



John Fredrick Hillen

April 12, 1947 - June 16, 2012

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John "Johnny" Hillen passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at Country View Care Center in Waterloo. He was born on April 12, 1947 in Mitchell, SD. Severely autistic with a mind that never grew past the age of two, Johnny never went to school, held down a job, or married and had children. And although Johnny never had the ability to form words into a sentence, when he heard a song he could sing it word for word and on pitch. Jesus Loves Me and Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head were just two of the songs on his hit parade. He also had an insatiable love of Pepsi, whether it was his or someone else's! He was loved by all who cared for him at Country View Care Center and Exceptional Persons. His family deeply appreciates all those whose care he received.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Kathryn Hillen, a brother, Paul Hillen, and an infant sister, Helene Hillen. He is survived by two sisters, Linda Shirbroun of Glendora, CA and Karolyn (Irv) Sorge of Denver, IA.

There will be no funeral service but a private graveside service will be held on a later date at Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens in Cedar Falls.

Johnny's parents lovingly referred to him as their "Forever Child" that "someday we'll understand why." I believe now they do.

Richardson Funeral Service is assisting the family.

Tribute Wall

NB

“ *Karolyn and family, we will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Hugs!*

Neil, Traci, John, Jack, & Justin Berry - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

SP

“ *It would have been a blessing to hear him sing or to serve him a Pepsi. How blessed that he has parents that love him so well. You are in my prayers as you grieve the loss of this exceptional man. I have a feeling he is talking up a storm in Heaven! Wishing you good days until your joyous reunion.*

Susanna Ponce - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

DF

“ *When I started working at EPI.. I met John. He was living in the home that I started at. John did not talk when I first met him but after working with him for some time he would repeat certain phrases.. such as after he would finish his meal...if you asked him "do you want more John.. he would repeat until you gave him more". He always wanted more. He also drank a lot of Mountain Dew and Pepsi and would finish the entire can or bottle without stopping. He was awesome at recycling.. he could put the cans in the machine faster than anybody else could. And his sweet smile.. John was a very special man...*

Deb Fortsch - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

CI

“ *I did not know Johnny, but reading his obit in the paper, I just know that he is having the time of his life in heaven. Sounds like he was indeed a fine man. May it comfort you that he is with family now.*

cindy - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

AS

“ *When I read the obituary that was so warmly and lovingly written, I understand, if you will what you mean,... We Will understand it, all by and by.....and I have No Doubt that today dear John is singing with that heavenly choir, and speaking far more lovely than any of us could ever do so here on earth. May his memory be forever a source of blessing.*

allen stickfort - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

AP

“ *Hi my name is Annah and I am 11 years old. I never met Johnny but just by reading his obituary, I can tell that he was a fine man. I really wish that I could have met him so I could go and sing songs with him or bring him a Pepsi. I am glad that he is having a great life in Heaven to have Pepsi and sing any song there is. I am glad that he now gets to be in Heaven with everybody that loves him. I can't wait until we all get to reunite in Heaven, and until my family gets to meet this wonderful man, Johnny!*

Annah Ponce - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM

KS

“ *Thank you to those who left a message here. Some of you did not even know my brother Johnny but left messages that I will treasure. Thank you and God bless you.*

Karolyn Sorge - March 29, 2013 at 02:49 PM