



Ronald Nelson Handberg

February 10, 1938 - January 26, 2026

Ronald N. Handberg, 87, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 26, 2026.

Born on February 10, 1938, in Minneapolis, Ron attended Robbinsdale High School and later the University of Minnesota School of Journalism. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career in broadcast journalism as a reporter, news director, and ultimately general manager at WCCO-TV. During his tenure at WCCO, Ron received numerous professional awards, and in 2008 he was inducted into the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Following his retirement, Ron pursued his love of storytelling by writing and publishing seven television-based mystery novels.

Ron's life was centered on his family and friends. He especially treasured time spent at his cabin in northwest Wisconsin, where he enjoyed bass fishing, feeding the birds, tending to his lawn, and relaxing with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Ron and his wife, Carol, loved traveling the world, but some of their most cherished memories were made during their annual visits to Honokeana Cove in Maui.

Ron maintained close friendships with many of his former WCCO colleagues and always looked forward to connecting over coffee and conversation.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; his children, Deborah Louwagie (Vince), Greg Handberg (Caron), and Mindy Rosenow (Jim); nine grandchildren-Nate, Sam, Zach, Tony, Kate, Allie, Maddy, Ben, and Jake-and six great-grandchildren.

Ron and Carol were longtime residents of St. Anthony Village and Northeast Minneapolis and devoted members of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, February 9 at 11:00, at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 St. Anthony Parkway, Minneapolis. A visitation will take place before the service at 10:00.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the University of Minnesota Foundation, specifically the Ron and Carol Handberg Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 860266, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0266 and/or to Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 St. Anthony Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

<https://makingagift.umn.edu/give/fund.html?id=7528#0>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
1701 St. Anthony Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Memorial Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
1701 St. Anthony Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

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“ Carol,

Margaret and I were so sorry to hear about Ron’s passing and also sorry we could not make his service (we were in California last month). We imagine the service was beautiful with so many people talking about how Ron changed their life.

Add us in that category. Ron’s faith in me brought us to Minnesota and our lives are so much richer because of it. I got to work on a truly unique program that was the capstone of my journalism career. It led to my teaching full-time at the University of Minnesota (I think the most rewarding job I ever had) and my freelance career which paid for the girls’ college. When Colleen heard the news about Ron, she remarked how he had affected her life: she discovered fencing here (a now 30 year-long passion), she got into Johns Hopkins because of her fencing, and it’s here where her professional life in engineering is.

Margaret wouldn’t say this herself – she would have been successful in her library career anywhere. But it was here in Minnesota she became a library director, which was her professional capstone, and now that she is “retired,” it is here in Minnesota that she has embarked on her library consulting work. Her impact in the library world has been significant (again, she wouldn’t say so I’m saying it for her).

All because of Ron. He saw potential in people and gave them opportunities to grow and excel. The impact he made goes beyond all the Polk, Emmy and Murrow Awards he and his people collected – he made the lives of so, so many people fuller.

And we know he was able to do this because you were there with him every step of the way. We are forever grateful to you and your wonderful husband.

With much love and caring,

Ken & Margaret Stone

PS: As a token of our appreciation for you both and with the hope of continuing your work of investing in people, we have sent a contribution to your scholarship fund.

Ken Stone - March 16 at 11:10 AM