



## Joseph "Rusty" Rayzor Jr.

December 21, 1951 - January 3, 2022

When you pass through the waters I will be with you. Isaiah 43:2

Joseph "Rusty" Akin Rayzor Jr., who resided in both Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Ave Maria, Florida, passed on January 3rd of 2022, having recently celebrated his 70th birthday, 40th wedding anniversary and the Christmas season surrounded in love by his wife, two children, their spouses and four granddaughters.

Rusty was born in 1951, to Joseph Akin Rayzor Sr. and Patricia Baldwin Rayzor in Houston, Texas. Rusty enjoyed sailing, swimming, and surfing along the Texas Gulf Coast in his youth. In college he took up scuba diving and upon graduating from Southwest Texas State University he co-owned Inland Divers and offered scuba lessons throughout the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. It was on one of those trips that he met the love of his life, Karen, and the two were wed in 1981. With the birth of their two children, Rusty's career transitioned to sales and marketing for Busch Entertainment. He ended his career as a Department of Defense civil servant. During this time Rusty was never far from the water and he instilled a sense of adventure and love of life in his children. In retirement, Rusty again took up sailing, helming sailboats along the eastern U.S. coastline, the British Virgin Islands, the Caribbean and the Dalmatian coast of Croatia. His passion on land was building homes for Habitat for Humanity and restoring antique trucks. Mostly, he was a devoted

grandfather for his four granddaughters, offering them his patience and wisdom.

He is survived by his wife Karen Rayzor, son Joseph Rayzor III, daughter-in-law, Sally, daughter Anna Conroy, son-in-law, Davitt, granddaughters Anderson Rayzor, Patricia Rayzor, Elizabeth Rayzor, and Nora Conroy, his two brothers Richard Rayzor and Jack Rayzor, three nieces and four nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Joseph Rayzor Sr. and Patrica Rayzor and his infant sister Robin Rayzor.

Rusty was a member of St. Lukes Episcopal Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa. A private family service is planned for Cedar Falls, Iowa, and a larger Celebration of Life is planned for Ave Maria, Florida. Memorial donations may be sent to the St. Lukes Episcopal Neighbor to Neighbor Pantry, 2410 Melrose Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, <http://www.habitatcollier.org/donate/>, or the San Antonio Food Bank, <https://safoodbank.org/donate/>.

# Tribute Wall

KW

“ Karen, news of Rusty's passing made its way to UTSA so I wanted to share a thought with you. I remember when you left the university to retire on your sailing adventures with Rusty and am so glad to know you succeeded in this. Be well, my friend. - Kim West

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**Kim West** - February 04, 2022 at 02:16 PM

DD

“ Dear Karen, Ricky, and Jack,

*I am so saddened to hear of Rusty's passing and to think of your loss. He seems too young to have died. It brings home to me how precious every moment is, for no matter how we strive to maintain our health there is no certainty that we will live to ripe old ages...*

*It made me happy to learn from the obituary what a full life Rusty led. I had either forgotten or never learned what an adventurer he was. I have just in the past year taken up scuba diving (Marion did three years before), and now really see it as a new source of adventure and another way to see our beautiful planet. Rusty and Karen must have known this for years. Marion and I have thought about the possibility of sailing a boat ourselves or perhaps sailing just as passengers in the Caribbean, but we haven't opened that door yet... What experiences Rusty and Karen must have had on sail boats!*

*Hearing about Rusty's one passion to help Habitat for Humanity reminded me of what a generous spirit he had, and hearing about the other, restoring old trucks, brought back the memory of seeing the Model A Ford that he, Ricky, and their father restored. As a teenager with an interest in cars, I was quite impressed by this project and probably a little envious of the experience.*

*Please know that we are thinking of you and hoping that Rusty's loss, though painful, will draw you together and, in this, you find support to carry on.*

*Warm Regards,*

*David and Marion*

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David Down - January 07, 2022 at 11:31 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph "Rusty" Rayzor Jr..*



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January 06, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Rusty*



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**Lisa Sharp** - January 05, 2022 at 05:51 PM



“ *Karen;*

*I am so sorry to hear of Rusty's passing. I enjoyed helping you find a home when you moved to Cedar Falls, Sending prayers to you and family.*

*Best,  
Mark Niedert*

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**Mark Niedert** - January 05, 2022 at 03:52 PM

BS

“ Rusty and his brothers Rick and Jack were the cousins that were innovative in learning to make income at an early age! When receiving a go cart for Christmas one year they charged the kids in the neighborhood for rides! Loved these guys❤️

Brenda Strong - January 05, 2022 at 04:31 AM

KA

“ 13 files added to the album Rusty



Karen - January 04, 2022 at 10:35 PM

BR

“ Beth Rosin lit a candle in memory of Joseph "Rusty" Rayzor Jr.



Beth Rosin - January 04, 2022 at 08:32 PM

BR

Great memories of all family reunions and a day he spent taking me sailing in Galveston Bay. ❤️🙏 Thank you Rusty.

Beth Rosin - January 04, 2022 at 08:36 PM

EC

*Karen,  
Rusty was a great fun guy and I appreciated our past relationship. He was always positive, considerate and full of fun conversations. He now has the ultimate reward with the Lord and I hope you and your family will do well.*

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**Ed Center** - January 11, 2022 at 03:56 PM

KR

*Thank you Ed. Rusty always thought and spoke very highly of you. All my best to you and your family.*

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**Karen Rayzor** - January 16, 2022 at 10:54 PM