



Ben Edward Jacobson

June 21, 1958 - October 15, 2019

Ben Edward Jacobson, 61, passed away peacefully after a long, courageous battle with Lymphomatoid Granulomatosis, a very rare disease that affected his lungs.

Ben was born on June 21st, 1958 in Battle Creek, Michigan to Virginia (Daglow) and Blaine “Jake” Jacobson. Raised in Northern Minnesota he graduated from Eveleth High in 1976. His love for aviation was apparent early on, as he earned his private’s pilot license while still in high school.

His service in the Air Force brought him to Alaska, where he was able to pursue his love for dog mushing. After the Air Force, he moved to Bethel for a short time, living in a small cabin and running dogs. After returning to Anchorage he worked in the aviation field, doing everything from mechanics and annual inspections, to flying aerial photography with AeroMap, US.

Ben meet his future wife, Sherri, in 1992 through a mutual friend. They moved out to Chugiak and he became involve in mushing again, running the Iditarod in 1995. He won the Red Lantern award and always joked that he was able to enjoy the trail longer than anyone. Six months later he became a father when his daughter Matilda was born, and again when Sadie was born in 1998.

He began his 20- year career with Northern Air Cargo in 1998, beginning as a Flight Engineer on the now retired C-130 cargo plane, flying all over Alaska, ending his career as an Inspector and Instructor. He loved his “family” at NAC, and was dedicated and hard working.

During the years of being a father, he was good provider and was very involved in this daughter’s lives. He especially enjoyed helping with Sadie’s hockey ventures with the Lady Mustangs, and with Matilda’s dog mushing. He also enjoyed race cars, hockey, following the Iditarod, pizza, and spending time with his family and friends.

Ben is proceeded in death by his father, Blaine (Jake) Jacobson, and survived by his wife, Sherri Criley, daughters Matilda and Sadie of Chugiak, mother Virginia Jacobson of Aurora, Minnesota, sister Julie Mueller of Sacramento, California and brother Wesley Jacobson of Anchorage, several aunts and uncles as well as nieces and nephews. He will be remembered as a kind, generous person and will be leaving behind many dear friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Alaska Aviation museum at 4721 Aircraft Drive on

Saturday, November 16th, in Anchorage from 2-4 P.M.

Any monetary contributions can be made to the family to help with medical expenses.