



Mr. Nathaniel Beale Wess

May 12, 1939 - January 14, 2021

Wess, Nathaniel "Nat" Age 81 of Eden Prairie died on January 14 from complications of a fall and Alzheimer's Disease. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, May 12, 1939, Nat was preceded in death by parents, Frank and Fannye, brothers Aaron and Hal and nephew Brian . He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ellen, and his children David (Tracy) of Andover MN and Deborah (Todd Stern), Oak Park, IL, and by his grandchildren Henry and Olivia Stern and Matthew and Elizabeth Wess. Nat grew up in Los Angeles and was a proud graduate of Venice High School, Venice CA. He attended Santa Monica City College, CA, and the University of Missouri, Columbia MO from which he received a Bachelor of Journalism Degree. Nat's working life was unusual in that he worked at many thoroughbred race tracks where, had he not been working there, he would have gone as a patron. He liked to joke that "my job and my hobby are the same". He worked in the publicity departments of Santa Anita Racetrack, Arcadia CA, and Del Mar Racetrack, Del Mar CA, and Bay Meadows Racetrack, San Mateo CA and for the Western Harness Racing Association in Los Angeles.. For many years he was Publicity and Advertising Director of Hollywood Park Racetrack, Inglewood CA. and he served nine years as Manager of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Arcadia CA and in various capacities at Canterbury Park in Shakopee. He was among the creators of California Cup at Santa Anita and Claiming Crown at Canterbury Park. A rabid professional football fan, Nat loved betting on and watching the games. His favorite trip was to Las Vegas "with the guys" each

fall. He also loved taking his wife, his children, their spouses and children to New York City to celebrate his and Ellen's 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2012 and taking them all to the Osthoff Resort in Wisconsin in 2017 for their 55th. Other trips of many that he enjoyed was Ireland in 2008 where he toured Coolmore Stud and several racetracks and Australia in 2010 for the Melbourne Cup. He loved to eat, especially hamburgers and French Fries and cookies. A private family service will be held at Dawn Valley Memorial Park and a Memorial will be held later at a date TBD. Donations to Alzheimers Research at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, or the Alzheimer's Association, Chicago, would be appreciated. Washburn-McReavy.com Dawn Valley Chapel 952-941-7686

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service of Nathaniel B. Wess in memory of Mr. Nathaniel Beale Wess



Washburn-McReavy - January 20, 2021 at 10:22 AM

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“ I have known Nat, as a friend, longer, than anyone We met in Junior High in 1952 or 1953. We remained in contact until his passing. We had nick names. His was Uncle Willy John and mine was Fred The Fuzzle. Nat was a great Pal. I will always remember Nat./ THANKS FOR ALLOWING US TO SHARE IN THE SERVICE. Fred and Cindy Blum

FRED BLUM - January 21, 2021 at 03:43 PM