

LESTER N. WASHBON  
10/11/1961-10/30/2015

Lester Norman Washbon ("Les") was the son of Norman and Dorothy Washbon. He grew up, along with his older sister Donna, on Chestnut Ridge Rd., not far from Terry's Corners Fire Hall. Everyone in his family was active at TCFH, including Les, who was proud to have served as a volunteer firefighter.

Les was a gifted athlete. A graduate of Roy Hart, Class of 1979, Les played varsity football, basketball, and baseball, was a member of the track team and ski club, and also was chosen to be the Homecoming King in his senior year. He was a popular, kind, and good-natured student who was proud of his Gasport roots and his community.

Les valued higher education, and went on to earn an A.A.S. in Model Making from Genesee Community College in 1992 with a 3.98 GPA. He managed to complete his schooling while pursuing his career as a professional dirt track racer. Les grew up driving field cars and riding mini-bikes in the fields behind his house, and by 1981 he entered the world of flat track racing. Never one to do anything halfway, Les worked his way to a junior national number (#40) in 1987, and then to an expert national number (#90) in 1990. He competed in countless races, at tracks all over the northeast. He was recognized several times as an expert rider by the NYDTA (NY Dirt Track Association), and he was a proud member of both the AMA and the CMA (American and Canadian Motorcycle Associations, respectively).

Les retired from professional racing in 1996. In 2000, he started his 15 year career at Dunlop. Les was a Motorsports Technician, and had a prominent support role in the AMA Pro Road Racing series, the AMA Supercross and Motocross series, and for 6 years he served as Dunlop's Supermoto Racing Product manager. He also worked closely with various racing schools around the country. He enjoyed working with young riders, and sharing his love for the sport with them.

Les never stopped racing, and enjoyed competing at the local tracks in Medina, NY, Geneva, NY, and Welland, Ont. His last race was at Welland, on September 26, 2015.

Les married Karen Castiglia in Hawaii in 2009, and he was the proud stepfather of Dennis, Alexander, and Rachel Polanski. Les and Karen lived in Clarence Center, NY, along with Les' best buddy Matix. Les was an avid golfer, runner, and cyclist. Above all, he was an intelligent, energetic, modest, generous man, and a true friend to many people from all walks of life.