



## Charles Gerard Cunningham

January 4, 1927 - July 6, 2020

Cunningham, Charles G. of Mendota Heights, Minnesota passed away on July 6, 2020. Preceded in death by his parents Charles and Clara Cunningham and his sisters, Helen (William) Friendshuh and Carolyn (Frank) Onufrak. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; daughter, Dawn (Timothy) Ostrem; son, Greg (Kimberly) Cunningham; five grandchildren, Karyn (Seth) Vander Kooy, Thomas and Erik Ostrem, and Kaitlin and Ryan Cunningham; brother-in-law, Doug (Sue) Nelson; many beloved nieces, nephews, friends and associates. Charlie was born and raised in Minneapolis where he attended Washburn High School. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Charlie attended the University of Minnesota. He was a member of Beta Theta Phi and graduated with a degree in Business. Charlie went on to have a long and successful career spanning more than 40 years at West Publishing in St. Paul. He started in accounting then switched over to computing, serving the last several years as Vice President of Computer Services prior to his retirement in 1996. In 1959, Charlie married Kathy Nelson of Minneapolis. They enjoyed over 60 years of marriage and deeply involved themselves in each other's interests. Charlie loved spending time with his family, whether it be travelling, attending Gopher games, playing a round of golf, or just joking around the dinner table. Charlie was an avid golfer. If you couldn't find him at home, you could bet he was on the golf course. He was a member of Somerset Country Club in Mendota Heights and in Naples, Florida he belonged to Hole in the Wall and Royal Poinciana. While at the University, Charlie's life-long interest in

Gopher athletics developed. Charlie and Kathy, who also attended the U of M, were passionate fans of Gopher basketball, hockey, and football. Following the musical interests of his wife, Charlie and Kathy really enjoyed attending Minnesota Orchestra concerts holding season passes for many decades and even travelled with them on a few overseas tours. Charlie and Kathy were active members of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Minneapolis for more than 55 years. Together they devoted their time and energy to the Church's youth and music ministries, Cathedral of the Pines Camp, and disabled care (Rolling Acres) programs. Charlie served as a member of the Mount Olivet board and was also on the board of trustees of Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. Due to the impact of Covid-19, a private memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (5025 Knox Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55419), the Minnesota Orchestra (1111 Nicolet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55403) or to the U of M Foundation and sent to (University of Minnesota Athletic Department, c/o Randy Handel, 516 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455). Private interment Lakewood Cemetery Minneapolis. [washburn-mcreavy.com](http://washburn-mcreavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Charles Gerard Cunningham



Washburn-McReavy - July 25, 2020 at 05:25 PM

JS

“ What a beautiful service and tremendous tribute to Charlie. We are with you and your family in prayers and spirit.

*The Steinkes*

John Steinke - July 27, 2020 at 04:04 PM

MP

“ Dear Kathy and the Cunningham family,

*Charlie's passing is a huge loss to the entire community. His and Kathy's extraordinary generosity has changed and enhanced countless lives through many decades of selfless giving.*

*Our members and friends send our love and support to you, now and always.*

*Mary Ella Pratte*

*President*

*FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra*

Mary Ella Pratte - July 25, 2020 at 02:53 PM

KN

“ *As a musician in the Minnesota Orchestra, I reflect with immense gratitude on Mr Cunningham's generosity, and on all that the support of the Cunningham family has enabled me as an artist to do during my years as a member of the mighty Minnesota Orchestra. I send heartfelt condolences to Mrs Cunningham, and to all of your family during this sad time.*

*In sympathy,  
Kate Nettleman*

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**Kathryn Nettleman** - July 25, 2020 at 12:05 PM

LV

“ *Dear Kathy and family, we're so sorry for your loss, but know Charlie will be always watching over you all. Keep him close in memories. Love Lynn & Michael Vickers, Florida.*

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**Lynn Vickers** - July 25, 2020 at 11:54 AM