

JUNE 30TH, 1971-JULY 1ST 2025

Nik was born on June 30th, 1971 to Patricia and Donald Sturis in Key West, Florida. He briefly lived in South Carolina, before ultimately settling in South Dakota.

He graduated from Sturgis Brown High School in 1989 and in 1992, he married Shohn Bryan and shortly after they welcomed their first child, Jessica. Though the marriage ended in divorce, they remained friends.

In 1996 he married Allison Hill. He went on to earn his automotive collision repair degree from Western Dakota Tech, receiving many awards for his mastery. In 2000 they welcomed their second daughter, Eva. Two years later, Lilly was born. In 2008, he got his son, Elijah. Nik shared 17 years with Allison, and they remained beloved friends after their divorce.

Nik loved being a father. He encouraged all of his kids to shoot for the stars and immerse themselves in all things math and science. He got a kick out of helping with calculus and physics homework, and never missed an opportunity to talk about black holes in space. He enjoyed taking all the kids on road trips, including multiple 24-hour car rides to Washington. He watched all of his children jump into the Pacific ocean for the first time with immense pride and joy.

In 2014, shortly after his 43rd birthday, he became a grandfather. In 2022 he got his grandson Klaus, followed by Ronan in 2024.

Nik loved to cook, spending the majority of his life working in a kitchen which he enjoyed fiercely. He had a spark that would never dim—sharp, witty, and full of curiosity for the world. He had a special affection for his coin collection—a loud passion that spoke to his eye for detail and history. In 2021, he created a YouTube channel named after his pre-Americanized surname, Sturika, where he shared videos showcasing all kinds of currency from around the world. He was proud of the community he built and the friendships he made through creating and sharing videos.

His sense of humor was unmatched, and even in his final moments his wit shone through—asking for a Heineken, because that was his way: facing life and death with a wink, a joke, and a full heart. But behind the jokes was a man who worked tirelessly and loved deeply.

He had an eclectic love for music that spanned decades and genres—James Taylor, Dave Matthews Band, Ed Sheeran, Audioslave, Blues Traveler, The Eagles—you name it. His playlists were as diverse and soulful as he was. His kids were often lulled to sleep with his strumming of Blackbird by the Beatles on his beloved guitar.

A true adventurer at heart, he loved the outdoors. There wasn't an ocean or mountain he didn't want to see. He was a phenomenal gardener, the kind who could coax life from soil with patience and pride. Every season brought the best homegrown produce that he had no problem turning into beautiful meals for all his friends and family.

Nik is preceded in death by his father, Donald Sturis, his mother Patricia Newton, grandparents Nick and Lillie Sturis, and Clarence and Mary Boam. He is survived by his brother, Anthony Sturis, and his four children, Jessica (Josey) Durham, Eva (Dawson) Sturis-Pearson, Lilly Sturis, and Elijah Sturis, who were the center of his universe. He leaves behind three young grandchildren, Lucah, Klaus, and Ronan, as well as many dear friends, including Jamie, Bryan, and Logan Chapman who have been chosen family for many years.

We carry him with us—his music in our ears, his jokes in our hearts, and his legacy rooted, like his garden, in everything he left blooming behind. Though his earthly form has departed us, we know that energy cannot be destroyed, only transformed. It is with full confidence that his children believe his energy has been transformed to the highest degree.

and he is now dancing in the cosmos as the brightest star in the galaxy.

NICHOLAS B. STURIS



DANCING IN THE COSMOS
FOREVER OUR TRAVELING STAR

DARK AND SILENT LATE LAST NIGHT, I THINK I
MIGHT HAVE HEARD THE HIGHWAY CALLING.
GEESE IN FLIGHT AND DOGS THAT BITE.
AND SIGNS THAT MIGHT BE OMENS SAY I'M GOING,
GOING I'M GONE TO CAROLINA IN MY MIND.

NOW WITH A HOLY HOST OF OTHERS STANDING
ROUND ME, STILL I'M ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE
MOON.

AND IT SEEMS LIKE IT GOES ON LIKE THIS FOREVER,
YOU MUST FORGIVE ME

IF I'M UP AND GONE TO CAROLINA IN MY MIND.

IN MY MIND I'M GOING TO CAROLINA. CAN'T YOU
SEE THE SUNSHINE, CAN'T YOU JUST FEEL THE
MOONSHINE?

AIN'T IT JUST LIKE A FRIEND OF MINE TO HIT ME
FROM BEHIND? YES, I'M GONE TO CAROLINA IN MY
MIND.

-JAMES TAYLOR "CAROLINA IN MY MIND"

BORN
JUNE 30TH, 1971
KEY WEST, FLORIDA

DIED
JULY 1ST 2025
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

SERVICE
AUGUST 16TH, 2025
KINKADE FUNERAL CHAPEL
STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

FINAL RESTING PLACE
AT A LATER DATE

HE IS WITH HIS CHILDREN UNTIL HE CAN SEE THE SEA AGAIN.

*In loving memory of our
dear father and friend,*

NIK



"And I will always be
your traveling star"

1971-2025