



## Adam Edward Stanzak, Jr.

May 7, 1930 - July 24, 2023

Stanzak, Adam Edward, Jr. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Adam Edward Stanzak Jr., age 93, of Edina, MN, and Sarasota, FL. He passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving wife, on July 24, 2023. Adam was a beloved father, husband, father-in-law, and grandfather. Adam is survived by his adored wife, Barbara, and their two children, Michael (Janet) and Julie (Hiro). He was a doting grandfather to his two grandchildren, Adam and Natalie. Born on May 7, 1930, in Staten Island, New York, Adam was the son of Coast Guard Commander Adam Edward Stanzak Sr. and Louise Hawkins Stanzak. He grew up with his sister Patricia and shared a special bond with his grandmother, Frances. After graduating from St. Petersburg High School in Florida, Adam pursued his studies at Davidson College in North Carolina and later earned a degree in Political Science from American University in Washington, D.C. It was there that he met the love of his life, Barbara Anne Doerr. Adam's professional career took him on various paths, starting at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where he worked in National Security departments. He eventually found his passion in the automobile business and joined General Motors in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1956. Later, he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he became part of the Key Royal Automotive Company, starting with Royal Oldsmobile. In pursuit of his dreams, he continued to thrive and, in 1973, he was given the opportunity to purchase a Cadillac dealership in Edina, Minnesota, leading to the foundation of Key Cadillac. His dedication,

exceptional service, and commitment to excellence were recognized with numerous Master Dealer Awards from Cadillac Motor Division. Adam also served as President of the Greater Metro Auto Dealers Association, served on the board of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, and also served on the board of the Cadillac National Dealer Council. Adam was a devoted member of Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, where he gladly served as an usher. He was also a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Edina and served on the board of Southdale YMCA. With his wife Barbara, he explored the world, traveling to nearly every continent with gusto. His greatest passion was golf, and he had the privilege of playing on numerous courses both nationally and internationally, including the legendary St. Andrews Golf Club in Scotland - a cherished memory for him. He possessed a unique ability to remember every name and the redeeming qualities of others, brightening lives and creating smiles wherever he went. He carried the love for fishing, likely influenced by his father Adam and upbringing in Florida cities and Key West. Family fishing trips at Lake of the Woods, Canada, and boating and fishing outings in the Gulf of Mexico were among his treasured memories. He adored and deeply appreciated his children and grandchildren, leaving an indelible mark on their hearts. His generosity, unwavering integrity, and unending kindness will be continuously cherished. We find solace in knowing that Adam's luminous life force will continue to inspire all who were touched by his light. His spirit lives on within us, and the magic he bestowed upon our family-ship will endure. The family is planning a Celebration of Life for Adam on Friday, October 13, 2023 at 11AM at Christ Presbyterian Church of Edina, 6901 Normandale Road, Edina, Minnesota, with a reception following at Interlachen Country Club, 6200 Interlachen Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the N.C. Little Hospice of Edina, Minnesota. Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Cemetery Details

## Out of State

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT **13**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Christ Presbyterian Church  
6901 Normandale Road  
Edina, MN 55424

# Tribute Wall

PN

“ Adam was my boss at Key Cadillac and mentored me in the automobile business. Without question he was the most important person in my business career. I waited to respond as i hoped to be able to make the trip from alabama, which unfortunately couldnt happen. Love to Barbara, Michael, and Julie.

Paul Norman - October 28, 2023 at 12:49 PM

PH

“ I'm so sorry to have just learned about Uncle Adam's death. I have such fond childhood memories of Uncle Adam & Aunt Barbara's visits to Florida to see Grandmommie. Randy and I made a donation to the hospice. Sending prayers for peace and comfort to Aunt Barbara and the rest of the family.

Patti Hunt - October 20, 2023 at 09:43 AM

KJ

“ Adam is my cousin and one of my Moms favorite's (he and beautiful Barbara). Adam had an amazing ability to make you feel like you were the most important person in the room! He was completely charming and a wonderful gentleman. I miss him and have fond memories of him. Prayers for all the Stanzak family!💔💔🙏

Kelly Johnson - September 14, 2023 at 09:29 PM

JC

“ I worked for Adam at Key Cadillac and have to say he was the best person I ever worked for, or as Adam would say, with. He was an eternal optimist and always had a positive attitude towards almost any situation. He more than earned my total respect. To Barbara, Michael & Julie, and other family members, my deepest condolences for your loss. He was a great person.

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**Jim Childers** - August 06, 2023 at 11:39 AM

MS

*Thank you so much Jim!*

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**Michael Adam Stanzak** - September 09, 2023 at 10:53 AM

GR

*Adam (Mr. Stanzak) was my client at Cadillac's advertising agency. He was so incredibly special...I tell stories about the stories he told of himself. He treated me as family. What an absolute gentleman and an incredible leader. I was a youngish man, and he taught me so much about myself. What an incredible man. I'm just so lucky to have been blessed to know him. The evenings of us putting out at Interlaching... he was so incredible.*

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**Gregory** - February 27, 2024 at 11:48 PM