



Ron Vander Kelen

August 14, 2016

Vander Kelen, Ron age 76, of Edina, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Aug. 14, 2016. Survived by loving wife of 49 years, Lorraine; daughters, Kelly Vander Kelen and Katy Vander Kelen; brother, Dick (Marianne) of Naples, FL; sister, Mary (Tom) Bennett of FL; and several nieces and nephews. Ron was a loving husband and father and a cherished friend. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Alzheimer's Association. Private family service has been held. Visitation from 5-7 PM Saturday, Aug. 20 at: Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 W. 50th St & Hwy. 100

Tribute Wall

JN

“ *Ron was such a dear man and it was my honor to have known him. My sincerest sympathies to you, Lorraine, and the girls. Thank you for letting me know so I could come and see the wonderful photos and beautiful memories the two of you created. Best wishes always,*
Jean Nead

Jean Nead - August 24, 2016 at 07:20 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ron Vander Kelen.*



August 20, 2016 at 09:22 AM

DK

“ Dear Lorraine,

As one of Ron's teammates on that famous 62-63 Big Ten Champion-Rose Bowl team, I want to let you know what a difference he made to me and, I dare say, to all of us on that team. I was his left guard, #67, and spent a lot of dynamic afternoons trying to protect him from blitzing linebackers and fire-breathing defensive tackles. He was not only a great quarterback, but even more, a thoroughly great guy, unassuming, humble, kind.

As you no doubt know, football players tend to create a lifelong respect and an abiding friendship even though they may spend only a few months together. In feeling his loss in this way, I can only imagine how deeply you will miss him. But I trust as well that you have many wonderful memories to sustain you in the years ahead.

So all my best to you and your family from someone from "back in the day." As Coach Bruhn said after Ron's spectacular performance in that greatest of all Rose Bowl games, "We didn't lose the game, we just ran out of time."

Take very good care of yourself.

Warm regards,

Dion Kempthorne

Dion Kempthorne - August 19, 2016 at 05:04 PM