



September 19, 1963 - February 28, 2007

**In Celebration of
the Life of
Mark R. Hays**



Mark Russell Hays was born September 19, 1963, the son of Dr. Russell O. and Betsy Hopkins Hays in New London, Connecticut. As the son of a Naval officer who later became a Presbyterian minister, Mark had the benefits of being raised and educated in many diverse locations in the United States and around the world. He graduated from McLean High School, McLean, Virginia in 1981. As a young man he traveled to Honduras and participated in mission work in Senegal, Brazil and Upper parts of the Amazon as well as England. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1986. He was accepted to the University of North Dakota School of Law and received a Juris Doctorate with Distinction in 1992. His list of awards included the Order of the Barrister, Moot Court Best Petitioner Team, and the Dean's List.

He was united in marriage to Denise Carol McCann on August 3, 1992 at First Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D. They made their home in Minot until 1997, when they moved to a home they built in Burlington, ND.

Mark began his legal career in 1991 as a summer law clerk with Pringle and Herigstad P.C., Minot, N.D. He and his wife were both admitted to the practice of law in October of 1992. That same year he started as an associate attorney at Pringle & Herigstad and later became a shareholder/partner. He remained at the Pringle firm until 2004 when he and his wife began their own practice, Hays Law Firm P.C., in Burlington, ND.

He was a member of the Minot Retriever Club, where he served as president several times as well as Field Trial Chairman and Captain of the Guns. He has served as an AKC and CKC Field Trial Judge in numerous field trials in the United States and Canada. He was a member of the Brandon Retriever Club, Ducks Unlimited Minot Chapter, and the Minot Gun Club. He was a Ducks Unlimited Sponsor and served for several years as Chairman of the Ducks Unlimited Sponsor Event. He was a past president for Pheasants for the Future. He and his wife are corporate sponsors of the Souris Valley Humane Society.

He enjoyed waterfowl and upland game hunting. He actively participated in wetlands and wildlife conservation projects. Most of all, he loved training and competing in field trials with his five Labrador Retrievers.

Those Who Shared In His Life:

Wife, Denise, Burlington; parents, Dr. Russell O. and Betsy Hays; Ft. Myers, FL; sister, Elizabeth (Alaric) Watson and their children, Aurelia, Lysander, Orlando, and Tristan Hays Watson, all of Mayfield, East Sussex, England; father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Janice McCann, Minot, N.D. sister-in-law, Joan (Jon) Bechtold and their children, Jillian, Janet and Jacob Bechtold, all of West Fargo, ND; brother-in-law, David (Laura) McCann and their children, Dawson and Dylan McCann, all of Minot; paternal uncle, James (Diane) Hays, Tucson, AZ; maternal uncle, Charles (Noreen) Hopkins, Chandler, AZ. Mark was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Hopkins; paternal grandparents, Orren and Virginia Hays; and nephew, Ethan McCann.