



Douglas John Read

April 23, 1939 - October 18, 2015

Traverse City – Douglas John Read, 76, of Traverse City, died October 18th, 2015 with his wife and children at his side.

Doug was born to John and Nora (Baker) Read on April 23, 1939, in Highland Park, MI. He graduated Waterford Township High school. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Detroit and in 1971, his Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law.

On August 28 1965, Doug married Julia Clare (Hoyt). Doug was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Julia.

Doug married Susan (Kennedy) Read on March 10, 1984, in Traverse City, MI.

Doug served in the Army National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1962. He was employed at General Motors, Detroit Diesel from 1961-1971.

Doug launched his law career in Traverse City in 1971 as Grand Traverse County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. He practiced with Williams, Coulter, Forster, Cunningham & Davison for thirteen years. He established law firms Read and Griffin, and Read & Sharp. He retired in 2005 as Partner in the firm of Garon Lucow Miller.

Doug was the kind of lawyer most lawyers aspire to be. He displayed an uncanny ability to think logically and make judgments and assumptions based on the information presented. His excellent writing and public speaking skills demonstrated a superior command of the English language. He presented his clients' positions with passion and included a heavy helping of wit and humor. His interpersonal skills were unmatched,

Doug treated all people with kindness, good nature, and respect. He was the kind of person you wanted to work for. For those who were privileged to work with him, he was Boss of the Year every year.

Doug worked hard and played hard. His evolving interests included sailboat racing, snowmobiling, wood working, turkey hunting and genealogy. He enjoyed the NYT crossword puzzle, history and daily news. Doug took pleasure in golf and countless hours of gin at the Elks Club. He shot a hole in one. He shared his happiness in life with entertaining stories, irreverent jokes, unending puns and laughter.

Doug relished family get togethers and the family traditions that emerged. He delighted in the encounter of an old friend. New acquaintances were met with openness and interest. He remembered names, family history, locations and dates. He utilized these skills to research his family genealogy. He was proud to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Doug was magnanimous in his support of community development, He was YMCA President in 1971, Twin Bay Exchange President in 1975, and President of the TCGCC in 1983. He was an active member of St. Francis Parish and served on the Finance Committee.

Doug was an attentive and encouraging father. He was a devoted husband.

Doug is survived by his wife of thirty-one years, Susan, and his daughter Jennifer (Timothy) Gardner, and sons John Siderick Read and Thomas (Jill) Read. Doug is also survived by six adoring grandchildren, Jack and Audrey Gardner, and Brady, Owen, Collin, and Grayson Read. Doug is survived by his brother, Robert Read, of Traverse City.

Visitation will be held from 4pm until 7pm on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 2pm on Friday, October 23, 2015 at St. Francis Catholic Church with a visitation held from 1pm until 2pm. Burial will take place at the Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Douglas J. Read Memorial Fund at Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools.

Please share your memories of Doug with his family by visiting www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

Events

Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens
3575 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI, 49684

**OCT
22**

Visitation 04:00PM - 07:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**OCT
23**

Visitation 01:00PM - 02:00PM

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**OCT
23**

Funeral Mass 02:00PM

St. Francis Catholic Church
1025 S. Union, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Dear Susan, from Kitty I heard that your dearest husband has left you. Our sincere condolences. We hope you can find the strength to bear this terrible loss. Anneke and Jeroen Michels, Eindhoven, Holland.

Jeroen Michels - November 06, 2015 at 04:40 PM



“ He was a great guy who rarely let me get away with an unsupported thought. I am really going to miss his presence and our best wishes go to the whole family.

David Cvengros - October 23, 2015 at 11:13 AM



“ I started practicing law with Doug in January of 1992, and we practiced together until he retired. We enjoyed countless stories, laughs, and experiences. We worked on cases together. We traveled together. Dinners, meetings, happy hours, golf, parties, and court hearings were regular occurrences. Yet, in all that time, we never - not one single time- had an argument. It truly was all good all the time. Doug was a genuine friend, gentleman, and scholar. Rest in Peace my friend. Godspeed.

Michael Swogger - October 23, 2015 at 09:47 AM



“ Just as there are special moments in our lives that we will never forget there are also special people who have captured our hearts forever. Doug was one of those special people. Rodger and I will always remember Doug for the kind, gentle, generous, courageous and loving person he was! Rodger and Marianne McEvoy



Rodger and Marianne McEvoy - October 22, 2015 at 03:28 PM



“ Mr. Read represented me in a personal injury case in the early 80's. A judgment was rendered in my behalf and Mr. Read took me and my settlement check, at the same time, to a financial planner. It wasn't a big sum, but I was young and he wanted the best for me for the long term. I've always thought that was an act of high professional

integrity and class. To his family, I send condolences and pray your grief will be short and your memories of him will make you smile the rest of your life.

Sparky Mortimer - October 22, 2015 at 12:06 PM



“Godspeed, Doug. From the time we were high school classmates, you were someone I looked up to for so many reasons all these many years. Our thoughts are with your family.

Lyn Salathiel

Lyndon Salathiel - October 21, 2015 at 05:20 PM



“Your dad was a wonderful person as was your grandfather! I had the pleasure of working with both of them at Detroit Diesel and always had the utmost respect for them and the values they stood for! I am sure this carried over to his family!! We have added his name to the Detroit Diesel Retiree Club In-Memoriam list!

From me personally, I will keep Doug in my prayers as well as his family!! He will be missed!

John M. Leidlein, Jr. - October 21, 2015 at 04:06 PM



“If the issue is preservation and advancement of our culture. If it is knowledge and intellect. If it is faith, hope, and charity --- think Doug Read He is truly "one of the good ones".

Susan, please know I share the loss.

Hank Johnson D.D.S.

hank johnson dds - October 21, 2015 at 11:15 AM



“Dear family....this is a day I never thought would come. Doug was a super hero in my mind and memory. I had the honor to work with him at Williams, Coulter, Cunningham, Davison & Read, etc, etc, for several years and he always brought a smile to my face as well as all other co-workers. I have thought of him and all the other firm members often and although I now live in Florida, my heart will be with you all on days to come.

Love to you all, Gloria (Korson) Cotton.

Gloria Cotton - October 21, 2015 at 10:33 AM



“ I had the privilege of working at Read & Sharp in the mid-1990's, and will always recall that on my first day of work, Doug met me at the door, took my coat, and led me to my work station. His wit and humor provided levity in a serious business, and he was ready and willing to listen to everyone in the office. Doug helped me through a couple of life's difficult situations, and he will be remembered fondly for his compassion and caring. The Traverse City area has lost another of its' great legal minds.

Laurel Moore
Muskegon MI

Laurel Moore - October 21, 2015 at 07:52 AM



“ Mr Read served as my President while I acted as Manager at the TCGCC. Mr Read was the finest and kindest Boss I ever had in my 30 years of my career in the Hospitality field.
ERIC

e arpagaus - October 21, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ Susan and Family,
It was my pleasure to work with Doug on State Farm Litigation files. He was a fantastic lawyer and human being. His sense of humor made work and play a delightful experience.
Dave Merrell

Dave Merrell - October 21, 2015 at 07:42 AM



“ A scholar and a gentleman.

Kent Rozycki - October 20, 2015 at 09:43 PM



“ Susan-
I'll always remember Doug's eyes. They always lit up when the two of you were together. You two had so much love--it showed. What a blessing.
Hugs. Kay Zins

Kay Zins - October 20, 2015 at 08:14 AM



“ My thoughts are with you all now as they have been these last few days. It was a privilege to have been able to care for Doug over his last few days with us. He will not be soon forgotten by those of us who knew him well at U of M. Prayers and hugs to you all....Bekka, RN

Bekka Behm - October 19, 2015 at 06:18 PM