



Dennis J. Odom

April 10, 1947 - May 9, 2026

Dennis J. Odom, 79, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in Bolingbrook, IL.

He was born on April 10, 1947, in Aberdeen, SD, and as the son of a Methodist minister, Dennis spent much of his childhood moving throughout Illinois and surrounding areas. When he was five, his family moved to Tinley Park, where he met the love of his life, Adele. The couple married in 1969 and briefly lived in Cheyenne, WY before making their home in Vernon Hills, IL where they raised their family together.

Dennis proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, stationed in Alaska where he serviced and maintained fire trucks during his military service.

A gifted and passionate artist, Dennis devoted 32 years of his career to the Chicago Tribune as an art director/designer before retiring in 2008. He took tremendous pride in creating artwork celebrating Chicago sports legends, including paintings of Walter Payton and Michael Jordan. In later years, he especially enjoyed painting landscapes and Native American Southwestern-style artwork, which he also avidly collected.

Dennis had an appreciation for nature and wildlife, particularly bird watching. He also delighted in life's simple pleasures and was a true connoisseur of baked goods, pastries, donuts, and coffee cakes, which he enjoyed until the very end. He was also an enthusiastic Harley-Davidson motorcycle rider and a proud member of the Harley Northern Illinois chapter.

He is survived by his loving children, Kelly Odom and Matthew (Melissa) Odom; his cherished grandchildren, Chase and Charlotte; and his brother-in-law, Stanley (Cynthia) Zobac.

Dennis was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Adele, in 2013, and by his brother, David (Jennifer) Odom.

Interment will take place at Willow Lawn Memorial Park at a later date, with a celebration of life to be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are appreciated to causes Dennis supported, including Native American communities (via First Nations Development Institute) and the arts (via YoungArts).

For information, please call 847-362-3009 or visit burnettdane.com to share a memory.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Dennis moved into his home a couple of weeks before we did. We lived next door to each other for over 41 years. During those years our families became so close that we actually felt we were one big family. We had numerous backyard barbecue parties. During one of those parties, I gave Dennis the nickname “BRO” and that is what I have been calling him ever since then. We also had an eventful Halloween party at my home and Dennis, Adele and Al n Debbie won the best Halloween costume award. You can ask Kelly or Matt whet they wore.

Dennis n Adele visited our Florida home numerous times. One time Adele and Donna went to get their hair done while Bro and I had numerous drinks at Mangos in Ft Lauderdale. We were feeling no pain when the women finally arrived. Adele was happy about this but it wasn't our fault they took so long to get their hair done. There were numerous fond memories we all had together. Actually, their gravesites are very close to our's so we will be neighbors for eternity.

David “BILL” Einhorn - May 20 at 03:28 PM

DR

“ I have no words, he was a great guy. Sure going to miss him, he is at peace now and with Adel. Our deepest condolences to his family. It's not goodbye, it's see you later. ❤️🙏❤️

Diane Rude - May 17 at 05:00 PM

JN

“Dennis was a highly respected artist and art director (and the sweetest) at the Chicago Tribune where we worked together. Early on, I shared that it was my birthday and he said, “It’s my birthday, too!” From then on I made sure to say “Happy Birthday!” to Dennis on my birthday. It was three decades later before I learned that his birthday was actually four days before mine. Apparently he celebrated his birthday throughout the month of April. That’s the kind of joyful, life-affirming man that he was.

Jacqueline Combs Nelson - May 16 at 03:24 PM