



Howard D. King

June 4, 1932 - May 4, 2016

Howard passed away on May 4 after a long illness. He was born on June 4, 1932, in Cleveland, Ohio, the oldest of three children whose parents were Howard Dean King, Sr., and Estella Goodhart King. As a child, he moved with his family fairly frequently, but eventually settled in Wooster, Ohio. He attended high school there and graduated from the College of Wooster in 1953. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1955, and served as a Captain and jet pilot, until his active duty ended in 1959. He was a member of the USMC Reserves until 1968.

Howard attended graduate school at Ohio State University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Psychology. He was employed at the College of Wooster in Administration, eventually serving as Dean of Men. In 1972, when he felt he was too old to relate to the students, he took a position with Rensis Likert Associates in Ann Arbor as an education consultant, but quickly turned to health care management consulting. In 1981 he left RLA and formed his own consulting firm, Howard King Associates, which he operated successfully until 1999. He counted those years as some of his best, where he made lasting friendships with many of his clients.

Shortly after he moved to Ann Arbor, he met with his new insurance agent, Bob Ufer, and they talked about Howard's background in radio sports announcing. Mr. Ufer told Howard that tryouts were being held at the University of Michigan football stadium for the public address announcer position. Howard auditioned for the position in Michigan stadium, having never set foot in it before. He was given the position of football announcer and shortly after that was asked to take on basketball PA announcing as well.

Howard's time with the University of Michigan Athletic Department was an experience he considered to be life changing. He announced Michigan basketball for 20 years, retiring from that position in 1992, and announced football for 34 years, retiring in 2005. He was awarded an honorary membership in the letter winners' "M Club."

In 1999, Howard and his wife Liz moved to Traverse City for her career. He quickly

became active in the community, serving as a docent at the Dennon Museum, joining the Marine Corps League, and volunteering at The Presbyterian Church. He became active in the noon Rotary Club, and joined the staff of Rotary Charities as a volunteer, assisting with strategic planning and capacity building initiatives. His work there led to a nomination for The Governor Romney Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, and he was selected as a finalist.

Wherever Howard went, he made friends easily, and served as a mentor to many of them. He especially enjoyed working with his younger friends and spent many hours helping them better understand and utilize their potential and their gifts. He enjoyed warm friendships with the U.S. Coast Guard - Air Station Traverse City Commanding Officers and Executive Officers. He also loved classical music, especially Beethoven, and enjoyed attending Traverse Symphony Orchestra concerts. He was gregarious and lived life large. He thoroughly enjoyed flying airplanes, playing golf, fine dining and single malt Scotch.

Surviving Howard is his wife and best friend of 30 years, Liz, as well as his daughters, Elaine and Beth, and grandson Tommy. He is also survived by his brother Jim, sister Elizabeth, and their children and grandchildren. His beloved dog Gunny, aka Semper Hopeful, also survives. The family is grateful for the fine care he received in his final days at Cherry Hill Haven and from Hospice of Michigan.

Visitation for Howard will be held on Friday, May 20, from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, 305 Sixth St., Traverse City. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 21 beginning at 11 a.m., at The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City, 701 Westminster, Traverse City. Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Michigan Athletic Development Department, 1000 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109 or online at <http://www.support.mgoblue.com>; the Traverse Symphony Orchestra, 300 E. Front St., Ste 230, Traverse City, MI 49684 or online at <http://www.traversesymphony.org/support>; The Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster, Traverse City, MI 49686 or the charity of your choice.

Semper Fi Go Blue!

Events

MAY **Visitation** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

20

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

MAY **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

20

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

MAY **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

21

The Presbyterian Church
701 Westminster, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ Howard was a great friend of my husband, Pat Wilson. He was also a friend of mine. I remember him vividly as the best Santa we ever had at our Wilson family Christmas parties. Howard sat each child on his lap or at his side and had loving and quiet conversation with each of them. I would love to have heard his words at such a magical time of year.

We are praying for your peace and heavenly comfort, Liz and family,.

Sharalee Wilson

Sharalee Wilson - June 02, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ There is a huge gaping hole in the universe with the loss of Howard King, and an empty space and ache in the heart of each of us who knew and loved him. Howard had an amazing connection with people. He was a consummate mentor, guiding and nurturing without dictating; a father/brother figure to many; and a devoted and supportive husband to his wife, Liz. Howard defined the word friend. Whether you were with him in person, or talking with him on the phone, he was genuinely interested in your well-being and what you had to say; and you always felt better having spoken with him. Some of Howard's close friends called him 'The Bridge' because he had the innate ability to bring people together and to help others resolve differences; a trait that made him so successful in his lifetime work and relationships. And then there was Howard's amazing voice, the Voice of Michigan Stadium, that was so much a part of every football and basketball game for so many years. How we missed that voice when he retired! Ann Arbor's loss was Traverse City's gain with Howard's involvement in music, the Presbyterian Church, Rotary Club, and the entire community. On a personal note, I will greatly miss Howard's friendship. I will miss his voice, his wit, his humor, his kindness and his good nature. I will miss his quests to find the best Chinese food in Ann Arbor and Traverse City. But whenever I think of Howard, I will always hear his voice saying, "Good Afternoon!", and "Semper Fi and Go Blue!" Goodbye, my dear friend, and much love and caring thoughts to his dear Liz.

Kathy Smith - May 21, 2016 at 03:31 PM



“ Liz, I am so sorry and if you need assistance with anything please contact me. I would like to help any way I can. My prayers are with you daily.

Gae Ellery - May 20, 2016 at 11:40 AM



“ Condolences to all of you! I have very fond memories of Howard from playing and swimming with Elaine.

Sally Lehr Shadel

Sally Lehr Shadel - May 16, 2016 at 10:50 AM



“ Dean King was an amazing role model at The College of Wooster--both to students and staff. I had the privilege of working with him in the late 60's and 70's. He made everyone who knew him feel welcome and unique. RIP, Dean, RIP. My sympathies and prayers are with his family and friends. Semper Fi, Dean. Ruth Horst

Ruth Horst - May 15, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ Liz: My deepest sympathies to you and your family. I know he has been ill for some time, and I pray that he is now at peace.

Karen Selle
Ann Arbor

Karen Selle - May 15, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ Howie was Dean of men while I was at Woo. Every time I got into trouble, he was there to help me out. I spoke with him about 10 years ago while I was in Charlevoix. He was a great man. My condolences to the family.

Jim Mayer Woo '68

Jim Mayer - May 13, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers go out to the King family. Unfortunately, I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. King. One thing I do know is that he raised an amazing, caring, athletic daughter which must be an example of his character. God Bless you Mr. King.

Shawn Sage

Shawn Sage - May 12, 2016 at 07:55 AM



“ To the King family, especially Beth....so sorry to hear about the passing of your father.
Just wanted you to know you are all in my thoughts and prayers during this time. Beth, I have many fond memories of playing at your house during elementary school years. Your Dad was always kind, inviting and funny.
Dy English (Diane Schwartz)

Dy English - May 09, 2016 at 09:08 AM



“ Dear Diane! Thank you.. my goodness, I so appreciate your kind words, thoughts and prayers. Would love to catch up sometime. My email is sek8865@yahoo.com. Bless you!

Sandra King - May 10, 2016 at 10:49 AM



“ Cynthia Postmus lit a candle in memory of Howard D. King



cynthia postmus - May 06, 2016 at 11:14 PM