



Ron Van Horn

June 23, 1955 - February 3, 2020

Ron L. “Ronnie” Van Horn, of Traverse City, Michigan, unexpectedly sailed into the next life on February 3, 2020, at the age of 64, from an apparent heart attack.

Ronnie was born on June 23, 1955 to Charles and Marjorie (Galbreath) Van Horn in Wyandotte, Michigan. When he was an infant, the family moved into a house on Front Street in Traverse City while the family home was being built on East Grand Traverse Bay. His love of sailing and life on the water began not only at home, but at the Grand Traverse Yacht Club where his father was a founding member and Commodore. Ronnie eventually became a member of the Club and remained a member until his death.

Among his professional endeavors, Ronnie participated in local competitive racing-including many Chicago to Mackinac and Port Huron to Mackinac races-as well as international sailing. He spent many years as a yacht insurance underwriter, professional sailmaker and, most recently, co-owner of Essential Canvas with business partner Steve Carey.

Aside from Traverse City, Ronnie also spent many years living on sailboats, traveling as a professional racer, before residing in both Chicago and Florida. The first of his three children was born in West Palm Beach. Ronnie’s two youngest children were born in Traverse City after Ronnie and his family returned. His children-Carlie, Abbey and Andy-were the shining lights of his life. Even as much as he adored his precious kids, it is possible they adored him even more.

On November 25, 2005, Ronnie married his rock and soulmate, Becki (Frey) Van Horn, in an intimate candlelight ceremony at Rivershire on the banks of the Boardman River. Ronnie and Becki’s love story began on Halloween night in 1997 when Ronnie walked into North Peak Brewing Company and spotted Becki socializing with mutual friends. Introductions were made and, as Ronnie would tell it, he knew the moment he looked into Becki’s eyes that he had just met the person with whom he would spend the rest of his life. That night, after they danced until the wee hours, Becki wrote her number on a small

Mike & Ike's candy box. For the rest of his days, Ronnie saved that box, tucked among his most precious keepsakes.

Ronnie is survived by his beloved wife, Becki; three children; Carlie (Justin Noble) Van Horn, Abigail (Christopher Hefty) Van Horn and Andrew (Sarah Hagen) Van Horn; three siblings Charles "Skip" (Cyndy) Van Horn, Cheryl "Cheri" Tindall and Lynn (Jimmy Nelson) Van Horn; many nieces and nephews; and Daddy's girl, LilyBelle the Papillon. Ronnie is preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law Geoff Tindall; nephew Ben (Alandt) Van Horn; and dedicated Golden Retriever, Bowie, who no doubt greeted Ronnie on the Rainbow Bridge with exuberant, sloppy kisses.

A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, February 11, at the Grand Traverse Yacht Club, 13615 S West Bayshore Dr., Traverse City, beginning with visitation at 4:00 pm and memorial celebration at 5:00 pm, followed by a light meal and liquid refreshments. There is no doubt that several Budweisers will be raised in Ronnie's memory. The public is welcome.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Ronnie's memory to Traverse Area Community Sailing (TACS) or Cherryland Humane Society.

Ronnie and his family are being cared for by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 11 at 07:19 PM



“ Dear Skip, Cheri and family,
I am so sorry that Ron has passed. I have such fond memories of visiting with all of you at the East Shore Drive house. He was such an energetic, fun young man and he is gone too soon. My heartfelt condolences.
Rosie McClellan Kern

Rosie Kern - February 11 at 10:47 AM



“ Dear Skip and Cyndy and family,

I am sorry to read about the passing of your brother and uncle. May your faith sustain you now and in the future until you are re-united with him for all eternity.

My sincere condolences,

Mary Miller Orth

Mary Orth - February 09 at 08:47 PM



“ Becki and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time. We enjoyed the time spent with you both this past fall at Lake Erie. May God comfort you.
Steve & Becky Dunn

Steve & Becky Dunn - February 09 at 04:18 PM



“ Growing up together on East Bay and attending OMPS , Ron and " the gang" spent great times together. Wonderful memories. Prayers to Ron's family and friends.

Shelley Lyon Enger - February 07 at 10:08 AM



“ Ron has been a great friend since grade school. We had the same friends and spent much time together. It was great time with Ron and his family. The biggest memory was sailing around Michigan in 'Free Air'. Many great memories, thanks Ron, you wont be forgotten.

John Hooper - February 06 at 07:26 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ron Van Horn.



February 06 at 07:21 PM



“ LEE FIVENSON lit a candle in memory of Ron Van Horn



LEE FIVENSON - February 06 at 02:20 PM



“ Tricia and Becki and the entire family, my thoughts are with you.

LEE FIVENSON - February 06 at 02:21 PM



“ Skip and the entire Van Horn family, I am so sorry to have read about Ronnie. I am sure that he and your Dad are sailing every day. My thoughts, prayers and hugs to each and everyone. Smooth sailing,

Kathy Greene



Kathy Greene - February 06 at 11:11 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ron Van Horn.



February 05 at 12:36 PM