



Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates

March 24, 1966 - January 19, 2022

Lyman F. Sheats Jr., 55, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

After a courageous and long battle with mental illness, Lyman died by suicide on January 19, 2022. His soul is finally at peace.

Loving partner of Penni Epstein; devoted brother of Beverly Sheats George; cherished uncle of Christopher George and William George.

Lyman was a pinball software engineer whose accomplishments spanned nearly three decades. Lyman brought a wealth of knowledge in software design as well as gameplay. His visions of gameplay and rules were a result of his many years as an avid pinball tournament player and enthusiast, and many of his rulesets serve as the backbone for modern pinball rules design. He loved watching people playing and enjoying his games.

Please assist us in bringing awareness to this silent epidemic.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to National Alliance on Mental Illness (https://donate.nami.org/give/197406/#!/donation/checkout?utm_source=globalNav&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=DonationTracking&c_src=WEBDG)

A private visitation will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Due to COVID concerns the family asks that you please celebrate Lyman's life by attending the visitation virtually. [CLICK HERE \(https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Lyman-Sheats/#!/PhotosVideos\)](https://www.morizzofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Lyman-Sheats/#!/PhotosVideos) to view the services virtually, the livestream will start at approximately 11:00 A.M.

The family has created this Life Tributes page to make it easy to share your memories, photos, and videos.

For further information please contact the Morizzo Funeral Directors at 847.752.6444. Arrangements entrusted to Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services, at 2550 West Hassell Road, (Northeast corner at Barrington Road), Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169.

For those of you that would have attended services and would like to express your condolences to the family, please click on the link above and you can leave the family a message, with the share a memory link. If you wish to send a Sympathy Card to the Family, please feel free to send it to Morizzo Funeral Home, 2550 Hassell Road, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, 60169 c/o The Family. We will gladly forward it on.

Cemetery Details

The Directors at Morizzo Funeral Home entrusted with any Visitation, Funeral & Committal; requested.

2550 Hassell Road
(Northeast corner at Barrington Road)
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 752-6444
ross@morizzofuneralhome.com
<http://MorizzoFuneralHome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*



Morizzo Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 27, 2022 at 04:07 PM

BO

we love you, lyman and penni

Bowen - January 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM



Sending you all our love.

Krissy Zenkus - January 28, 2022 at 12:03 PM

DF

My deepest Condolences Penni. Lyman was great guy.

David Fix - January 28, 2022 at 12:05 PM

CF

I will miss him. He was one of the good ones. Love and comfort to Penni and his family.

Christopher Franchi - January 28, 2022 at 12:10 PM

JK

*RIP Prayers to your family
Joe Kaminkow*

Joe Kaminkow - January 28, 2022 at 12:12 PM

LE

RIP Lyman...a great guy! I'll miss seeing you around but will never forget you.

Levi - January 28, 2022 at 12:18 PM

KR

My love is with all of you. <3

Kristen - January 28, 2022 at 12:19 PM

FD

You and Lyman's family and friends are in my heart today.

Felicia DiRocco - January 28, 2022 at 12:20 PM

TO

Penni, sending you prayers and love.

Toby - January 28, 2022 at 12:21 PM

LS

Truly a one-of-a-kind human being. Thank you all for sharing your beautiful stories and memories.

Lane Stroud - January 28, 2022 at 12:22 PM

CG

Love you uncle Chip, will miss you!

Christopher George - January 28, 2022 at 12:29 PM

HO

This was a beautiful memorial service. He was a special man and will be missed. Sending our love to Penni and all those who knew and loved Lyman.

Howie and Jenn Bueller

Howard - January 28, 2022 at 12:33 PM



So much love...I appreciated hearing what Lyman meant to his friends and family. Sending you mine as well, Beverly.

Diane Sheats - January 28, 2022 at 12:33 PM

GR

To Roger's point about Lyman being the pinball savant. As Clint Eastwood is unique in Hollywood as the only top-tier actor and top-tier director, so Lyman was with pinball. There are many very talented people in gaming, but Lyman rose above. He had a holistic understanding of what makes a game great, how to make a great game and how to explore what is possible within a game. And he did it without arrogance.

Miss you, dude.

Graham - January 28, 2022 at 12:34 PM

DP

My deepest condolences to Lyman's family and friends.

Doug Parsons - January 28, 2022 at 12:34 PM

CN

*Penni - keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Although I never met Lyman, your words brought Lyman to life and I could see just how much you loved / love Lyman. Sending you love and hugs.
Carla N.*

Carla Nieto - January 28, 2022 at 12:35 PM



He will be missed dearly. Love you Penni. <3

Jack Danger - January 28, 2022 at 12:36 PM

CT

Penni, those were beautiful memories of Lyman shared today. I hope these wonderful memories can help bring you comfort and peace. You are in my continual thoughts. Hugs my friend.

Cynthia Townsend - January 28, 2022 at 12:36 PM

JB

I conversed with Lyman last week. We talked about my covid case and I was going to go back to work in a few days. We talked about Covid and Fauci. Then at the end of the conversation he said " I love you Borgie".... I replied "I love you too buddy". That was the last time we talked. I'm very saddened and my heart goes out to Penni.

John Borg - January 28, 2022 at 12:58 PM

TC

I am so sorry to hear of Lyman's passing. My heart is hurting so bad. Penni, you've been in my thoughts and prayers and I wish there was something I could do for you.

Tina Curtis - January 28, 2022 at 01:01 PM

DA

Rest in peace Lyman. Thank you for everything you did. For Penni and family, my warmest condolences. A great man who will be dearly missed, but an amazing legacy for for everyone to treasure.

David - January 28, 2022 at 02:45 PM

CM

Thank you for all the memories and laughs. You reach was beyond anything we could have imagined. Meeting you in the 90s I only realized as a young adult all you have done to create things that are lifetime memories for me. My condolences to Penni and the family. He will be missed by many

Chris Meyers - January 28, 2022 at 02:50 PM



Thank you Lyman.

Lloyd Olson - January 28, 2022 at 03:46 PM

BI

Chip as you were known to all of us in Wayland... You will be missed by many. I will miss chat'n every once in awhile.. And when you made it out to Wayland it was always nice to see you.. rest easy bud...

bill - January 28, 2022 at 03:50 PM

EA

We will miss Lyman but never will forget him

Eric Andries - January 28, 2022 at 04:52 PM



I'm so sorry for your loss, Penni. Lyman will be missed.

Greg Galanter - January 28, 2022 at 05:06 PM

SM

So sorry for your loss Penni. Lyman was truly one of the great ones in so many ways. He was kind, thoughtful, and truly gifted at his craft which he loved to do. A relentless worker who would not settle for anything less than the best. First one to work and last one to leave. He would always find his way back into the Art Department to talk to me about 2 to 3 times a week when he was coming into work on a regular basis. He was a straight shooter and told you how it was without sugar coating it. Gotta love that about him. But no matter what we always talked about he'd always find a way to leave the conversation with a laugh. He had that great big hearty laugh with a smile so wide. I'm going to miss him and will always remember him fondly. RIP Lyman

Steven Martin - January 28, 2022 at 05:09 PM

RO

So sorry Penni, Lyman is and will be missed.

Rodney Olsen - January 28, 2022 at 05:58 PM

JR

My deepest condolences and love to you Penni and the entire Sheats family. He was a true kind and amazing soul. He absolutely was a one in a million special kind of person. Gob bless you and may he rest in peace.

Jason Rufer - January 28, 2022 at 09:22 PM

NS

I remember seeing Lyman on the Special When Lit documentary and became a fan. I always enjoyed finding games he worked on location somewhere. Even though I didn't know him personally, I feel privileged to have connected with him through his work. Rest in Power, Lyman.

Noah Sias - January 28, 2022 at 09:44 PM

SZ

I'm so sorry. Lyman was a dear friend and one of a kind. What a good soul. Our condolences. So sorry Penni and family.

Steven Zahler - January 28, 2022 at 10:02 PM

RJ

My friend.. words cannot express how in shock I am. I can remember so many times bouncing my coding ideas at ya just to see if things were tweaked to perfection. Of course you said i was on the right track! My gratitude for your help over the 20+ years of friendship. Oh wish our next project could have been started... My thoughts are with your family and of course Penni. ❤️.

*Thanks my friend
-Ron*

Ronald Coon, Jr. - January 28, 2022 at 10:03 PM

PO

RIP Lyman

Patrick O'Brien - January 28, 2022 at 10:39 PM



Sad news... Prayers.

Louie Cicci - January 28, 2022 at 11:29 PM

TJ

I never knew lyman but playing the pinball machines he had a part in made him part of my family rip lyman

travis Johnson - January 29, 2022 at 02:35 AM

KO

It's still hard to believe that Lyman is no longer around. I'm still in shock.

My condolences go out to you, Penni, and Lyman's family.

He will be missed very dearly. RIP, Lyman.

Koi - January 29, 2022 at 10:45 AM

NS

Thank you for making this service available to us. My heart goes out to Penni and the rest of Lyman's family.

Rest In Peace, Lyman. We all miss you.

Noel Steere - January 29, 2022 at 12:34 PM



My condolences to Penni, and the Sheets family. Lyman was a special human being with a smile that could light up a room, and talents one could only hope to have. Beyond that he was a superstar in the pinball community that will shine bright for generations to come. Rest in peace LFS. Gone too soon but NEVER forgotten.

Jesse Godin - January 29, 2022 at 01:14 PM

AS

Sorry for you loss Penni and family.

Anthony Salerno - January 29, 2022 at 09:39 PM

FL

Thank You Lyman for your pinball magic.

flipperman - January 29, 2022 at 10:14 PM

HW

We've got to look after our people. Another man died needlessly by suicide. "The candle that burns twice as bright, burns half as long".

What an amazing human he was. Rest in piece sir.

Harry Woolmore - January 31, 2022 at 01:04 PM

TF

Thank you Lyman

Tim Fotherby - January 31, 2022 at 02:57 PM

MB

My heart goes out to Penni and Lyman's family. We are so sad that he has left us.

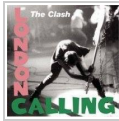
Terri and M.G. Brown

M.G. Brown - February 03, 2022 at 11:05 AM

KH

My deepest sympathies on your loss. He will be missed.

Ken Horowitz - February 03, 2022 at 10:58 PM



So missed by so many good people. Just met him once and amazed by his attitude, skills and kindness. Farewell.

Julek Weiss - February 04, 2022 at 01:46 AM

BY

“ Lyman and went back about 15 years begging with the love of cooking. Of course I am a pinball player. But. Never wanted him to feel internally that's why I liked him. I asked Lyman once that Neil is pulling your rug your anonymity you enjoy within the really crappy narrow dimly lit hall. Only time we spoke shop and it was after spotted cow. But I think he understood he didn't like the flash or living up to idealized thinks. This was my first look into my friend. I got the Lyman others likely have to. The big grin accepting eyes. But over the years I also saw when he turned away and sheltered that clearly sincere love he displayed. Over the years it was mentioned that I had things self esteem high school type stuff. No matter what it is or was or from when or what your not alone Lyman. That was that over the years. He knew he could contact me for talking or to just plan replace that Dang nab it pia timing belt on his long should be retired Nissan 300zx but it was a sense of pride and what it took to get that car.



So Lyman my friend your home happy and no expectations from a gaggle of pinball weirdos. You're back in those dimly lit offices with your super power back. Stop asking about the 300zx Lyman it needs to scrapped! I was gone for A bit and was recently told about this. I'm going to mis my friend but happy to know you don't worry anymore. So to that I say cheers Lyman sheats jr your lament always clouded my sadness. Benjamin Yetter SR. Oh and there is still few pallets of that damn CV game nobody wants. Will you smash those
For me. Even at close out 2200\$ You would understand
I.

ben yetter - February 26, 2024 at 01:19 AM



Lyman helped design some of the greatest pinball machines of all time. Really left a great legacy for pinball enthusiasts worldwide. Rest in peace.

Eric Hibbs - July 17, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ *Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*

November 04, 2022 at 06:54 PM

AM

“ Lyman was such a good guy in so many ways. (Look at that kind smile!)

I didn't know Lyman terribly well, but our paths crossed from time to time, first at a pinball competition in 1994. I did know him well enough to recognize his kindness, intelligence, and greatness as a pinball player and programmer. I will remember and miss his laugh and his sense of humor, his sincerity, and the depth that you could always see in his eyes.

Lyman was appreciated by everyone, and for very good reason. I will remember most how skilled he was when he played, the games he was a part of developing that were, and remain, so great because of him, and just how nice it was to talk to him and be around him those few times I was fortunate enough to. The loss of Lyman is a tremendous loss to everyone.

I wish my sincerest condolences to Lyman's family and to Penni.

-Andrei Massenkoff



Andrei Massenkoff - September 08, 2022 at 10:20 PM

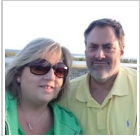
SP

“ I met Lyman once, at Pinball Expo in Chicago in 1994. He was gracious and friendly. As a member of the Pinball Community, I was well aware of Lyman's achievements, and was very happy to find that the man behind the name was "one of the guys" as it were.

To the family: know that Lyman brought a lot of joy to the world. And thank you for sharing his struggles.

Peace.

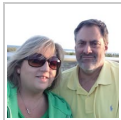
Scott Piehler - April 18, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ Scott Adaman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates



Scott Adaman - March 27, 2022 at 11:46 PM



Just learned about the sad and shocking passing of Lyman Sheats Jr. He had such a passion in whatever project he was working on, and brought it to the next level - Batman 66 being a prime example. Prayers to Lyman's family as they and the pinball world pick up the pieces from this tragic loss.

Scott Adaman - March 28, 2022 at 12:16 AM

LK

“ We share the same birthday and a love of pinball. I'll play my Batman 66 on my birthday and think of you brother! RIP and my heart goes out to his family!!!

Larry Kirchner - February 15, 2022 at 05:49 AM

EN

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Engel - February 09, 2022 at 08:11 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the *tribute wall*



Jon Ehrlich - February 01, 2022 at 11:47 AM

MC

“ *Very sorry for your loss only had the pleasure of meeting him once but he was very gracious with his time and so approachable he will be missed*

Myles Cameron - January 30, 2022 at 11:34 PM

SD

“ *There are no words to express my deepest empathy for Lyman's family and friends in grief. Your loss has echoed in my heart, only a small resonance of what those of you who were closest to him must be feeling. Sending all my love and comfort.*

Sara Rose Danesi - January 30, 2022 at 02:21 PM

SZ

“ I'm lucky to have enough good memories to write a book but my favorite will always be how you would walk in my office and say *What's up buttercup. Rest in peace my dear friend. Love to you and Penni.*

Shirley Zebro - January 29, 2022 at 08:27 PM

WW

“ To never know someone directly, yet read such warm, loving words, and see the legacy left behind by them, and feel a loss from such things, is truly a baffling thing to try and comprehend.

I am grateful for people's memories here. They help continue Lyman's story, and help instill the gifts, the spirit, and the greatness that clearly he had, into all of us.

I never met him directly, though I assuredly saw him at shows, scratched my head at first viewing of his famous playing stance, and have always felt the impact of his work by playing so many wonderful creations he helped define and give birth to. I am grateful for those things.

There is immense sadness in his legacy not continuing even further, but clearly such deep and profound love felt by so many by the impact of his creativity, sincerity, and heart.

To all of his close family, Penni, his coworkers and contemporaries, and his countless friends and fans, we are all together as one in our grief, and above all, never alone in our pain, anguish, and love for one another.

Rest in Peace Lyman. You will be missed....

Wes Wyzykowski - January 29, 2022 at 06:20 PM

EB

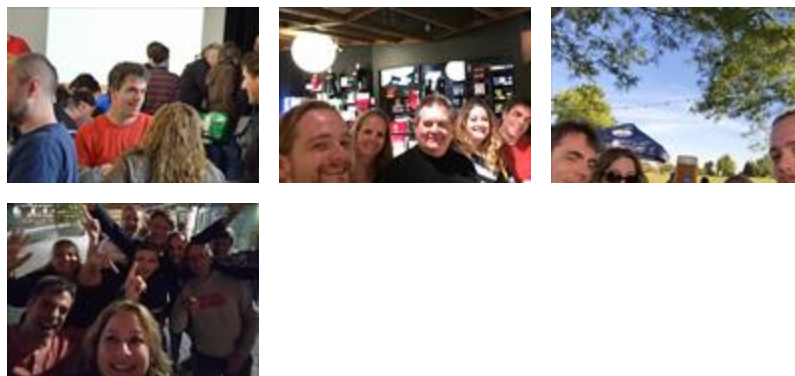
“ I got to know Lyman by accident when we started exchanging emails around the time of Batman and 24. Little did I know or realize what would happen after that. What started as a few remarks on one of his games during development became a great and much appreciated friendship. We probably emailed back and forth for around 7 years without ever seeing each other in person which had something to do with an ocean and a little bit of land that sits between Belgium and Chicago. Never did this stop us to keep in touch until we started organizing the EPC in Belgium at 2015. After Lyman came over and gave his first ever presentation there, our friendship was never the same again. We stopped sending emails but did videocalls and regular calls on at least a monthly basis and talked about everything from pinball to hobbies, work,... I cherished his friendship very much and know he felt the same.

I look back with a big smile to all the times we talked, played pinball together, talked about BEER, partying with friends and drinking a whole day in Finland,..

I always loved when I saw him and Penni together as it meant we were up for a treat!

It'll be strange to not hear the words, ...SO far... anymore after a serious or not so serious conversation which was a running gag we had going for years and always put a smile on our faces!

Much love to Penni and his family as he will be missed greatly!



Evert Brochez - January 29, 2022 at 02:10 PM

TD

“ *Thinking about you Penni. So sorry. xo*

Tory Davis - January 29, 2022 at 02:07 PM

NS

“ *I faded out of the pinball scene about 20 years ago, but I remember Lyman as if it were yesterday. I adopted Lyman's stance like a lot of other competitive players, and he was always a great guy to hang out with. We had a legendary game where he came back from a 1 Billion point deficit on The Getaway on his last ball, and I'm proud to have been a part of it. I started playing again about 8 years ago, and Lyman was one of those people still involved that I just expected I'd see again as if no time had passed.*

Reading and hearing all these testimonials of Lyman's kindness and generosity make me wish I'd have known him better, but it shows that his was a life very well lived, as full and purposeful as anyone could wish for.

Rest In Peace, Lyman. You will always be in our memories.

Noel Steere - January 29, 2022 at 12:54 PM

BR

“ *Brian Rudolph lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*



Brian Rudolph - January 29, 2022 at 12:15 PM

“ My most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Penni and Lyman's family.

Since I received the news of Lyman's passing a week ago, I have been totally off-kilter and out of sorts. I still cannot get a grip on myself nor a grip on the enormous hole that now exists in the world of pinball and, indeed, in the world itself.

I knew Lyman as a colleague when we worked at SEGA. Our friendship continued ever since. There's not much I can add to his impact on pinball, people, and pinball people beyond what others have already said here and during his memorial service, except perhaps to confirm that every word of it is 100% true - and that's "100% true" with gold leaf and diamond clusters.

I was fortunate to share many meals with Lyman over the years. I don't know how many of his friends know this, but Lyman really enjoyed Japanese teppanyaki cooking. Once when we were trying to figure out where to meet and eat, I suggested we try a local teppanyaki grill. I can't remember if Lyman said if he had ever been to one before or not at the time. Regardless, the meal was a huge hit with Lyman and it became a fairly frequent place we'd frequent - even when he was working at WMS and I was still at SEGA. (Yes, that violated the "rule" of not socializing with competitors to the greatest degree possible. But I shared Lyman's position on the subject which, to lightly paraphrase Lyman's words, were akin to "Gosh dang it by golly, we're adults, professionals, and friends. That 'rule' can seriously have reproductive relations with itself." Besides, the last thing either of us wanted to talk about when we'd get together outside of work was work. So we never did.

It was during those dinners that I really got to know Lyman far beyond pinball. His wit, honesty, sincerity, caring, concern, respect for others, ethics, and dedication were just some of the many qualities that would shine through. And I'd be highly remiss if I failed to mention Lyman's intellect. Broad. Deep. There were so many

subjects outside of pinball that Lyman could discuss with much more than just basic familiarity. I always found my conversations with Lyman to be quite enjoyable, stimulating, and at many times challenging - but always ultimately in a positive way.

Lyman, it has truly been an honor to know you both professionally and as a personal friend. I am equally honored by all of the time which you chose to spend with me. I will never forget you. MYTH24 forever.

Last night, I made dinner reservations at a local Japanese teppanyaki grill - for a party of two. That empty seat next to me was for you.



Brian Rudolph - January 29, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ *He was always friendly and talkative at shows and tournaments. He will be greatly missed by anyone that had the pleasure of meeting him.* ”

Neo Skywalker - January 29, 2022 at 12:02 PM

DA

“ I'd run into Lyman at Fun & Games when we were both pretty young. He was the real pinball wizard and inspired me to get into the hobby and to compete. Never did great at the competitions but had a blast along the way and in large part, I have Lyman to thank for it.

-Dave G.

David - January 28, 2022 at 10:05 PM

MC

“ I never got to meet him personally but seen him at Williams during my visits. I felt I knew him from the discussions I had with other pinball people close to him. He was always spoken of highly and with appreciation. I got to hear stories about game development and code revisions from the King himself and always listened with complete attention. We lost an icon, no doubt. Our condolences to his family and Penni.

Mario & Patricia Van Cleave

Mario & Patricia Van Cleave - January 28, 2022 at 09:48 PM

MW

“ I never met a Lyman. Nonetheless, he certainly made an impact on my life and the hobby. I own 7 games he's coded. Not only will Lyman be missed by those who were close in his life; his partner, his immediate family, close friends and colleagues. But there are thousands upon thousands more of us touched by Lyman and his passion for perfection and pinball. Lyman, you will truly be missed.

Matt Wengler - January 28, 2022 at 09:42 PM

JS

“ *It's tough to find the words at the moment.*

Having met Lyman when I was only a teenager, the impact he had on how I thought, lived and breathed pinball (both competitively and the game as a form of entertainment) is impossible to explain.

He played with a weird stance . . . so I played with a weird stance (until my back absolutely couldn't take it anymore).

He would play without shoes . . . so I played without shoes.

He would play with a towel hanging out of his back pocket . . . so I played with a towel hanging out of my back pocket.

He was my pinball hero. There is that saying, “never meet your heroes”. I'm so incredibly fortunate that I did.

Lyman always had time for me from Junior High School all the way through officially getting to work together with him this past year. I'll remember the play sessions in his basement. I'll remember the rounds on the golf course. I'll remember the countless hours talking about pinball and life and how lucky we both were to have both found something in life to be so passionate about.

I'm thankful for all the times we had together over the past 30 years. I'm also thankful for the joy he will continue to bring me in the years to come anytime I turn on one of his games.

RIP Lyman.

Josh Sharpe - January 28, 2022 at 09:35 PM

AT

“ I am saddened by the news of his death. Even though it had been many years since we worked closely together we narrowly missed each other in our travels and I had planned to reconnect. Unfortunately I didn't make the time, and I now regret it. Hopefully his passing will remind us to always make time for the things that are truly important. Family and friends.

Al Thomas - January 28, 2022 at 08:24 PM

TT

“ Lyman was the man that put all the special touches to so many games...the extra flourishes that made each machine he worked on extra special. The World has lost someone who talents are not really seen by so many players, but his talents and contributions to the Pinball Community will continue to be enjoyed and appreciated for many many years to come. Our staff at TNT Amusements in Southampton PA acknowledge his love of pinball and the world.

Todd N. Tuckey - January 28, 2022 at 08:21 PM

SK

“ Lyman, I didn't know you very well but thank you for reaching out to me for help. I only wish I could have done more. :(The beautiful service and the lovely memories shared here show how much you were loved and admired. You were a kind and considerate neighbor, and so quiet and modest. You cared so much about our little friends in nature and we will make sure the squirrels and birds outside our homes are looked after. RIP Lyman. My heartfelt condolences to Penni and to all your family and friends.

Shruti Kohli-Bhargava - January 28, 2022 at 07:04 PM

TS

“ *It was always a pleasure working with you at Stern and I'll appreciate all the support you gave me with software and game development. My deepest condolences to Penni and all of Lyman's family and friends.*



Tim Sexton - January 28, 2022 at 03:20 PM

TC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Tina Curtis - January 28, 2022 at 03:01 PM

JS

“ *Cousins in this country often get separated by distance and schedule, and family togetherness suffers. I'm sorry that I only met Chip once (when he was barely a teenager). But I often saw the progress of his patent portfolio while searching the USPTO site, and the loving accolades people have posted here are just what I expected for him. He's left not just a legacy but a spirit, that will remain and live in many people. Penny, I wish you as much peace and happiness as a human can have.*

Jayna Sheats - January 28, 2022 at 03:00 PM

BJ

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you both, Penni & Bev. Chip is a wonderful person and will be dearly missed. He will be forever in our prayers. Love you, Chip!*

Sue & Bill J.

bill juliani - January 28, 2022 at 02:20 PM

TC

“ *Tina Curtis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*



Tina Curtis - January 28, 2022 at 01:04 PM

KF

“ IF TEARS COULD BUILD A STAIRWAY

*If tears could build a stairway,
And memories a lane,
We would walk right up to heaven
And bring you back again.*

*No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.*

*Our hearts still ache in sadness,
And secret tears still flow
What it meant to lose you
No one can ever know*

*But now we know you want us
To mourn for you know more
To remember all the happy times
Life still has much in store.*

*Since you'll never be forgotten,
We pledge to you today:
A hallowed place within our hearts,
Is where you will always stay.*

Rest in peace my friend.

Ken Fedesna - January 28, 2022 at 12:56 PM

MT

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Lyman once and unfortunately it was when our mutual friend Dallas Overturf passed away. I'll never forget the kind words he spoke about Dallas...they both truly were one of a kind. I thank my brother David Iarussi and his wife Sandy for introducing me to Lyman. Although his life was short he certainly left a lasting impression not only with his knowledge of pinball but his infectious smile! Rest In Peace with your friend Dallas you Pinball Wizards!!!!

❤️ Mazy (Iarussi) Tougas
Northbridge MA

Mazy Tougas - January 28, 2022 at 12:55 PM

GS

“ lyman & penni, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

gary stern - January 28, 2022 at 12:51 PM

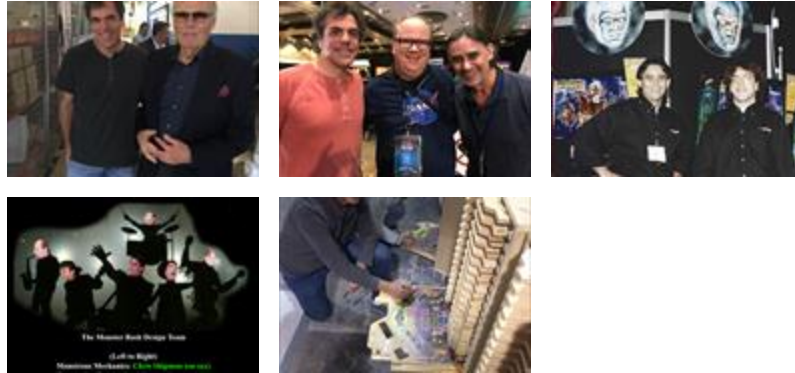
TK

“ Penni, my heart goes out to you. I am so sorry.
Lyman, thank you for everything you taught me.
I will miss you. Rest in peace.

Tanio Klyce - January 28, 2022 at 12:48 PM

GG

“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



George Gomez - January 28, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ Ellen Frankel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates



Ellen Frankel - January 28, 2022 at 12:43 PM



“ Steve Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates



Steve Johnson - January 28, 2022 at 12:41 PM

TS

“ Penni, sending love to you and Lyman's Family ☐

Tracey Schomer - January 28, 2022 at 12:40 PM

PE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Peter - January 28, 2022 at 12:32 PM

GP

“ Lyman was a hero of mine that I was lucky enough to befriend. His personality was even more likable than his legendary programming. The happiness he has brought to our community was evenly matched with the kindness he displayed as a person. His phone calls to me would brighten my day. I could tell how much he liked to hear feedback about his current game after asking me to go install the newest code at sunshine. Having been lucky enough to hear directly his own ideas, the history of his career, his approach as a player, the thoughts behind his concepts was so very special to me. I've never met someone as dedicated to their craft, a perfectionist. He was brilliant and it showed in every way. Penni having been a friend from NYC, it was even more special to see two of my close pinball buddies share such a special relationship as partners and best friends. They were kind enough to invite me into their home where we had beers and played their amazing collection. That is a memory I will never forget playing his Monster Bash #1, and to see a game plugged right into a computer. Even though Lyman could win against anyone, having known everyone considered him the best programmer in pinball history, he was somehow more humble than the rest of us. I learned so much from him in the time I knew him. I am so thankful of the time he stayed with me in Toronto. The pinball bar across the street treated us like royalty. The laughs and drinks went late every night. It was so nice to hear that one of the trips they would continue to make was NYCPC. We stood in line playing his own Ironman for an hour taking turns just the two of us. My last conversations with him made it clear how much he really valued bringing enjoyment to his friends. I'll miss you forever Lyman. Rest In Peace.

Greg Poverelli - January 28, 2022 at 12:28 PM

MI

“ No words 💔 I hope this light reminds you of how much you both brightened up each other’s lives. I love you very much and sending lots of hugs.



Michele - January 28, 2022 at 12:28 PM

NB

“ While I never met Lyman, some of my happiest memories involve playing his games.

I've enjoyed listening to his interviews and reading stories of those whose lives he touched over the years.

Lyman, thank you for the gift of joy you have brought to mine and countless others' lives.

My sincere condolences to Penni, his family, and his many friends and associates.

Nick Baldrige - January 28, 2022 at 12:23 PM

RC

“ What a pleasure it was to know Lyman. He was a virtuoso pinball player and creator. The games he worked on and his legendary pinball skills will continue to make people happy for a very long time. When I worked with him, I was struck by his kindness, integrity and commitment to creating the best game he possibly could. He is an inspiration to many. My condolences to his dear ones. Rest in peace Lyman.

Rich Carle - January 28, 2022 at 12:16 PM

CG

“ I feel so lucky to have known Lyman and have him as a friend. He was an inspiration to me - from his passion for the things and people he loved, his pursuit of perfection in his game design and career to the sheer level of skill and finesse he brought to every game of pinball he played.

So many great memories of seeing Lyman and Penni at pinball events around the world, talking about small things or the nuance of a tournament or game strategy - it was always special.

I will miss you my friend.

-cAyle

Cayle George - January 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM

“ I once had a great conversation with Lyman on the phone about college and finding one's calling in life. As I was entering college at the time, I was nervous and lost. Lyman calmly discussed his experience, how he initially thought about doing English/writing before taking an interest in mathematics, which led him to software in the pinball industry. He wasn't much of a party person and mostly focused on his studies, which I related to.

He told me to just do what makes me happy. It's not the first time I've heard this advice, but it's definitely good advice, and Lyman most certainly demonstrated the truth of it; his career was successful and influential because pinball brought him joy, and he himself brought the industry joy, too.

Lyman clearly loved devising rulesets, bringing popular themes to life under the pinball glass, and watching others play. His dedication shows in the games he programmed. He didn't just "finish" games. He toiled day after day to give these games an incredible amount of polish and detail, charming people of all skill levels. His games will surely captivate generations to come.

His tournament playing skills were legendary, and he was just a very humble, kind-hearted, funny, and professional person in general. I was privileged to visit Lyman and Penni's house for the Illinois State Pinball Championships one year. I really appreciated their hospitality. Seeing all the mementos from throughout Lyman's incredible journey as a pinball programmer and player, from dozens of trophies to promotional banners from the old Bally-Williams pinball days, reminded me of how incredible of a person he is.

I'm fortunate that I was able to have a personal conversation with Lyman, and I will never forget it. Our phone call really made me realize how selfless of a person Lyman was. He dedicated so much of his life to his friends, family, and the pinball community.

Thank you for everything, Lyman. You were always an inspiration to

me. As I inch closer to graduation, and navigate life beyond that, I won't ever forget your advice. We all love you, and we hope to see you again.

My condolences to Penni and the rest of Lyman's family.

Joshua Henderson - January 28, 2022 at 11:59 AM



“ *Krissy Zenkus lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*



Krissy Zenkus - January 28, 2022 at 11:56 AM

TC

“ *I never had the opportunity to meet Lyman in person, but I had been a great admirer of the man ever since I read his profile in Grand Royal magazine.*



Tim Crowley - January 28, 2022 at 11:48 AM

SR

“ To Penni and Lyman's family, I am so sorry for your loss.

Lyman was one of my best friends. We created some games together, and the result was always something special. He could make any game shine brighter through his code, rules, and effects. He was very bright, imaginative, and fun to work with.

Lyman was a very kind and generous man. I loved him, no question. I am heartbroken, but hope to recover one of these days. I will miss seeing him with Penni. He loved Penni so very much, and told me often.

Rest In Peace, Lyman.

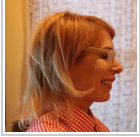
Steve Ritchie - January 28, 2022 at 11:47 AM

TD

“ It was a privilege to work with and get to know Lyman during my time at Stern. His perfectionist nature and attention to detail was an inspiration to me and helped to make me a better engineer. I will always think of him when I see Lucky Monks banana bread beer! Rest In Peace my friend.



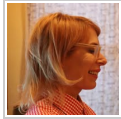
Tony DeFeo - January 28, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ *Sherri Locker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lyman F. Sheats Jr. of Hoffman Estates*



Sherri Locker - January 28, 2022 at 11:14 AM



Rest in Power Lyman

Sherri Locker - January 28, 2022 at 11:14 AM

NM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Neil McRae - January 28, 2022 at 11:04 AM



that Quarterfinal match at papa 7 was special and something extraordinary and if u ask me plain pinball heaven to me, very unforgettable to me, the story of the big fishtales match was that lyman and myself played within that same particular match with Neil Shatz and Jason Werdrick.. Neil and i myself played insanely good on it aswell on Fish Tales, as i scored 1.8Billion and Neil 1.3Billion points thru countless superjackpots which is a very big big score, very hard to beat, lyman stepped up and came over and topped my huge score over and ended his streak with 5Billion points, unbelievable!! and it was been done on his very last ball too,. that fishtales match was imo the best match of Fishtales i had ever seen or might ever see again in my lifetime, and he took the Papa 7 trophy eventually, and within his victory speech, he was just shining and brightened of excitement, i just had to tell you all this little pinball backstory as he would have loved to hear if he could, so i place it here to remind you all how great of a player he was! and most of all he was such a lovely good and friendly guy! not to forget very intelligent and humble! i will never forget him ever again in my lifetime, i was fortunate to know him and played against him. RIP Lyman

Roy Wils - February 20, 2023 at 04:13 PM

SZ

“*Lyman and I knew each other since the 90's, but never worked on the same project. Recently, I was fortunate enough to work directly with Lyman, and had a strong kinship with him. I was hoping to work with him again soon. He was a good man and a good friend. Rest In Peace.*

Sam Zehr - January 28, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ As a man of 57 who met Lyman with another Stern employee as I was out in the mid 2000s at Brixie's bar in Brookfield, finding the few places commercially that had pinball, noting their conditions and leaving notes for operator, Lyman had commented "how sad pinball had come to this". I am pleased that over the past 16 years, pinball made a comeback commercially in many places with operators who gave a poop to keep their games in shape. I have spent many hours enjoying titles that Lyman created and updated game rule sets and will continue to do so. When I found out about his passing, I went to a local brewcade, started the Monster Bash finale and earned a super jackpot on AFM's Total Annihilation and said, "This is for you Lyman". Unfortunately the brewcade's Medieval Madness was down else I would have started barnyard multiball with cows flying around for him. Rest in peace buddy. I hope Peter sowed pinball in Earth in some form so we have them to play in heaven.

Doug Colorado - January 28, 2022 at 09:31 AM

AD

“ I got to meet Lyman at papa one year. He was awesome and even more amazing to watch. I have been battling my own head for years as well. I have good days and bad days and really really bad days. I've been lucky. All of the elements fell into play to keep me around. This is such a hard fight. Miss you man! Everytime I am down I'll play a game, pop a credit and put in *LFS* to remind me to hang in there. You will not be forgotten.

Adam - January 28, 2022 at 07:05 AM

FC

“ Lyman and I shared the joy of gaming and that grew into a friendship that I’m honored to have had. My thoughts go out to Penni and the families. He will truly be missed.



Fred Cochran - January 28, 2022 at 06:07 AM

JL

“ I am very saddened that Lyman has passed away. Even though I only talked to him once, I felt that he was a very nice and humble person. And I really admire his skills as a player and of course as a pinball programmer. I have several of his games, and that's how he always will live on.

The picture is from the Stern tour at Pinball Expo 2019 when I ran into him. I told him how impressed I was when I saw him compete in the European Championships in Sweden (early 2000's) when he literally crushed his competitors in the finals by getting like 120 millions on the first ball. He smiled a bit and said "Yes, I remember that".

I am really sorry for the loss, to all his family.

Rest in peace LFS



Johan Lundin - January 28, 2022 at 05:29 AM

PW

“ Lyman,
Thank you for all the joy you gave us with your pinball machines.
We will never forget you.

Pascal V.W.

Pascal Van Wonterghem - January 28, 2022 at 03:49 AM

FG

“ I met Lyman during IFPA11... we sat on some plastic chairs outside game exchange. I was totally star-struck since he was my personal pinball hero/legend. We had a short chat and he was such a kind and humble human being which was even more impressive.

He imagined and brought to live some many concepts in pinball that brought and will bring so much joy to players all around the world... and that is only the pinball part of his personal legacy.

I am heartbroken and my thoughts are with Penni, his family and his friends.

Loss is not a stranger to me... I hope I can translate the words appropriately that helped me...

With all the pain, grief and sadness, the love, affection and joy you gave us will eventually eclipse the loss!

Frank G. - January 28, 2022 at 03:17 AM

JW

“ I remember seeing Lyman for the first time at the 92 IFPA World Championships. He was playing a practice game of Addams Family, where the center bear kick ramp wasn't registering and giving the side ramp millions plus instead. He proceeded to score over a billion points by shooting the center ramp and letting it drop to the double in lanes repeatedly. I thought what a brilliant strategy! Years later we would call his repeated shot making Lymanizing loops. So many great memories over the years from a good friend that will be truly missed.



Jason Werdrick - January 28, 2022 at 02:14 AM

NS

“ Lyman, you were a kind and thoughtful person and it was a pleasure having you as a friend. My condolences to Penni and your family.

-- Neil



neil shatz - January 27, 2022 at 08:55 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 08:47 PM

CL

“ My earliest memory of Lyman, Chip, as I knew him was when I was about 3 years old. My mother and I were visiting his mother and sister Beverly at their house. Mrs. Sheats kept telling him to stop what he was doing. He was 2 and getting into mischief as 2 years old do. My mother and his mother graduated from Wellesley High School together during World War 2. By coincidence they ended up living down the street from each other and his sister Beverly and I were born the same day. The families have been friends all these years. Although I haven't seen or spoken with Chip recently, I always felt he was a friend. His family and loved ones have me deepest sympathies.

christopher Leupold - January 27, 2022 at 08:04 PM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Mark - January 27, 2022 at 07:40 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:31 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:31 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:30 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:29 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:26 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:26 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:25 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:24 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Beverly - January 27, 2022 at 07:23 PM

WJ

“ I had played all of Lyman's games by the time I met him in a bar after the Belgian Open.

Despite obviously being tired with jetlag and a long weekend of competition he took the time for a drink and a chat about Met with a complete stranger, genuinely interested in my opinions about his games. It truly made my weekend.

Such a shame to lose him at such an age and my heart goes out to Penni and all his family.

Gone, but never forgotten.

RIP LFS.



Wayne Johns - January 27, 2022 at 07:04 PM

KO

“ Whenever I'd see Lyman at a pinball show or tournament, he was always very friendly. I always looked forward to seeing Lyman at all the major events I went to.

I'll never forget the time he played in one of the Pinferno tournaments at what used to be Jon's Skate shop on the lower East Side years ago and demonstrating how to tame CFTBL which was eating other players left and right. Not Lyman. True master of skill. I still find it hard to believe that he's gone now and it's even more shocking to learn how he died. I will always miss him dearly.

LFS, Rest in Peace.

Koi - January 27, 2022 at 06:18 PM

MW

“ I met Lyman in the early 90's and ran into him periodically at events, then had a 15 year gap in seeing him from when I moved to California until I ran into him again at a tournament. What amazed me was how he could pick up the conversation we were having the last time I saw him, as if no time had passed in between, just skipping over the filling-in-the-years-between step. This was true early on, and again when I saw him after that long gap.

It was always a joy to watch him play, although his stance gave me a strange feeling like he was rushing the machine like a tackling dummy. I realized after a while that he wasn't attacking the machine; he embraced the pinball table like he was entering into some kind of secret compact with it, and that stance defined a unique zone around him. It gave him eyes where few of us put them, and a feel of the ground against the feel of the pin. I tried to replicate the stance experimentally, but it was uniquely his.

I appreciate greatly, as a fellow software guy, how deeply he understood and connected with his clients/users, because of course he was a player first and always designed things from that perspective. That's unusual these days, and I hope that Lyman being able to follow his passion was a source of joy to him as it was to the rest of us. His legacy will live on in his art.

He is going to be remembered. May his memory be a blessing.

LLLLLLLLLLLLRLLLLLRLLLLLR

- Matt



Matt Wall - January 27, 2022 at 05:50 PM

ZS

“ It is beyond tough to find the words at the moment and not sure anything I ever say or write will truly capture Lyman’s impact on any of us. He was my pinball Yoda and Obi-Wan growing up, forever changing the way I approached this magical game and how it could be experienced. While many (myself included) are thankful for the joy he has brought all of us and will continue to with his unparalleled precision and attention to detail in every single game he ever touched, one personal story that always stood out was this same level of focus he brought to his personal relationships. I’ll always remember when I got “promoted” up from the juniors division into the scary adult division, I struggled to have the same level of success for several years, never quite winning a big one. Fast forward several years of trials and tribulations (countless times against him of course!), I finally broke through and won my first big “adult” tournament held out of state in Pennsylvania. While driving to the airport after the tournament my phone randomly started ringing. I look down and it’s Lyman calling me! We might have only spoken on the phone once or twice at the time, enough to have each other’s phone numbers since we would always just see each other in person. Unbeknownst to me, he was watching and monitoring the tournament from afar that entire weekend and like a proud coach, he was the very first person to call and congratulate me on getting my first big adult ‘W’! While the win was sweet, that one phone call was even sweeter and meant more than anything else that weekend. It showed Lyman’s true character and I’m just thankful for all the times and memories we had together these past 30 years that went beyond just pinball. My heart goes out to Penni and the entire family. RIP LFS



Zach Sharpe - January 27, 2022 at 05:08 PM

AR

“ I have played with Lyman at many events over the years and he was always first to notice me and say hi when we crossed paths. Made me feel like a star (but he was the real star!). He knew my kids since they were young and was always so nice to us all. I recall having to key him on on some notes at PAPA when Sega Godzilla was in the lineup as he needed rule and strategy help. I was thinking, wait, Lyman needs help from me for me with pinball..wow! Great guy, always calm and gentle and Humble.

Andy Rosa - January 27, 2022 at 04:58 PM

OD

“Lyman and I were no longer close but we were good friends in the 1990’s. His endorsement got my foot in the door to interview at Data East Pinball in 1993 and my pinball industry career followed. He taught me a lot about pinball and the arcane 8-bit assembly language we used to program games at the time. His code was sound and always well imagined and thought out, bugs were rare in his software, and he held the rest of us to the same high standard he set for his own work. If I had to describe Lyman in one word it would be “uncompromising” he did not settle. While that made for some difficult situations he was always true to himself. I could share many stories here about our fun times playing impromptu matches in the engineering lab, but my favorite was the Expo that Lyman and I faced off in a manufacturers division match, after he had moved over to WMS while I was at Sega. I believe the tournament game was Capcom’s Big Bang Bar but it wasn’t working well, so I suggested we play on an available Attack From Mars, which he of course programmed. It was best of three but playing on his game got in his head a little, I had a fast start and won the first game. That lead him to take a long break to clear his mind (and probably smoke), after which he of course crushed me as expected. But I did make the best pinball player in the world sweat a little, so it was a good day of competition. To those closest to Lyman I offer my most sincere condolences and I share in your grief. Rest In Peace, LFS.

Orin Day - January 27, 2022 at 04:38 PM

KM

“ Like so many of us, I've had no idea what to say, as I've felt that no words can capture the enormity of this loss, especially for those closest to Lyman.

Lyman was one of my first pinball friends, and even though I was a bratty college kid posting brash opinions online, he happily met me in Norfolk to play a Twilight Zone prototype, and when I took a job in Chicago not long after that, he let me sleep on his floor the first night I was in town. We had different paths at work but I spent many an afternoon just "talking schtum" in his office as he wrote code for new display effects, chain smoked, and shared his opinions on anything and everything.

He was always the best pinball player I had ever seen, just naturally focused and calm and relentlessly difficult to beat. He also went on to have an illustrious career in pinball design and coding, but he was so much more than that. He was kind and thoughtful, gruff but approachable, and grumpy yet cheerful, like an old soul who always had time for just about anyone he met.

Somewhere I have a photo of Lyman and Penni at one of the earlier PAPA tournaments in Carnegie, just being the most adorable couple as they always were. I cannot find it but I cannot forget it. That picture captured the love and bond that everyone knew they had.

I'm completely heartbroken to learn that he lost a battle that hardly anyone even knew he was fighting. He was a character, full of life, quick with a cutting remark, always laughing at the absurdities of the world. He is gone too soon and will forever be missed.

Kevin Martin - January 27, 2022 at 03:51 PM

RH

“ We lost a good one, the most influential pinball player and game programmer. Players from around the world feel attached to some of his games he helped design. You'd never be forgotten, rest in peace my friend.

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose; all that we deeply love becomes a part of us." ~Helen Keller

Roberto Hurtado - January 27, 2022 at 03:49 PM

JN

“ While I never had the privilege of working with Lyman, but we did work on one important project together. During the early 1990s, all of the pinball companies got together to form a pinball league to develop and promote competitive play and public domain tournament/league features for pinball machines in general. Lyman was a member of the initial PinGolf League.

I am jealous of never being able to have a game coded by Lyman. You see, great game code can make an average shooting game into a top 25 rated game. It's the game coder working behind the scenes that brings the entire thing together. Lyman, you were the best!

Jon Norris - January 27, 2022 at 03:27 PM

CN

“ *LFS is one of the first names to spring into my mind when I think of pinball. I knew of him many years before I ever went to a pinball show or tournament.*

For I had read of Lyman's greatness on RGP. His reputation certainly preceded him.

Lyman could take an average playfield layout, work his magic, and transform the game into something immensely playable. It's no coincidence that many of my favorite pins are laced with his code.

I was lucky to go on a couple trips to Europe with Lyman. It was a treat to get to know him. He was gracious and thoughtful, and quick to smile or laugh at my little trash talk.

The last time that I spoke to Lyman was several years ago at a tournament in Virginia. By then I was a washed up player, but I'm glad that I got a chance to tell him then how exceptional that he was.

Lyman will always be larger than life to me. But also a friend who was a joy to be around.

I will truly miss him.

Chris Newsom - January 27, 2022 at 02:15 PM

DN

“ *Penni, I'm so very sorry to learn of Lyman's passing. I always admired his skill as a player and his genius at coding pinball games.*

Dennis Nordman - January 27, 2022 at 01:25 PM

DN

....skill

Dennis Nordman - January 27, 2022 at 01:25 PM

DI

“ *Lyman you are a great friend. We have many great memories. Rest In Peace.*

The Iarussi family from Medway MA



David Iarussi - January 27, 2022 at 01:08 PM

LE

“ *You will be missed dear friend. I hope you can find peace ... wherever you might be now. ❤️*



Lieven Engelbeen - January 27, 2022 at 01:03 PM

LS

“ It’s hard to eulogize someone you’ve never met, and strange to realize what an enormous impact on your life and the lives of the people you love in spite of that fact. And really, any attempt to do so just hollow and pithy in the wake of such a horrific tragedy. So instead of trying to wax poetic, I’m just going to say what’s in my heart, raw nerves and all:

I’m sorry Lyman.

I’m so, so sorry.

I’m sorry we couldn’t help.

I’m sorry you suffered so silently.

I’m sorry we don’t yet live in a world where it’s okay to not be okay.

I’m sorry that we didn’t do enough.

I’m sorry we weren’t all BETTER.

I’m so.

So.

Sorry.

To Lyman’s friends and family:

I probably don’t know you, but I love you anyway.

I’m so, so sorry.

Lane Stroud - January 27, 2022 at 11:39 AM

AN

“ Deepest heartfelt condolences to you all. There are never the right words but please try to take comfort in knowing that there were so many people who loved Lyman (who will always be "Chip, Bev's little brother" to me) and were better people for knowing him. Lots of fond memories as kids and teenagers. The Neepers\Sabeans are hurting with you today and are sending many prayers and well wishes to Bev, the boys, and Penni.

Andrea Neeper - January 27, 2022 at 11:22 AM

DD

“ *I had never met Lyman, but his work will always be with me in a wonderful way. He brings joy to myself and others daily. Bless You Lyman.*

David Dennis - January 27, 2022 at 08:36 AM

CF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Christopher Ffranchi - January 27, 2022 at 06:53 AM

MV

“ *My condolencens too penni and family and friends .
A great lost and nice too now him.*



mario vercauteren - January 27, 2022 at 06:13 AM

BE

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Brian Eddy - January 27, 2022 at 01:22 AM

S(

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sarah Lindsay (Overturf) - January 27, 2022 at 01:16 AM

TO

Great photo of Lyman and Dallas!

Tom - January 28, 2022 at 07:35 AM



“ I'm really struggling with this right now. I don't have the right words. You were a friend, family for almost 30 years. I have a lifetime of amazing memories, shared stories, laughs that fill my heart with love. Your smile, your spirit, your humor lights up a room. I just can't say goodbye.... I love you man. FR



Frederick Richardson - January 27, 2022 at 12:36 AM

RS

“ I loved him like a son. His sensitivity. His creativity, His unsurpassed talents as an amazing pinball player and programming genius who shaped the trajectory of machine development for more than two decades. I will remember all the times we shared and how fortunate I was for Lyman to be in my life. I miss him dearly and send my heartfelt sympathy to Penni and the family.



Roger Sharpe - January 26, 2022 at 11:01 PM

FB

All my thoughts for Penni and Lyman' s family.
My son Adam and i met Lyman in Usa but also in Europe
So sad.
But we played a world pinball tournament playing together wheel of fortune and i laughed about the weirdness of this game. He said wheel of bankruptcy.
It will always be on my mind as we laughed a lot on that and will remain in my memory.
Reposes en paix mon ami.
Franck Bona

franck bona - January 27, 2022 at 05:59 PM

CG

“ May his soul live threw out us everyday. That we remember all the good times we have had. I will miss you, and never forget how you where such a good man!



Christopher George - January 26, 2022 at 08:10 PM

PE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Penni - January 26, 2022 at 06:50 PM

PE

Photo by Beverly Sheats George

Penni - January 26, 2022 at 06:51 PM

GL

Sir Lyman. You will be missed more than can be ever said.

Glyn Lipham - January 26, 2022 at 10:49 PM

BC

Lyman's legacy is reflected in the positive impact he had on others with stories that will be told for years to come. While pinball may have been the conduit to reach so many, it was him being a good and approachable person that made him special. My condolences to Penni and the family.

Brad Czernik - January 26, 2022 at 11:09 PM

BE

It's hard to find the words. Lyman and I created two of the most endearing titles in pinball together, Attack from Mars and Medieval Madness. It was a magical time. We worked well together and played off each other's strength. He was a perfectionist and it showed in all his games. It had to be right. He was a master at his craft and beloved by thousands of fans who played his games. I will miss him as a colleague and a most importantly a friend. RIP Lyman, Your mind is at ease now.

Brian Eddy - January 27, 2022 at 01:21 AM

RG

I never met Lyman, but we shared many friendly emails over the last 4 years. Last October he learned I had been struggling and reached out to me and said if I ever needed to talk, he would listen. He genuinely cared that I was doing ok and that really meant a lot to me.

I am so sorry that he couldn't find the peace he needed for himself. I pray that his family finds strength and love during this difficult time.

Rob Ganshorn - January 27, 2022 at 01:43 AM

NM

whenever I was in the US on a pinball trip Lyman was always there to catch up with and hang out with - he was the most friendly person I ever met and a role model for human kind.

Catching up with him always re-energised me - he was a true genius and someone I loved spending time with. He was a genius; noble and modest - I said something about a game once and he said - wait, got out this notebook and starting writing down what I said - he made me feel like I belonged and he made me and others feel that and feel special too.

Lyman changed the world with his creations and brought people together to laugh and have fun, there is no more honourable legacy.

My heart and thoughts are with his family and close friends.

GodSpeed Lyman - I will miss you - Ad astra per aspera - Rest in peace.

Neil J. McRae - January 27, 2022 at 04:20 AM

AM

Penni, my heart aches for you right now and I wish there were a way to ease your pain. Although I only spent a few delightful moments with you two over the years, I felt like I knew you both so well. Kevin has shared numerous wonderful stories with me about what what an amazing person Lyman was. I regret that we weren't able to get up to Chicago over the last few years to spend time with you both. I send my most heartfelt condolences to you and Lyman's family. May the cherished, beautiful memories of your beloved see you through this unimaginable time. ❤️

"Say not in grief 'he is no more', but in thankfulness that he was"

Amanda Martin - January 27, 2022 at 08:11 AM

PH

I have no words. Sending all the love to Penni and Lyman's family and friends. Lyman's brilliance will live forever in his work and I for one will always smile when I think of him. You are finally at peace, brother.

Pete Hoerber - January 27, 2022 at 10:27 AM

DW

*Still feeling sick in the stomach with the news and never had the opportunity to meet Lyman in person. :(
Such a Devastating loss for all.*

The Great SilverBall has lost it's shine today.

Best pinball programmer IMO and one of the best players i have ever seen!

In Lyman I always trusted! If you brought one of his games, you were in for a hell of a ride. So So much talent from the gem of a man!

So glad to have owned and played so many of the games you worked on!

R.I.P and Happy Flippin in Heaven and hope to meet you one day...

Condolences to Lymans Family,Penni and Friends.

P.s my Brother in law shared the same fate, I feel your pain.

Dave Wilson - January 27, 2022 at 04:20 PM

AE

So happy for the opportunity to work with Lyman. The greatest pinball programmer the world will ever say and a super guy. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the world and thanks for leaving a wonderful legacy for all of us.

Andy E - January 31, 2022 at 05:33 PM