



## William Rockwell "Rocky" Aker

February 10, 1969 - January 16, 2017

William Rockwell "Rocky" Aker was born on February 10, 1969 in Gainesville, Florida, the son of long-time Sarasota residents, James E. Aker and Jenny L. Aker. He died at the scene of an auto accident on Monday, January 16, 2017 at approximately 5:08 pm at the age of 47 (soon to be 48) as a result of being rear-ended by a drunk driver and pushed over the median into oncoming traffic on highway 70 in Bradenton, not far from his Lakewood Ranch home.

Rocky was an excellent athlete from the age of 9 when he participated in Ringling Redskins football from age 9-15 as a quarterback and Little League Baseball as a catcher. Those who know sports will appreciate the leadership as well as the athletic abilities for those two positions. His Little League baseball team won the City Tournament two years in a row, with his brother Gunner on the team and his youngest brother, Dusty, as the batboy. He played four years of football and baseball at Riverview High School, as quarterback and centerfielder, graduating in 1987. He attended DePauw University in Indiana from 1987-1991 (also attended by his father and was housed in the same fraternity house as his father) where he played four years on the football team as running back and two years on the baseball team as centerfielder. His athletic ability and sportsmanship gave immense pleasure to his parents, brothers, coaches, teammates and fans.

After DePauw, Rocky graduated from Life University School of Chiropractic in

Marietta, Georgia. He then began his chiropractic practice in Sarasota in 1995. He started his own practice located at 2226 Gulf Gate Drive in the Gulf Gate area of Sarasota, where he shared office space with Patrick Dower, D.C. Rocky saw patients on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Sarasota, but broadened the reach of his services by also owning a health practice in Port Charlotte, where he attended to his patients on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. He also maintained office space in Lakewood Ranch for patients who could visit only on Saturdays. Rocky's chiropractic practice will continue and chiropractors Patrick Dower will treat Rocky's patients at the Sarasota and Port Charlotte offices and chiropractor Gary Thompson will be available to treat Rocky's patients in Port Charlotte until a suitable replacement or replacements for Rocky are found. Dr.'s Dower and Thompson will treat Rocky's current patients until a replacement or replacements for Rocky are found and such treatment of Rocky's patients are expected to benefit Rocky's surviving spouse and their three children.

Rocky was liked and respected by all. He was loved and admired by all whom he touched. Rocky always had smile on his face, a good sense of humor and always made sincere quality and quantity time for his patients and friends. He was a positive role model for his family, his brothers and his parents. He was in great physical shape and condition due to his workouts at the gym, running on his own and with his wife and children in adult and children's marathons and also due to his nutrition habits. He was in excellent health. Sickness and missing work was a rarity. He helped many patients with diet plans and held many after hour seminars to school his patients in proper nutrition and exercise, for whom he was also a strong role model for protecting and caring for the body, mind and spirit. He was loving, caring, giving, ran a well-organized business, intelligent, kind-hearted, hard-working and unselfish. He will be missed, but never forgotten by his family, friends and the 1000's of patients he treated over the years. Rocky provided free physical examinations to athletes and students who could not afford to pay for the examinations to

satisfy their requirements to participate in youth and high school sports and to attend schools.

Rocky married Kristi Markham on December 30, 1995. He is survived by her and their three children, Jared 17 (soon to be 18), Alexis 12 and Wyatt 11. Rocky is also survived by his parents, James E. Aker and Jenny L. Aker and his two brothers and their wives and children who live in Sarasota, James Gunnar "Gunner" Aker (Lisa), Dawson 17 (soon to be 18) and Madison 16 and E. Dustin "Dusty" Aker, (Gail), Chloe 8 and Carson 6. Rocky is also survived by Kristi's parents, Donna Markham and Jerry Markham and Sheila Markham and Kristi's three brothers and their families, Jason Markham and his son, Logan, Sean Markham (Erin) and their two children, Oliver 6 and Karis 3 and Mondrian Contreras (Bridgett) and Thomas and Matisse, both 9 and Aurelia, 6 months.

Visitation will be held at the Siesta Key Chapel at 4615 Gleason Avenue on Siesta Key in Sarasota, Florida on Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, followed immediately thereafter at 3:00 by a Memorial Service at the Chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rocky Aker Memorial at GoFundMe.

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ I am deeply saddened after just now reading about the tragic passing of Rocky. I was but one of his classmates at LIFE....there must have been 200 of us at the time, and William "Rocky" Akers stood out in our class. Though I was not a close friend of Rocky he always had a glowing smile, great sense of humor and a positive attitude that surrounded him that seemed to never quit. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children and Rocky's entire family. His spirit and smile live on in the hearts of all that were touched by him.

---

**Gary Cohen** - May 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Rocky my friend i had no idea this had happened. I am so truly sorry that this happened. My heart goes out to your wife and children. You are and were a very good man. I will miss you.

---

**David Mitchell** - April 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I learned of Dr. Rocky's passing today. I have been treated Dr. Rocky and Dr. Pat starting in 1997. I didn't have insurance back then, but they treated me anyway. I continued to treat with them over all of these years, they could always fit me in. I saw Dr. Rocky several times in the past year, including the first part of the year when he so kindly agreed to treat my dying Border Collie who was stricken with cancer and had much muscle loss in her hind legs. I carried her into his office and after treatment she was walking on her own, and we walked out of the office together. The entire staff and other patients were amazed. A kind, gentle, and caring man. A terrible loss. My thoughts, prayers, and most sincere sympathy to the family.



---

**Kevin Murphy** - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

I learned of Dr. Rocky's passing today. I have been treated Dr. Rocky and Dr. Pat starting in 1997. I didn't have insurance back then, but they treated me anyway. I continued to treat with them over all of these years, they could always fit me in. I saw Dr. Rocky several times in the past year, including the first part of the year when he so kindly agreed to treat my dying Border Collie who was stricken with cancer and had much muscle loss in her hind legs. I carried her into his office and after treatment she was walking on her own, and we walked out of the office together. The entire staff and other patients were amazed. A kind, gentle, and caring man. A terrible loss. My thoughts, prayers, and most sincere sympathy to the family.

---

**Kevin Murphy** - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a beautiful memorial . What a wonderful man. Such a tragedy. So incredibly sorry Dusty, to you and your whole family. We pray you all find comfort in your memories.*  
*Ames and Michelle*

---

January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Acker family.*

---

**Nigel de Wit** - January 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rocky. I learned the terrible news this morning I was planning to come to see you tomorrow. I am devastated. I will always remember your so sweet smile, your kindness and the way you helped me with such patience. You are with angels now and I will miss you. You were very generous and my son Valentin feels great with you instantly. So did I. I will not forget you. Jean*

---

**Jean Dandonneau** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy, love, hugs and thoughts are with you during this difficult time.*



---

**Amy Jonson** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ I did not know him, however my heart goes out to this community and his family. So very sad. My deepest condolences to his wife and family.



---

**Melinda Press** - January 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I have been in Charlotte County for 12 years, and probably seeing Rocky for 11 of them. I just found out about this humongous loss today. I cannot express my sadness for his family. I have had many conversations about his children with him. He was a great, proud father; that was very obvious. My prayers will continue to be with his wife & children, this has to be so very devastating. God wanted him back for some unknown reason? He was a very wonderful, caring man and I just cannot believe this happened.

*I have referred friends to him for his care and the Port Charlotte community will miss him dearly. Such a loss is all I can say. God Bless this wonderful man & his family.....*

*Kim Remer  
Port Charlotte, Fla.*

---

**Kim Remer** - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Rocky was a shining light who loved to help people. To our family he was not only our chiropractor since coming to Sarasota in 2001 but a wonderful and caring human being. We can't help thinking about his wife and children and the rest of his family for the terrible loss they have suffered. Our prayers are with you and words cannot express how truly sorry we are about this tragedy.

Lynne Osterman, Amanda Newman, Michael Newman - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Jim and Jenny and family,  
My heartfelt sympathy for your loss. I was shocked and saddened to learn of this sudden tragedy.

Joanne Hornauer - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ May God give you strength, support and comfort during these difficult times. Be assured of his deep love and concern for you. 1 JOHN 4: 9, 10, 19. With My Deepest Sympathy.

Mary jean - January 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Kristi and Family, There are no words to express how sorry we are. It's tragic. There are so many people that are with you and your family at this time, hopefully it helps a little. He was so loved, and will be greatly missed.

Lisa Paul - January 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I have been thinking about Kristi and her children since the moment I heard of this tragic accident. May you be comforted by the love and support of family, friends, and community. Prayers from us..  
Robyn, Leah, Cora, and Collin Erhardt

January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss you our dear friend  
Our love and prayers to your family  
Ronald Larrison and Mark Tremblay  
(Patients from Port Charlotte)

Mark Tremblay - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of the news...I still am in disbelief. I feel like I would see him occasionally around town and he would always be a warm, calming influence on me. Just to know he's always there for you. I did play sports with Rocky quite a bit and he was never one to brag. He was a total team player and enjoyed every minute of the game itself. He was a great listener and friend to have. I will miss you, Rock!!

Chad Hockett - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I did not know Dr Aker, but I want his family to know I am sending prayers for comfort and peace. God bless you all <3 <3 <3



Mary Skinner - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ *It is with heavy heart that we learned of the death of your beloved son Rocky. Please express our sympathy to his family. May your memories of an obvious life well-lived sustain you in your grief.*

*Harriet Fulton  
Julie Orme  
Patricia Crites  
Michael Fulton  
Amy Jonson  
and the family of Matthew Fulton*

---

**HARRIET FULTON** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LZ

“ *My prayers and sympathy to the Aker family especially Jenny.*



---

**Linda Zell** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Such a shock upon hearing of the death of Rocky. Our prayers and sincerest sympathies to his family. So hard to believe he has left us and not fair that a great asset was taken in untimely manner. He will be missed dearly. The greatest chiropractor I ever had. He had the right touch that made all the aches go away!! Doubt that we will ever find another like him. Rest In Peace Rocky . Our love.....Always*

---

**Kathy and Dave** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Rocky left an indelible mark in our lives that will not be soon forgotten. May all who knew him feel joy in their heart for having the privilege of knowing him.

---

**Linda Kilcullen** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Our prayers are with your family.

---

**David Campbell** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I was surprised and sadden about Rocky's passing....What a tragic ending to one's life....Jim and Jenny, you did an Excellent job in bringing Rocky into this world....May peace and happiness follow Rocky.....David Hawkins

---

**David Hawkins** - January 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ May God comfort you during this difficult time ( John 11 : 25 ). So sorry for your loss.

---

January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Rocky was a fraternity brother and football teammate of our son Craig at DePauw University. He visited our home in Indianapolis many times. We were so fond of him. We are so very sorry for your loss. He was always a wonderful person - even as a young man.  
Jean & Bill Evans

---

**Jean Evans** - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for the wonderful care you provided, along with the special stories about your family. You will truly be missed by all. Tom and Christine Foster

January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ Rocky was my chiropractor and helped me greatly with all my aches and pain being a 67 year old senior softball player and bowler. Rocky was always friendly and took an interest in all his patients. He was always encouraging and had a smile on his face. He was a true friend to all his patients. May God comfort your family and give them peace and hope for the future. You will be sadly missed but never forgotten for all the good you did for your family, patients, and community.

David Schaefer - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Dr. Rocky was always smiling and such a positive person. He will be greatly missed.



Fred & Regine Pommer - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ You were a great friend and role model. Can't even begin with the amazing times we had growing up. My prayers are with your family.

Al Purmort - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *When I think of Rocky, only kind and positive thoughts and memories come to mind. He truly was a wonderful person. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers always.*

*May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.*

---

**Amy Towell-Victor** - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.*

---

**Tommy Kochis** - January 19, 2017 at 12:00 AM