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Dennis Rathjen

Jan 15, 2002

NAPA — Dennis Charles Rathjen, 44, died at his home in Napa on Jan. 11. A lifelong resident of Napa, Dennis was born on Oct. 12, 1957, to Charles and Betty Lou (Retzer) Rathjen.

He attended local schools and graduated from Vintage High School in 1975. He pitched for the varsity baseball team for three years, after which he received a full baseball scholarship to Fresno State. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland A's as a pitcher.

In 1983, Dennis was appointed as an agent for Allstate Insurance Company and he served the public from his Lincoln Avenue office for the past 19 years.

Some of his memberships included: Association of Professional Allstate Agents, Allstate Quality Agency Club, Vintners Golf Club in Yountville, the Northern California Golf Association, Association of Professional Baseball Players of America, National Rifle Association and the National Hot Rod Association.

Dennis participated in drag racing at tracks in California, Oregon and Washington in his own dragster. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He was a much loved and loving son and brother. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. His was a life well lived.


Dennis is survived by his parents, Charles and Betty Rathjen of Napa; sister and brother-in-law Debra S. and William Evinich of Rohnert Park; aunt and uncle Emma and Jimmie Vickrey of Oregon; aunts, La Dean Johnson of Roseburg, Ore., Anita Bertsch of Vallejo, Lester Judd of Napa and Ella Radke and Seona Franz, both of Washington State. Numerous cousins, aunts and uncles also survive.

The funeral service will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Claffey and Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main St., Napa. Chaplain Lee Shaw will officiate. Visiting hours will be held Wednesday evening at the funeral home from 4 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dennis Rathjen Scholarship Fund for the Napa Joe Dimaggio Baseball League, c/o Keith Connelly, 1157 Soda Canyon Road, Napa, CA 94558.

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