyn of Melrose; his children, Allyson and Josey; nephews, Joe (Vicki) Ryan and Kelly (Kris) Ryan, both of Madison, WI; great nephews, Camden and Andrew; a great niece, Keira; his mother-in-law, Janet Porstmann and a brother-in-law, Rich Porstmann, both of Blue Grass, IA; a sister-in-law, Jill (Ron) Hermiston of Wheatland, IA; and an aunt, Irene Bonnett of Osceola. Denny is also survived by several other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and his brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Jane Ryan.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, September 15, 2014 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Georgetown, with Father Michael E. Volkmer, C.P.P.S. officiating. Burial will follow services at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Melrose.

Visitation will be held from 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, September 14, 2014 at St.

Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Denny's family present throughout the day and evening. A 4:00 p.m. rosary will be led by the Knights of Columbus Council #4167 and a wake service will be held at 6:00 p.m. There will also be visitation from 8-9:30 a.m. Monday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Welcome Home Soldier Memorial; Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; or Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis "Denny" James Ryan*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Dennis "Denny" James Ryan*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Denny was everyone's friend. I am a better person for having known him.*

*God bless you Denny. Say hello to my dad when you see him. I think he considered you as his third son. The one who stayed home and farmed.*

*John and Brenda Scieszinski*

John J. Scieszinski - Norwalk, IA - Family friend - September 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ Denny was not only a my boss but a very dear and loving friend. My memories will forever be of our Chariton Valley Planning & Development board meetings and other joint meetings that we shared a seat at. I have known Denny for almost 10 years and not a day went by that we did not talk, text, email about work and family. He would stop by our office every week to just talk and see "what's up". His passion for what was going on in our counties of Appanoose, Lucas, Monroe and Wayne counties was seen at every board of directors meetings, people that he worked with and every project that we worked together on. The small things that he would do for myself and Julie in our office went above and beyond. He remembered our birthdays, anniversary, our kids events or just knew when we were having a bad day and needed some cheering up. He will forever be in our hearts. Thank you Denny for all the great memories, tough memories and most of all Thank you for being my Friend. Until we meet again for another meeting.

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**Nichole Moore - Centerville, IA - Friend** - September 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Dear Carolyn and family,  
I was so sorry to hear about Denny passing. He was a wonderful person and a truly great host for our Ryan reunion several years ago. My prayers and those of my family go out to you and your girls. May God bless you and help you through your grief.

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**Gerald (Jerry) Ryan - Summerfield, FL - Cousin** - September 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ My brother, Ed, called me to tell me your terrible news. I am so sad for you. They say the good die young. Well, it sounds like your Denny was one of them. He seemed to be an angel on this earth with all his accomplishments in his shortened life. May God hold you in his special place now and forever and bring you peace and an understanding of His plan for Denny. I haven't seen you in years but you will always be my cousin through fond memories of you, your siblings, your mom and dad and your Grandma Boldt.

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**Cindy Hirl-Bell - Port Byron, IL - Cousin to Carolyn** - September 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Carolyn, Allyson and Josey,  
Know that U R in my thoughts & prayers. May the Luv of ur family, friends and our Lord comfort U thru these difficult days. I remember, Denny graduated with my older sister..Class of 78. I got 2 know him more thru my lil brother & their trips 2 talladega and also while working with him on the local Juvenile Diabetes Reasearch Foundation committee here in town. He was a good man and great leader. Denny encouraged me 2 run for supervisor in 2008 and then guided me in my campaigns to follow. He was a great leader & I had hoped 2 learn so much more. God has a plan. If u ever feel the need 2 talk...call me Carolyn.  
God Bless & eternal rest grant unto Denny and let the perpetual light shine upon him.

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**Debra Ballalatak - Albia, rural Monroe county, IA - Friend** - September 16, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Carolyn and girls,

*I was shocked and saddened to learn of Denny's death. He was a great guy! My heart and prayers to out to you.*

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**Barb Hollinrake - Manchester, IA - Cousin** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ My dearest friend, Carolyn, Josey and Allyson,  
*My heart is aching for your loss. Denny was such a wonderful husband, father and friend. I have many wonderful memories of him during our bus driving years together and when you two first started dating. No words can take away the grief, but know that he is in Jesus arms and we are praying for comfort for you and the girls.*  
Roxanna and Gary

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**Roxanna Ciprian - Ozark, MO - friend** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Carolyn, Allyson and Josey-  
*May you feel the warmth of our Lord's embrace as He comforts you during this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Rhonda Mason & Kyle McCombs, Alex, Rebecca and Ben - Albia, IA - friend** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ I remember Denny as one of the Quiet Leaders of our family, that really made great contributions to the success of our Ryan family reunions. He will be greatly missed by everybody.

*I remember Him giving hay rides around the farm. He was always soft spoken. I could see that He was very respected, and that He really cared that everybody had a good time, and We always did*

*Prayers, and candles for His Soul. In Christ. Charlie Ryan*

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**Charlie Ryan - Roseville, MN - Relative** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Dear Carolyn, Allyson and Josey,

*Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss..our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

*We knew Dennis through Helping Hands. Dennis was a Awesome Inspirational Man, always with a smile and a Helping Hand to the ones in need. I believe he was a Amazing Grace through the community. He will be truly missed.*

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**Alan and Jody Bolibaugh - GA - Friend** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EI

“ Carolyn & girls,  
*I was saddened to hear that Denny had passed away. He was such a kind soul. My thoughts & prayers go to your family. May God wrap his arms around you in this most difficult time & give you strength.*

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**Elizabeth Garrett - MILTON, IA** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *A fellow supervisor whose light will shine long after his passing. A public official whose standards we can only hope to match.*

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**Jerry Parker - Ottumwa, IA - fellow County Supervisor** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *Carolyn, Allyson, Josey*

*We are so sorry for your loss. Denny was so nice to our dad during their school bus driving days & after. You are in our thoughts & prayers.*

*The children of Bob & Katie Overmyer - Bobbi, Debbie, Peggy, Scott Overmyer.*

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**Bobbi (Overmyer) Bassett - Knoxville, IA - Acquaintance** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

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**Charlie Ryan - Roseville, MN - Relative** - September 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I had the honor to work with Denny when I the Site Manager at Leisure Lounge. He will be greatly missed by many. My prayers goes out to his family.

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**Pam Janney - Sioux Falls , SD - Friend** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We were so deeply saddened to hear of Denny's passing. May the love of friends comfort you in these difficult days. May our Lord bless and bring you comfort & peace during this time of grief. Denny will be greatly missed by so many people in so many walks of life. He worked so hard for the county, the church, the schools etc. No one person will be able to fill his shoes. I feel so privileged to have known him through work and Jerry loved going on trips with him. He loved life and lived it fully! He adored all his girls and you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Please accept our heart felt condolences.

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**Jerry and Karen Fontinel - Albia, IA** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I wish to extend my sympathy and prayers to the family. I worked with Denny for many years as Head Start Director for the South Central Iowa Community Action Agency when he was on the Board of Directors and later the Chairman of the Board. I found him to be a caring, thoughtful man who wanted the best for his community and southern Iowa. He was so easy to talk to and work with. We will all feel a great loss from his passing so early in his life. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children at this difficult time.

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**Dianne Riley - Osceola, IA - friend** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Carolyn, Allyson & Josey,  
There are simply no words to express my heartfelt sadness for your family. Your amazing husband and father was such an inspiration to so many of us. The lives Denny touched are forever changed.  
“The Simple Path  
Silence is Prayer  
Prayer is Faith  
Faith is Love  
Love is Service  
The Fruit of Service is Peace”  
? Mother Teresa

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**Sharon (Ryan) Cunningham - Albia, IA - Friend** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Such a great guy!!!! Will be missed by so many but our thoughts and prayers go to Carolyn and the girls who have lost so much!!!

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**Don and Mary Carr - Urbandale, IA - Cousins/Friends** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Carolyn and girls.... I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Denny was always one of my very favorites in the Albia area. Truly a wonderful person who will be greatly missed. Keep his memory close to your heart. I will pray for you.

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**Meg Mellecker - Bettendorf , IA - Friend** - September 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ It was a pleasure to serve with Denny on the board at Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa (CHCIS). This was such a shock to all the board members. You have our deepest sympathies.

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**Diana "Dee" Euritt - Kellerton, IA - Friend/fellow board member** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Carolyn, Allyson, and Josey- so sad to here of Denny's passing. Thinking and praying a lot for your family at this difficult time. May the Lord give you strength today and always!!

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**Dave, Lindsay and Carter Kamerick - albia, IA - Friends** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Carolyn, Allyson and Josey,

*We send our love and prayers to all of you. May God bless you with strength and comfort in the days ahead.*

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**Dave, Sandee, Melinda, Kyle and Sarah Shipp - Charlotte, NC - friend** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ Carolyn and girls, we are so very sorry for the sudden loss of your husband/father. What a shock when we heard the news. Denny was an asset to everything he was involved in and you should be proud of all his accomplishments. They will never be forgotten, nor will he. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Renee' and Mark Knowles - Albia & Melrose, IA** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ Carolyn, Allison and Josey,  
We were shocked and saddened by Denny's sudden passing. He was a great guy, and will be greatly missed by the whole community.  
Know he is still with you and will be watching over you and the girls. Our family will be praying for God's comfort to help you through this difficult time.

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**Ruth & Richard James, Jessica James, & Leah and Bryan Raskie - Albia, IA** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VN

“ Carolyn so sorry to hear of Uncle Dennis' passing. I have many great childhood memories of him. He was always kind and enjoyed playing with us when we were kids. James and I remember growing up and visiting the farm on weekends and in the summer. I cannot imagine your grief and will be praying for you and your family. It sounds like he grew up to be an amazing husband, father and leader in his community.

Sincerely  
Virginia (Ginny) Ann Ryan Ross  
James Michael Ryan

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**Virginia Ann Ryan Ross - Ankeny, IA - niece** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Carolyn, Allison and Josey! My Thought's and Prayer's are with you All. We have lost a great Friend, classmate and Human Being. So many memories of High School and our reunion planning's. God Bless you all! Rest In Peace my Friend!

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**Marina Simmons - Albia, IA - Friend and classmate** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ Carolyn and girls - our hearts are breaking for you - you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Mike and Anne Hunter - East Moline, IL** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Carolyn, Allyson and Josey,  
You have our deepest sympathies. May you find comfort in the warmth and love of all your family and friends in the coming days. May you take strength from your strong faith.  
The, Ryan Family Tree, has lost such a huge supporter of all things, Catholic, Ryan and Irish. Denny will be forever missed.  
The community ( Melrose, Albia, Georgetown and Lovilia } has lost their best friend. Denny was always there supporting, working on , finding new ways to make life better for all of us, who reside within this area. Denny will be forever missed.  
We are so thankful for having known, Denny. He was a man of great integrity, compassion, leadership, honesty, Irish wit and faith. Denny will be forever missed.  
Rose and Larry Lennie

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**Rose Lennie - Albia, IA - Cousin** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Carolyn and girls, We are all so very sorry for your loss. Please know we are praying for you. Art, Sue, Trevor and Ian Humphreys

Sue Humphreys - Albia, IA - Friend - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Such sad news...To Denny's wife Carolyn (my 2nd grade teacher whom I remember well as such a kind and caring person), Denny's children, and all others who knew and loved him...My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this difficult time.

julie (Parks) lemaster - moline, IL - friend, former student - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Mr. Ryan was my school bus driver and his wife was my second grade teacher. I'm 37 now and still have fond memories of them both. I'm so sorry for your loss Carolyn and girls.

chасыty smith - Killeen, TX - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ We are at a loss for words. I know there is nothing we can say to make your loss easier, but we love you and you and the girls will be in our prayers..... Denny was a kindhearted and generous person and will be missed dearly.

Bob, Sue, Amber and Anita - Davenport, IA - Friends - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Our hearts are heavy and aching for you Carolyn and your beautiful girls. May the love and support of all of your family and friends help you get through this tough time. We, along with everyone else thought Denny was a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed. Prayers to your family, and know we will all support you in the coming days.

Kevin & Cynthia Halbmaier - Albia, IA - friends - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Carolyn,  
Words cannot express how deeply sorry we are for the loss of Denny. May God wrap his arms around you and the girls to give you strength and help your hearts to heal.

Mike & Becky Teno - Melrose, IA - Friend - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Received word of Denny's passing from my sister Marina Simmons. Always Thoughtful and Always so pleasant to be around. What a Classy Person to have known throughout my Early years in Albia going to School together. May God Speed and God Bless his Soul. My Thoughts are with his Family during this Time. The Journey Continues... May he Rest in Peace..

Andy Simmons

Andy Simmons - Fulton, IL - Friend - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Carolyn and Girls, So sorry to hear about Denny. Prayers for you all.

Diane Whitson

Diane Whitson - Albia, IA - friend - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *My heartfelt concerns and prayers to all of you! May God care for you in this time of great loss. I just cannot believe this! I first met Denny when I started to drive his fathers bus route I think Denny was only 13. He was very kind and helpful to me. He kept those traits to the end !*

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**Paul Peterson - Albia, IA - Friend** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FP

“ *Carolyn, Allison, Josey --*

*I was absolutely shocked when I heard of Denny's passing. I know it came as a shock to you as well. I am sorry that I will not be able to be there, but know you are in my prayers. God will take care now of Denny and will be there for you as well.*

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**Fr. Pat Lumsden - Lovilia, IA - Pastor** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ *Carolyn & girls,*

*Words cannot express the loss of your husband, father. The sudden loss of a loved one is felt by all the people who knew him & whom he touched & it looks like he touched many. We hope time will comfort you & heel your pain. Sorry as neighbors we have never met, but we want you to know if you need something we will try to do our best at helping. With my husband's cancer he might not be able to do as much, but we can always call one of our children. Billy Strickler is our Son. I am sure he would help if we called him. We want you to know we will also be praying for all of you during your time of need.*

*Dennis & Vicky Strickler*

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**Dennis & Vicky Strickler - Moravia, IA - Neighbor** - September 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM