



## Daniel F. Snyder

April 22, 1950 - May 20, 2024

DANIEL F. SNYDER

APRIL 22, 1950 - MAY 20, 2024

Daniel F. Snyder of Park Falls, Wisconsin, passed away unexpectedly on May 20, 2024. Dan was scheduled to travel to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee that day for open heart surgery. However, he suffered a cardiac event at home and was transported by ambulance to Marshfield Hospital in Park Falls. Dan fought valiantly, as did the medical staff who did everything possible to save him, but he passed away just as a Flight for Life plane was preparing to touch down in Phillips to collect him for emergency transport to Froedtert.

Dan was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin on April 22, 1950, to Clarence and Ruth (Rafferty) Snyder and grew up on the south side of Milwaukee. He graduated from Don Bosco High School in the spring of 1968 and began his undergraduate education at UW-Lacrosse, transferring to UW-Milwaukee after one semester. Due to his outstanding grades, Dan was able to transfer to UW-Madison Law School after only three years of college. Dan received his Law Degree in 1973 and was admitted to the Wisconsin State Bar on January 16, 1974, becoming the youngest practicing attorney in Wisconsin at that time.

Dan married his soulmate and best friend, Pam, formerly Nelson, on June 7, 1971, at the Milwaukee County Courthouse. After Dan graduated from law

school, he and Pam moved to Park Falls, where Dan joined a litigation firm. In 1988, he opened the Snyder Law Office and was a sole practitioner throughout the rest of his life. Dan spent more than 50 years engaged in his life's passion— the practice of law. His legal skills were truly legendary, as anyone who ever had the privilege of watching him deliver a three-hour closing argument, without so much as a note to rely on, can attest. During trials, it was amazing to watch him lure unsuspecting legal foes into a false sense of confidence, as they foolishly underestimated him. Time after time he relied upon careful preparation, his astounding intellect, and a simple yellow legal pad to overcome sophisticated legal teams from large firms, armed with the latest technology designed to impress judges and juries. Dan practiced in nearly every county in Wisconsin, as well as in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and he very rarely lost a case. His work ethic was second to none, and he never slowed down throughout his long career as he consistently used his legal skills to help people, and to make a positive difference in their lives. Dan was guided by the knowledge that everyone deserves justice, and he often did legal work without charge for individuals who had been treated unfairly. He truly believed that being a lawyer is not merely a vocation; it is a public trust, and as such, he felt that he had an obligation to give back to his community by helping those in need. He advocated for the physically disabled, the mentally ill, and the elderly. He used his brilliant mind and legal skills to fight for people that society tried to ignore. He made a difference in people's lives. United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg once gave the following advice: "Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. That means don't do it for yourself. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived." Unwittingly, Dan lived by that advice. He left the world a much better place, and the tracks that he left can never be erased.

Dan gave his rare free time to help his wife work with special needs children. Pam was a Big Sister and would bring her Little Sisters home for respite care.

The kids loved it when Dan would take them fishing, read books to them, and make popcorn for them so they could watch old Westerns together. Dan was an avid reader and enjoyed browsing bookstores and ordering books online. He was also an avid outdoorsman, and loved spending time with his golden retriever, Finn, at the family cabin. More than anything, though, Dan loved being a life partner to Pam, father to his children, and the best 'Bepapa' to his two grandsons. He loved to spend time with his son, Adam, going to the movies, Packer Sundays, fishing, and swimming at the family cabin. He was so proud of his son, Matthew, his accomplishments, and the man that he has become. Dan was so impressed by Matt's drive, work ethic, and integrity. He enjoyed hearing from Matt about his newest plans and projects. He knew how lucky Matthew was when he married Suzanne and she became another daughter to Dan and Pam. Their love and commitment to each other reminded him of his own marriage to Pam. Dan's daughter, Heather, was a beacon of light for him. He loved her fortitude and unwavering devotion to family. He also loved his son-in-law, Arnie, and enjoyed sharing stories about their careers and discussing politics with him. They shared many laughs. Dan's grandsons, Jove and Pollux, were a majestic source of love and fulfillment for him. He was the one to hold the baby, the lap to sit on and their spoiling companion to Flambeau Rama, always at their beck and call. He was so supportive in everything they did and no matter how busy he was, he made time for a truck ride, a game of chess or fishing on Bass Lake. One hobby he taught them was woodworking in his workshop and he was so proud to watch their skills develop. The fact that Jove used his woodworking abilities to complete his Eagle Scout project left him wonderstruck. Bepa also found great pleasure in watching science fiction movies with Pollux and conversing with him in German. He was fascinated by Pollux's extensive knowledge of sharks, space and cars. He was truly amazed by his grandsons' diverse interests, their open hearts and their capacity to put in the work to make their dreams come true.

Dan is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Pam, of Park Falls; son Matthew (Suzanne) of Greenfield; son Adam of Park Falls; daughter Heather (Arnold) Stueber and grandsons Jove and Pollux of Wauwatosa; sister Maura (Mundo) Najera of Milwaukee; sister-in laws Annette (Paul) Sprtel of Hubertus, Annie (Bill) Rouse of Green Bay, Marybeth (Chris) Cummings of Pensacola, FL, Peggy (Curt) Foreman of Caledonia: numerous nieces and nephews; extended family members Claire Campbell of Park Falls, Dani Greenwood of Midland, North Carolina, Carolyn Kolson-Janov of Manitowish Waters; Jodie Bednar-Clemens of Springstead; Ann and Gary Koski of Park Falls; his faithful golden retriever, Finn and many, many more dear friends. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Melissa Ann; parents, Clarence and Ruth; and his brothers, Thomas, Michael, David and Patrick; father-in-law Donald Nelson; mother-in-law Leone Yankech and brother-in-law Donnie Nelson.

Dan's dear friend, Jim Lex, said of his passing, "Dan was one of a kind." Jim was right. Dan was definitely one of a kind and he can never be replaced. Not only was he a titan of the law, he was a loyal, true friend. He could always be counted on and never hesitated to lend a helping hand. He had a great sense of humor, always having a witty comment to offer in any situation. All of us who knew and loved Dan are devastated by his passing. He meant so much to us, and his untimely death represents a tragic loss. The late Queen Elizabeth once said, "Grief is the price we pay for love." That sentiment so accurately describes our feelings at this time. Our hearts are broken. We will think of Dan every day, love and miss him forever. His passing leaves a huge void in our lives and has caused immense pain. Yet, we know that he would want us to remember all of the good times, want us to smile, not cry, and to celebrate his life and the impact he made on our world. We can almost hear him say these words:

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when day is gone.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
of happy times, and laughing times, and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun,  
of happy memories that I leave when my life is done.

A private memorial will be held later this summer. The family thanks everyone for their prayers and kindness. We ask that, in lieu of flowers, please contribute to your local food pantry; Dan would love that. We also ask that you share with us your happy memories of Dan, whether by mail, or on the Birch Street Funeral Service website. It would mean so much to us to hear from you – to be able to read about what Dan meant to you, or something funny he may have said or done, or how he may have helped you in some way.

# Tribute Wall



“ *He was a great man who had helped my dad may he rest in peace.  
God bless his family*

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**Donna L Hess** - July 10, 2024 at 05:36 PM

TV

“ I ran across Dan in the mid to late 90's. I can't recall one person (of dozens) that I told to contact him for legal advice or just life advice, that he didn't make time to listen to them, no matter how busy he was or who was knocking on his office door. Many of those people he truly helped and lots of them for a cut-rate sliding scale fee. He certainly didn't discriminate on any grounds. Also one of the most honest, straight shooting human beings you'll ever come across. (Quadruple character points for fact his profession was as an attorney) JOKE

The world needs 10,000 more Daniel Snyders. He was a champion for the bullied, the illegally screwed over and of course the underdogs out there. He had an innate aversion to people in coveted high powerful positions that were abusing their powers even a little bit!

Its a Great Loss to the community, I can only imagine the pain his loved ones and friends are having to endure. I hope they take comfort in the immutable fact that there are multiples of dozens of people out there in the surrounding community that he really helped legally or at worst he attempted to send them in the right direction to get information or assistance. Knowing Dan, his family members probably don't even know most of the names of the people he positively affected. He was Just a Grade A+ human being who was the opposite of "selfish" and always carried himself like a true gentleman. He will be extremely missed. He leaves a multitude of positive stories of other human beings that encountered him and they were way better off for encountering him. The very best compliment I can give from my sporadic experiences seeing or talking with him, "Dan was kind of guy that I wished that I would grow up into being" He didn't ever one time, in seeing him, come across as a "big shot" or display the attitude of I'm so much better than all of you" or never gave off the aura of being a super wealthy guy that was obsessed with trying to pile up as much cash, assets and power as humanely possible, and believe me, he was far beyond intelligent enough to go out and get more things than twenty average familys combined if that was in his soul. RIP Daniel Snyder

TL Vincent - June 16, 2024 at 07:34 PM

JP

“ My heart is full of sadness after just hearing the sad news that God has taken one of the most amazing, kind, intelligent, humble men from this earth, only to leave behind the love us his life. First of all Pam you wrote the most beautiful obituary I have ever read, you truly showed your LOVE and respect for Dan. I was so proud to have Dan as a friend. He never judged me for my level of intelligence he never looked down on me because I was a gas station clerk, Dan treated me with respect. Now I am crying so hard I can't see to write this. I looked forward to seeing Dan come in Krist Oil every day he always had a smile. When I got fired and was at the lowest point in my life, DAN SNYDER and his wife sent me a huge bouquet of flowers, that gesture of kindness pulled me up from a very low spot. Even though he was such an incredible lawyer he never once looked down on anyone. Dan use to buy Christmas wreaths from me every year because he knew I sold them for presents for my kids. When my unemployment was being denied, Dan read all my papers and got it passed. When my husband and I had a legal situation we were dealing with Dan Snyder handled everything and wouldn't take anything but firewood for payment. I can't think of anyone in this world that I can say I have more respect for. I only wish when I saw him in the post office a couple months ago that I would have had more time than the 5 minutes we talked, I would have told him what a difference he made in my life. Pam Thank you for sharing this incredible man with us, you meant the world to him. Dan Thank you for making a difference in my life, May you rest in peace.

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Jodi Poetzi - June 05, 2024 at 10:16 PM

JP

“ Dan was kind and so understanding when I needed help...so blessed for his professional help. I am so sorry for your loss but we will keep all of you in our prayers. He was a blessing to our community.

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**Joan Page** - June 05, 2024 at 09:49 AM

 Joan Buraglio

“ Dan was so very sympathetic, professional, strong, and helpful to our family. We were and are very grateful for his help and guidance when we were in need. Never judgmental, always professional and realistic, he truly was a bright light in a dismal situation. Rest in peace, good and faithful servant!

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**Joan Buraglio** - June 01, 2024 at 10:05 PM

LW

“ Since learning of Dan’s death, my heart has been heavy. I have known Dan and worked with him for over 40 years. Dan was more than just an exceptional attorney; he was a force of nature, whose sharp legal mind and unwavering dedication to his profession left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of working with him.

*In addition to his formidable legal skills, Dan possessed a wit as sharp as his courtroom arguments. His snide yet jovial comments never failed to bring a smile to my face whenever we ran into each other. And who could forget that mischievous glint that always danced in his eyes, a silent testament to his irrepressible spirit and zest for life.*

*As I mourn the loss of Dan, let us also celebrate the legacy he leaves behind—a legacy of excellence, camaraderie, and laughter. Though he may no longer be with us in person, his memory will continue to inspire us all.*

*Rest in peace, Dan. You will be dearly missed.*

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**Lisa Walcisak** - May 29, 2024 at 03:15 PM

SS

“ Sending my condolences to Dan’s family. Feels like I’ve known Dan and Pam forever, which is a great thing to know. Any time I ran into Dan or Pam, they were the same sweet, kind people. Pam, my heart goes out to you and your family, and hope knowing that people care will help in some way during your grief.

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**Sue Seidl** - May 29, 2024 at 09:52 AM

JG

“ My heart goes out to you all at this sad time. We are sending you all our love. This obituary explained Dan so well, by far the best I have ever read. I felt like I was sitting with him, hearing him laugh!!!! Thank You Dan (my son in law) for welcoming lil Dani into you and Pam's life many moons ago. The impact you both made on not only Dani but our entire family will always be cherished!!!! You will never be forgotten <3



Jodi Greenwood - May 27, 2024 at 04:46 PM

KP

“ Earth Weeps, Heaven Rejoices!

Kristin Pritzl - May 23, 2024 at 09:48 PM

SD

“ Susan Marie Darlak lit a candle in memory of Daniel F. Snyder



susan marie darlak - May 23, 2024 at 06:29 PM

SD

my thoughts and prayers are with the family amen blessings

susan marie darlak - May 23, 2024 at 06:30 PM

AN

“ Dear Pam, Heather, Arnie, and Family,

*We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Dan. Our hearts go out to you during this incredibly difficult time. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*



*Dan's contributions to the community of Park Falls were significant and will always be remembered. His dedication and service have left a lasting impact on many lives. We pray that you find peace and comfort in the love and support of those around you.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Jamey and Anastasia Stueber, and family*

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**Anastasia** - May 23, 2024 at 04:00 PM