



## Norman John Mandak

December 17, 1943 - April 1, 2025

Norman entered into rest with His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on April 1, 2025. His life began in Glasgow, Montana, on December 17, 1943. He was born to John and Bernadine Mandak. They later had another son, Brian. The two boys grew up fishing and waterskiing on the Hood Canal, climbing mountains, and knowing they were loved.

As time preceded, Norm graduated from Central Kitsap High School in Silverdale, Washington, and attended Olympic College. His first professional job was for the Navy calibrating instruments. After a time, he enlisted in the Air Force as a jet engine mechanic and served in Moses Lake (Larson), Spokane (Fairchild), and the Far East. After serving, he met and married Kay Olson and had two wonderful daughters, Deanna and Michele.

During this time, he attended Eastern Washington University, where he pursued his education degree. His first teaching job was in Almira, Washington. After two years, he moved to Okanogan to teach wood shop, driver's ed, and history and ended his career teaching special education. He also coached girls' basketball and tennis, where his teams won three district titles and one state championship.

Kay and Norm divorced after 17 years. Norm married Ruthann DeTro, the angel of his life, in June 1995. After retirement, they enjoyed time camping

with the Okanogan Good Sam Club, cruising in the Caribbean, skiing, and enjoying the family and grandchildren.

They were faithful members of Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Omak, where they grew in their grace and knowledge of Jesus. With the hope of heaven, Ruthann and Norm are excited to be reunited one day.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents, John and Bernadine. He is survived by his wife, Ruthann, brother Brian, and his children, Deanna (and Don) Stewart, Doug Detro, Michele (and Wayne) Corkish, and Diana (and Brad) Soliday. He also left a legacy of nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Celebration of life will be held at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Omak, WA on Saturday, April 12 at 2:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to one of Norm's favorite charities: Smile Train or St. Jude's.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **12**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship  
328 N. Riverside Drive  
Omak, WA 98841

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ Brother Brian, Carrie and Steve planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Norman John Mandak.

Brother Brian, Carrie and Steve - April 07, 2025 at 07:15 PM

BS

“ Brother Brian, Carrie and Steve purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Norman John Mandak.



Brother Brian, Carrie and Steve - April 07, 2025 at 07:15 PM

NA

“ NNU Admissions purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Norman John Mandak.



NNU Admissions - April 07, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Norman John Mandak.

April 04, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norman John Mandak.*



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April 04, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ *The College of Business, NNU purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Norman John Mandak.*



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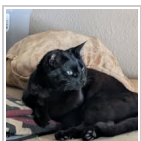
**The College of Business, NNU** - April 03, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *One of the original greats... his arguments with Jim strom over whether cookies should have nuts or not ... classic. After his retirement he revelled in visiting us at school to make sure we were working... his tax dollars at work. Love you Norm... see you on the other side.*

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**Aaron Nickelson** - April 02, 2025 at 08:16 PM



“ *Mr. Mandak was my teacher, coach and friend. He was a kind, gentle soul who was very good at his job. He is Okanogan's longest tenured tennis coach. He touched so many young people with his kind heart.*

*Tennis was a lot of fun those four years (1979-82).  
He will not be forgotten.*

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**Sean Campbell** - April 02, 2025 at 04:12 PM

RS

“ My FAVORITE teacher ever! and he was also my high school basketball coach. He made school fun and he was too cool. Drivers ED the greatest.. “pay attention to the signs” haha we’re coming off the hwy into Omak headed towards Nespelem the road sign came up “155” I punched it and yelled hang on Mandak lol 😭 he turned RED slammed on his brake shaking his head haha. I would curb it on purpose cause he was too tall to fit in the car and seeing him turn bright Red and laugh was epic lol i don’t know how he passed me. basketball was worse he said that me and Mel Spence gave him all his gray hair 🙌 “ if you would just run the play! What play? lol you said shoot it was the play !? lol he turn RED I know he wanted to cuss so bad lol then to make his day I took wood shop with him haha Randy Ray and I had way to much fun in that class. He showed us how to make some awesome woodwork. We try to talk him into being a full time sub for one of our classes he said not a chance lol he was always the fun teacher. mandak was the absolute coolest funnest kindest teacher especially when Randy and I got the mini car stuck on the ramp going into the gym Mandak had to push us backwards so we could get out the doors. I would run into him from time to time around town and he still yell my name like he did in the game loud as hell “FAWWWWWWNNNN!!!” To his family I send my deepest sympathies and I hope my stories can bring a small smile during this difficult time. Mandak thank you for the greatest memories in high school and when I get there I hope your side the car don’t have that brake in it. Fawn Walker Swan class 1983 Okanogan Bulldogs

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Raylene Swan - April 02, 2025 at 02:42 PM

JH

“ He was one of my favorite teachers! From drivers ed to coaching he was one of the good ones! A life well lived! RIP pal

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JJ Harrison - April 02, 2025 at 12:25 AM



“ *Mr. Mandak was an awesome teacher! He was genuine in his love for it and it showed without fail every day I saw him in my years at Okanogan Jr and Sr high. My heart goes out to all of his family and friends. See you when I get there Norman. 🙏🇺🇸*

Delbert Fitzhugh - April 01, 2025 at 11:38 PM



“ *He was my teacher from 7-9th there at OKanogan . He was amazing always kind and respectful.to me no matter what I was going through. He will be missed. My heart goes out to his family.*

Chanin Giddens (Martin ) - April 01, 2025 at 09:54 PM



*He was the best teacher ! Many fine memories of Drivers Ed W Mr Mandak!! Lot's of Shenanigans! Graduation 1991 !!*

Lisa Leisle - April 01, 2025 at 10:12 PM



*Norm Mandak was the best of them at Okanogan High School. A genuinely decent gentleman. He was my social studies teacher, and my tennis coach, and those memories of him are strong. He coached us to a district tennis championship in 1980, he was over the moon! He is missed.....im glad he had a long full life.*

Mitch Johnson - April 02, 2025 at 01:07 AM



*Agree with all the comments about Coach Mandak. He was our 9th grade basketball coach. We always had fun with him. As Mitch said, he was a genuinely good gentleman. I sometimes wonder how he put up with us, but I think he actually thrived on our hijinks. Rest in peace, Coach Mandak.*

Tom J. Todd - April 16, 2025 at 05:55 AM