



Mark Dirnberger

April 28, 1958 - April 1, 2026

Mark William Dirnberger, age 67, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and Port St. Lucie, Florida, passed away April 1, 2026, unexpectedly at his home. He passed peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, imagination, love, and quiet vigor.

Mark was the husband of Brittney Dirnberger of Port St. Lucie, Florida. He was father to Christopher (Randi) Dirnberger of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and Amanda (Steve) Stratmann of Ballwin, Missouri. Mark was a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren: Charlie, Gracie, Hattie, Henry, Jack, Luke, and Gwendolyn. He was also an uncle, cousin, and friend to many. He is survived by his three brothers: Paul (Kim) Dirnberger of Jackson, Missouri; Steve (Charlotte) Dirnberger of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and John (Cathy) Dirnberger of St. Charles, Missouri. Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Jo and Claude Richard Dirnberger.

Early in life Mark attended St. Mary Cathedral Elementary School and was a 1976 graduate of Notre Dame High School. He was well known in the Cape Girardeau community for his passion for the hospitality industry. He followed the footsteps of family before him but was eager to create his own path. Fresh out of high school he learned the business from the bottom up, starting as a dishwasher, then working his way up to become a cook, a banquet chef, assistant manager, manager, food and beverage director, and even the

personal caterer for several live acts including the St Louis Rams, before eventually owning his own restaurant. Names such as Bella Italia, Katy O'Ferrell's, and D'Ladium's Sports Bar are just a few examples of the many business that he owned, created, and even resurrected throughout the years. He was active in the Missouri Restaurant Association serving as President and Chairman of the Board in 2013 and 2014, reflecting his leadership and dedication to the industry he loved. Throughout his career, Mark brought creativity and artistry to his work, especially through his exquisite ice carvings, breathtaking buffets, and delicious recipes which were a highlight of many celebrations and events. His career in catering allowed him to share that talent widely, creating memorable moments for countless friends and families including his own.

Outside of work, Mark found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He loved the sunshine, spending time at the lake, and more recently embracing retirement and the Florida lifestyle. His daily routines would include a round of golf at his local country club where afterwards he would often share a drink and exchange stories full of laughter and praise. A host at heart, he wanted everyone to feel welcome and have a good time - on the golf course, on the water, or at his restaurant. His witty sense of humor and playful spirit were always present. He was always looking forward to holidays and special events often taking the opportunity to show off his endless creativity and passion for the Arts with his costumes and antics. His imagination also showed through in his love and passion for music, often playing songs for or with his friends and family on a wide variety of instruments including the piano, guitar, banjo and harmonica.

Mark will be remembered for his steady presence, kind heart, and the love he had for his family and friends. His legacy lives on not only through them, but through the many lives he touched in his community and career. Known for his easy smile and playful sense of humor, he loved to joke and keep things light,

often bringing laughter into the lives of those around him. His personality left a lasting impression-one of warmth, charisma, and a love for life's simple pleasures.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 am Tuesday, April 28 at St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau.

Interment will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Missouri Restaurant Association Scholarship Fund.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **27**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

APR **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary Cathedral
615 William St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Dirnberger.

April 27 at 01:54 PM



“ Cuba Financial Group purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mark Dirnberger.



Cuba Financial Group - April 27 at 11:35 AM



“ I just found out and I am so sorry for your loss. Mark was always so wonderful to me. His smile could light up a room. He had great love for Amanda and Chris always taking care of their needs. He had great love and respect for Sharon and did his best to be there for her as well. To say he had great love for his parents and brothers would be an understatement. He knew the importance of Family and Faith. I will be having mass here at Saint Anthony's High School for him and the family. Prayers forever!! For such a Wonderful family.

LOve you all,
Brother David

Brother David Migliorino - April 27 at 11:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Dirnberger.*



April 27 at 09:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Dirnberger.

April 27 at 09:18 AM



“ *AUNT JANET, SUSAN, RICK & FAMILIES purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mark Dirnberger.*



AUNT JANET, SUSAN, RICK & FAMILIES - April 26 at 02:17 PM



“ *CPOP 3rd Grade Class purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mark Dirnberger.*



CPOP 3rd Grade Class - April 26 at 02:11 PM

~J

“ ~ Erica, Rachael, Maritza and Jodie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mark Dirnberger.



~ Erica, Rachael, Maritza and Jodie - April 24 at 04:35 PM

MA

“ Missouri Restaurant Association purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mark Dirnberger.



Missouri Restaurant Association - April 22 at 05:16 PM

MA

“ Missouri Restaurant Association planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Dirnberger.

Missouri Restaurant Association - April 22 at 05:16 PM

GL

“ My husband and I had some fun days at the lake with him! Such a good guy!

Ginger Lufcy - April 22 at 01:27 PM

JT

“ *Jr and Barbie Tarrants purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mark Dirnberger.*



Jr and Barbie Tarrants - April 22 at 12:38 PM

JT

“ *Jr and Barbie Tarrants planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Dirnberger.*

Jr and Barbie Tarrants - April 22 at 12:38 PM

AW

“ *To the family of Mark, I send my deepest condolences. I met Mark back in 92 when he hired me at the old Drury lodge as a breakfast cook. Mark was the one who showed and taught me how to flip food in a skillet.*

I must say he gave a lot of chances, as I was younger and kind of wild.. Rest in peace Mark 🙏

Anthony Wilson - April 18 at 10:37 PM



“ *Dear Britt and family, Scott and I are just devastated by the news of Mark's passing. For a man so full of life and filled with humor, it is a tragic loss too early. We will forever remember all the good times next door to our lake neighbor-grilling, fire pits, long talks, good beer, hours floating on cushions, and many laughs. May he forever be enjoying a cold drink and relaxing with Jimmy in Margaritaville. Our hearts are with you all.*

Cheryl Tolan - April 09 at 05:07 PM

AS

“ *Mark went to work at age 16 for us known him a day are two wife worked for him at Bella*

adam seabaugh - April 09 at 12:46 PM



“ *Mark was a really nice guy and always had a smile. RIP*

Marshia Eaton - April 09 at 11:06 AM

TT

“ *I have known Mark since he managed Cedar Street....and way beyond... many lake days... you could always see his smile and hair blowing in the wind...
Sympathy and prayers to his family..*

Tia Trickey - April 08 at 05:55 PM

RM

“ *Brittany you have my deepest sympathy. I am so sorry to hear the passing of Mark. You both had a wonderful relationship and you both complimented each other. Beautiful couple and relationship. My sympathy goes out to his children and grandchildren. Rest in Peace!! He certainly made a difference at Kinkaid Lake.*

Ron & Karen Mayfield - April 08 at 03:47 PM

MW

“ Mark was a great guy who was liked by so many. He was a huge part of our Kinkaid lake summers. Butch and I are extremely sad about his passing. He made a difference and we will forever cherish the time we shared.



Maggie & Butch White - April 08 at 01:55 PM

DE

“ Deb and I were sorry to learn of Mark's passing. He was a very talented guy and came from a long line of talented Dirnbergers. Mark had a major presence in the Cape restaurant and bar scene and left Katie O's in the very capable hands of his son Chris, who learned the trade from a master. Our condolences to the family, We will keep Mark in our thoughts and prayer.

Danny R Essner - April 08 at 10:13 AM

RK

“ Sorry to hear of your passing. Fly high my former art student and ice sculptor.

Ronald G Koehler - April 08 at 09:26 AM

GM

“ I will miss you my friend and my heart goes out to your family that is grieving their loss.

Gabby McBride - April 07 at 09:42 PM

TW

“ So sad to hear of Mark’s sudden passing. I will always remember his confident attitude, even when he was a teenager in high school. Our condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Tom Westrich - April 07 at 09:33 PM

MV

“ Growing up with Mark and his brothers was a wonderful experience. He was always so kind. One of those people you just prayed would never go. So sorry to hear of his passing. My deepest condolences and thank you for all of the memories. I will hold you all in my prayers ❤️. Love - Mary Vickery

Mary Vickery - April 07 at 07:46 PM

MK

“ Mark was a great guy. First person in Florida other than my partner that I developed a genuine friendship with. I enjoyed seeing Mark at the golf course, sharing a cocktail and sharing our experiences prior to moving to Florida. My condolences.

Mike Kendhammer

Michael Kendhammer - April 07 at 07:23 PM

BW

“ So sorry to read of Mark’s passing. Please know that you are in my prayers.

brad Wittenborn - April 07 at 05:45 PM