

IN LOVING MEMORY



JOHN BRYAN MARK

September 12, 1942 - March 22, 2026

Memorial Service

Friday, April 17, 2026 - 11:00 AM
Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home
Fargo, North Dakota

Pastor Jessica McEvers, *Officiant*

Bill Tweten, *Accompanist* Vicki Melchior, *Soloist*

Alex Rydell, *Violinist* Liz Lyngstad, *Flutist*

Mark Johnson & Roger Reiersen, *Speakers*

Recorded Music

Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor - J.S Bach

Special Music

“Jesus Loves Me/Oh How He Loves Me”

“In His Presence” “Lord’s Prayer” “Still, Still, Still”

Military Honors

Fargo Memorial Honor Guard
ND Military Funeral Honors Team

Interment

Friday, April 17, 2026 - 2:00 PM
Fargo National Cemetery
Harwood, North Dakota



**HANSON
RUNSVOLD**
Cremation • Burial

John Mark, 83, of Fargo, ND, passed away on Sunday, March 22, 2026 at Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo.

John Bryan Mark was born to Harris and Elizabeth Mark in Fargo, North Dakota, on September 12, 1942. John's father was a podiatrist and died at an early age, when John was sixteen years old. His mother, known as Betty, supported John & his brother Phil by teaching piano lessons and playing the organ at church.

John attended Horace Mann, Ben Franklin, and Fargo Central High School, where he graduated in 1960. While in high school, John was a member of the boys' octet, concert choir, glee club, and key club. He received athletic letters in hockey and golf. His golf team won the 1960 State Championship. He played in many junior golf tournaments in North Dakota and its surrounding states.

After high school graduation, John enrolled in North Dakota State University. He entered the pharmacy program and quickly learned this would not be his forte. However, this educational start would come in handy when he was drafted and served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966. He was trained in pharmacy at Ft. Leonard Wood in El Paso, Texas. He proceeded to serve in Korea during the Vietnam conflict, where he received two medals.

Following his tour of duty, John came back and worked at Fargo Country Club in the pro shop while finishing his education at NDSU, where he graduated in 1968 with a B.S. in Business Economics. While at NDSU, John was a member of the golf team, concert choir, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Professionally, John worked in various sales positions at IBM Corporation, Sorenson Real Estate, and Swanston Equipment. The bulk of his career was spent at Knight Printing. John's retirement years brought him to Menards for a reason to be up early and productive.

In his free time, John found joy as a starter at Fargo Country Club for many years, which he fondly referenced as his second home in town. He received a Resolution of Honor from its Board of Trustees on March 7th, 2026, for his extraordinary service and decades of positive impact in promoting junior golf.

A firm believer in philanthropy and civic duty, he was a proud member of the North Dakota Jaycees, Fargo Kiwanis, and NDSU Teammakers, all of where he held presidential positions. The love of golf resonated throughout John's life since he picked up a club as a child. John dug into his passion, and his resume became admirable and impressive in this area. He served on the board of directors of the Grand Forks Country Club. Following this, he served as a vice president for the North Dakota Golf Association. He was named chairman of the 1971 state amateur and the 1974 state seniors tournaments. John served many terms on the board at Oxbow Country Club and also held a presidential position in the 80's. He spent years in support of the Bobcat North Dakota Open and the Roger Maris Celebrity Golf Tournament.

In 1997, he received the prestigious honor of being inducted into the North Dakota Golf Hall of Fame. One of the most dynamic supporters of junior golf in the history of North Dakota, John served as the North Dakota representative on the USGA's US Junior Amateur Committee for over 30 years and a USGA rules official for decades. He was responsible for bringing the 1995 US Junior Amateur Championship to the Fargo Country Club, representing the first and only USGA Championship ever held in North Dakota. John's wealth of extensive storytelling, graciousness, and professionalism on and off the golf course will be fondly remembered in the Fargo community. His friends will miss his banter while watching many sporting games and tournaments at various local hangouts. His family will miss his presence at important moments and events, as a loyal spectator, supporter, and cheerleader.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Harris and Elizabeth Mark, and his brother and sister-in-law, Phillip and Dorothy Mark. John is survived by his beloved nieces, Michelle Mark Krebs (Jeffrey) and Alison Mark Zapf (Michael); great-nieces, Jessica Maddocks (Parker) and Gabrielle Krebs; great-nephews Justin Krebs (Marina) and Evan Zapf; great-great-nephew, Wyndham Maddocks; and cousins, Renee Lier, Michele Lier, Patrice Lier, and families.



John Mark was a behind-the-scenes legend in local golf

Former USGA committee member was loyal to the sport, Bison athletics.



Fargo golf supporter and former USGA official John Mark with his great niece Jessica Zapf, who played collegiately at the University of Wyoming. Submitted photo

By Jeff Kolpack - March 24, 2026

FARGO – It was appropriate that the North Dakota State Team Makers booster club this week put out its list of golf tournaments for the upcoming summer, since those were two of John Mark's life passions. Golf and Bison.

His enduring impact on both were also accomplished without headlines, which is probably the way he wanted it. Mark, 83, died on Sunday after a battle with cancer, a behind-the-scenes legend who was a national figure with the United States Golf Association.

He was instrumental in bringing the 1995 USGA Junior Amateur to the Fargo Country Club, to this day the only major USGA event to be played in the state of North Dakota. The planning was so intensive that Mark put hours and days into constructing a scoreboard that was so good the USGA took it down and the FCC shipped it to the next site in Pennsylvania. It was used in subsequent tournaments as well.

“He was singularly responsible for us getting the amateur here,” said friend Dick Anderson. “It was his relationship with the USGA people that caused them to come to Fargo. I chaired it, I got the recognition, but John did the work. He was absolutely selfless.”



Longtime USGA official and Fargo golf supporter John Mark with his niece, Gabrielle Krebs, who played for Lake Forest College (Ill.) Submitted photo

Mark was on the USGA Junior Committee for 30 years. He was involved with every Bobcat North Dakota Open since its inception in 1964, first as a player and then as a starter and rules official. He was the official starter on the first tee for the tournament for three decades, at least, including the last couple of years when cancer was taking a toll, doing it for over 20 years when Mark Johnson was the tournament director.

Mark was a highly trained USGA rules official, with those days of rulings bringing a smile to Johnson, who is also an expert having passed all the PGA Professional tests. They made quite the pair when it came to rulings with players.

“He was always asking me, ‘What do you think?’” Johnson said. “He wasn’t asking me because he didn’t know. It was a great way for me to learn. Just the way he calmly went about determining the ruling. It’s the rules and like a true USGA guy, there is no gray area.”

And if a player got a little lippy?

“He’d say it’s an outdoor sport,” Johnson said. “They ended up on a piece of turf where they weren’t going to get relief.”

One of the state’s greatest amateur players, Mike Podolak of Oxbow, could relate. Mark was the official for Podolak in his North Dakota match play championships. There was the time when Podolak won the Bobcat professional event in 2003, the only amateur in the history of the tourney to do so.

“He was on the first tee, he put his arm around me and said, ‘You can do this,’” Podolak said. “That’s when John Dahl was caddying for me and it was just a great moment. As much as he loved to play, he had a bigger passion for just giving back to the game. John Mark was so good for golf.”

And it just wasn’t about his beloved Bison, either. The University of North Dakota dropped men’s golf in 2016, which put the program down, but not out. Golf boosters approached UND interim president Ed Shafer asking if the necessary operational funds could be privately raised if he would consider reinstating it.

The answer was yes.

“I was telling John that story over coffee that we had to raise all this money,” Anderson said. “And I thought that was the end of the conversation.”

It wasn't. A week later Anderson got a call from one of Mark's friends on the East Coast willing to give a six-figure gift. The same type of call came a week later from a friend of Mark's in Texas about another six-figure donation.

“We got two gifts that almost reached the seven-figure mark and John was responsible for that,” Anderson said. “He launched the campaign. He didn't write the check but the people he knew trusted him. He may bleed Bison green but he has some UND blood, too. Whatever was good for golf and good for North Dakota John was on board. He and I were friends for 364 days.”

The other day was devoted to NDSU vs. UND football, where their allegiance differed.

Two weeks ago, at Bethany Retirement Living in Fargo, the Fargo Country Club presented Mark a resolution of appreciation for all he did for golf. It made him smile.