



Ronald W. Weber

September 28, 2012

Weber, Ron Walter (1928-2012) Ron Walter Weber, age 84, of Edina, passed away peacefully on September 28, 2012. Ron was born in Duluth, MN in 1928 and continued strong ties with the Duluth community throughout his life. Ron was preceded in death by his parents. Ron was a world-class angler as well as a businessman and venture capitalist. Ron enjoyed life to the fullest with his wife, Mary Ann. Ron will be sorely missed. Ron graduated from Duluth Central High School; the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) with a business and economics degree, and later received an honorary doctorate. He was the Lieutenant Colonel of ROTC and served in the Navy in WWII. Ron's venture into the business world began with a sales representative position at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in St. Mary's, Ohio. He first entered the fishing industry at Pflueger Fishing Tackle and became a regional sales manager. His entrepreneurial spirit drove him to begin his own sales representative agency, R.W. Weber Sales. He represented the top fishing tackle companies including Southbend, Gladding, Plano, Quick Reels, Maglite, and DAM. Ron travelled to Canada for a fishing trip, and discovered an exciting and innovative lure called the Rapala, with which Ron had wild success. Subsequently, Ron contacted the Finnish Consulate and requested to be the sole International representative of Rapala Lures. Ron formed a partnership with his customer, Ray Ostrom, in 1959 and founded Normark Corporation as President and CEO. Ron had so much faith in the Rapala lure that he used his life's savings to fund the construction of a factory in Finland

that met growing demands for the lure's production. Under Ron's direction, Rapala became the undisputed number one lure in the world. With an active mind, confidence, and knack for success, Ron turned to additional business ventures. During his involvement with Rapala, the company purchased NEBCO, which was later called Blue Fox Tackle, located in Cambridge, MN. Blue Fox became a top tackle manufacturer. Among other groundbreaking contributions, Ron and Normark introduced Fiskar Scissors, Martini Fillet Knives and cross-country skis to North America. After selling Normark in 1990, Ron embarked on numerous business endeavors including Customer Link, Sansio, and Javron. Ron founded Neometrics, a medical device company in 2001. With Ron's backing and professional leadership, it became one of the leading medical device companies in the industry. In addition, Ron was honored with the induction to the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame and was Knighted by the President of Finland. Ron's commitment to philanthropy, particularly in Duluth, was unwavering and multifaceted. He was instrumental in creating the Weber Music Hall, designed by famed architect Cesar Pelli. He sponsored many Music Scholarship endowments at UMD. Ron also created the Weber Stream Initiative in order to preserve the cleanliness and continued viability of the waters around the North Shore, and he was a major contributor to the Great Lakes Aquarium. Ron was a member of Northland Country Club, Interlachen Country Club, Bonita Bay Golf Club, the Brule River Sportsman's Club, and the President's Club at the University of Minnesota. Ron was passionately involved in his various companies and worked until the day he passed away to ensure their success. He said, "I enjoyed my work and loved what I did. It was like playing a round of golf." Ron is survived by wife, Mary Ann; daughters Jeanne (David) Dentzel, Lisa Weber, Maribeth Weber (Robert) Marchi; and son, Craig (Melanie) Weber, as well as grandchildren, Charlie Dentzel, Sean Hutchison, Kristen Hutchison, Lucas Marchi, June Weber, and Vaughn Weber. Funeral service: Sunday, October 7, Visitation at 2:00 p.m. and Service at 3:00 p.m., Mount Olivet Church, 5025 Knox Avenue South, Minneapolis

55419. (612) 926-7651. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation www.mplsheart.org [www.washburn-mc
reavy.com](http://www.washburn-mc
reavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
5025 Knox Ave S Mpls
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Service

OCT 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
5025 Knox Ave S Mpls
Minneapolis, MN 55419

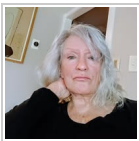
Tribute Wall

WR

“ Warren Reader lit a candle in memory of
Ronald W. Weber



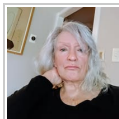
Warren Reader - November 28, 2017 at 12:34 PM



“ Linda Cerekwicki lit a candle in memory of
Ronald W. Weber



Linda Cerekwicki - March 14, 2014 at 11:47 AM



*In fond memory of Ron. Always a kind gentleman. Condolences to
family and friends*

Linda Cerekwicki - March 14, 2014 at 11:48 AM

CB

“ Corey Haas & Brother Kyle & Brenda lit a
candle in memory of Ronald W. Weber



Corey Haas & Brother Kyle & Brenda - September 03, 2013 at 09:13 AM

FH

“ Thank you Ron for helping me create the best ads in the fishing industry for over 20 years. Working with you was more like being on the fishing trip of a lifetime.

Frank Haggerty

Frank Haggerty - October 01, 2012 at 06:01 AM