



# Marvin (Marv) Allan Black

DEC 3, 1941 - JAN 15, 2013



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## **Marvin (Marv) Allan Black**

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**M**arvin (Marv) Allan Black passed away on January 15th, 2013 at the age of 71. He was born on December 3rd, 1941 in Sterling, Illinois, where he grew up and graduated from Sterling Township High School in 1960. Marv went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1964 and a master's degree from Western Michigan University in 1966. A consummate entrepreneur, Marv's work experience began as a young boy, selling Dilly Bars and delivering newspapers from the back of his bicycle. Before returning to his business roots, Marv worked as a sheriff's deputy, assistant fire chief, emergency medical technician, community college instructor, county commissioner, cattle farmer, and education director for the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Marv's work in the seed industry started with him working as a salesman. By the end of his career, he had advanced to the position of Director of Marketing for Syngenta Seeds, a multinational corporation. Most recently, Marv was the founding president of Distinction Marketing, a consulting company. His retirement was anything but idle. As snowbirds, Marv and his wife, Peggy, divided their time between Eden Prairie, Minnesota and Cape Coral, Florida. He was passionate about spending winters in his beloved Florida. In addition to his consulting work, he also took up new hobbies that included woodworking and serving on the board of his condo association in Florida. He also continued to pursue his lifelong passions of learning, reading, photography, boating, birding, and conserving nature. Marv was a force of generosity, thoughtfulness, zest, sincerity, wisdom, and creativity unparalleled in the lives of those who were lucky enough to have known him. A dedicated husband, dad, and grandpa, Marv could be frequently found traveling the highways between Minnesota and Michigan to visit both his children and grandchildren, often with a trunkful of power tools and pirate hats, and always with a plan for memorable adventures. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet; his parents, Marvin and Norvetta (Merlak)



## Obituary

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Black and two infant sons. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Peggy; daughter, Marti (Black) Steiner, her husband Bret and their children Noah, Adam, Jacob Allan, and Samantha; daughter, Keri (Black) Leonard, her husband Rodd and their children Hunter, Carson, and Davis; son, Ryan Black and his wife Krista; daughter, Sarah Black and her husband Nick Petersen; brother, Richard Black; and 5 step-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Kalamazoo Nature Center, the ? Ç£Ding?Ç¥ Darling Wildlife Society, or the American Heart Association. A celebration of his life will be held at 1 p.m., February 9, 2013 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (Snyder Room), 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318. Condolences may be left at [www.fortmyersmemorial.com](http://www.fortmyersmemorial.com).



## Tribute Wall

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CP

**Charlene Peterson** posted:

Dear Paggy- I was sadded t hear of marv' sudden passing. He was a kind and thoughtful neighbor. When Dick was ill he put railings up on door from garage to house. Marv was always a cheerful person whith a quick smile and grin. I keep you in my prayers. Char Peterson

March 20 at 9:59 AM

PE

**Peggy** posted:

I wish you were here to celebrate our anniversary today. I love you and I miss you more than words can say. Thank you for all our beautiful memories. You were and are my soulmate.

February 22 at 2:07 PM

BO

**Betty & Bob Otsea** posted:

Dear Peggy,As relatively new friends in your life, we don't have a long history to share. But – just like the picture – Marv always had that smile when we walked by. We'd hesitate to interrupt him (because he was always busy with some project in the garage), but the door was open and we always had an interesting conversation. Marv — kind, clever, generous, warm, resourceful & and so very capable — not only did he make a small railing he saw we needed for two steps into our new home, he also made us pens from pieces of our new wood floor!We will certainly miss him but know your loss is far, far greater. Our prayers are for your peace and comfort. You must have many great memories. Let us know when there's any way we can help.Betty & Bob Otsea

February 7 at 6:30 AM

AD

**Alexander Drotschmann** posted:

With great surprise and sadness did I receive the news of Marv's passing this week. We worked for many years together at Novartis and later Syngenta. Even though we had often different opinions about our business I had the privilege of having had many personal conversations with him where he shared great human insights and life experiences with me that I still remember and that still influence me today. He was truly a person who had my highest respect. I can only imagine how much he will be missed. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. I will keep him and his family in my prayers.Alexander Drotschmann

January 25 at 11:47 AM



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KH

**Kurt Harries** posted:

Peggy, I am so sorry to hear of Marv's passing. You have my sympathy. I pray that friends, family and God's grace give you strength in this time of loss. I was blest to have known and worked with Marv through the years. His smile was encouraging and his patience helped many. I am thankful that Marv touched my life, he touched so many. Kurt Harries

January 23 at 2:05 PM

SH

**Stephanie Harnick** posted:

Peggy, I was saddened to hear of Marv's passing. I hadn't seen him for years but remember nothing but positive interactions with him. He always had a smile on his face and a great sense of humor. He was well respected by those who worked for him or closely with him. May you and the family take comfort in the many wonderful memories you have of the all-too-short time you spent with Marv. My thoughts are with you.

January 23 at 1:05 PM

MW

**Mike Nancy Wolfe** posted:

Dear Peggy, We are broken hearted to hear of Marv's passing. He was one of the nicest and kindest people I have ever known. My deepest sympathy for your loss and our prayers are with you and all of the family. We are certain that God is holding Marv in the palm of his hand. Mike and Nancy Wolfe – 1 second ago

January 22 at 8:16 PM

MW

**Mike And Nancy Wolfe** posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Marvin (Marv) Allan Black

January 22 at 8:05 PM

VB

**Vernon Benes** posted:

Peggy, I am so sad to hear of Marv's passing. He was a great innovator and always looking to improve the communications for companies. It has been a long time since we talked but always know you I think of your friendship often were there for me as a friend when my wife passed almost 20 years ago and I know how important it is to be surrounded by friends. Lean on them as they will be your strength. God Bless Vernon Benes

January 22 at 10:55 AM



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JF

**James R. Fosmoe** posted:

I first met Marv as a 13 year old at the Kalamazoo Nature Center many years ago. My memories of him are crystal clear to this day and as I commented to a friend who also has ties to Marvin and the KNC during that same time period, "It's amazing how a person who was in my life for only 'minutes' in the grand scheme of it was able to have such a lasting influence." He helped to provide me with an interest in photography that remains to this day—especially nature photography. Ironically I thought of a conversation I'd had with Marv all those years ago just this past Saturday morning as I was looking at cameras and saw a Nikon display. Each time I've seen the Nikon logo throughout my life, the memory of that specific conversation with Marv about that brand of camera equipment comes into my mind. My most vivid memory involving Marv was a trip he organized for five of us into Michigan's Upper Peninsula where we eventually canoed down the Tahquamenon Falls to explore some wilderness property that had been donated to the Nature Center. This took place sometime around August, 1978. It was a very memorable adventure for a teenage boy. So to his family, please feel proud of your father/grandfather/husband and the impact he had on others all those years ago. I am but one of many in which he helped to convey a sense of importance in nature and all that is around us during his time at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Marv Black is definitely not someone I've ever forgotten and I remain grateful to have experienced his presence in my life. Jim Fosmoe

January 21 at 9:07 AM

JB

**Jack Bernens** posted:

Peggy, We were so surprised and sadden of the news. Marv, was truly a good person and probably the most innovative person I ever met. It was truly a blessing to have known and worked with Marv, he will never be forgotten. We are so sorry for your loss and pray for you to find the strength to navigate these very difficult times. Jack and Robin Bernens

January 21 at 6:45 AM

MS

**Mark Schmidt** posted:

So sorry to hear the news..our sympathies to Peggy and all of your family. Marv was a great guy and one of the most creative people I have known. May the love of friends and family provide you the comfort you need during this difficult time – Mark and Cathy Schmidt

January 20 at 4:56 PM



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KB

**Karla Bormes** posted:

Peggy, Our deepest sympathies to you in this great sadness. We were so sad to hear of Marv's passing. Isabel and I will miss our happy and smiling neighbor. He was always warm, kind and patient with Isabel. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Karla and Isabel Bormes

January 20 at 11:49 AM

RL

**Roger And Jeanne Lukkarila** posted:

Thank you for the gift of surrounding Peggy with your love. You will hold a special place in our hearts and our memories forever. We will miss you more than words can say. Roger and Jeanne

January 19 at 1:01 PM

JC

**Janice Olson Carr** posted:

Dear Peggy, I send my deepest sympathy to you. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to see you and to meet your special Marv while I was in FL last year. Hugs, Jan Carr

January 19 at 8:13 AM

LK

**Laura Krajewski** posted:

Thank you for all the love and support you gave to the entire family. You will be missed.

January 19 at 5:04 AM

PB

**Peggy Black** posted:

I love you with my whole heart and soul. I miss you so much. Peggy

January 18 at 1:58 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Marvin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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