



Kelly Richard VanHouten

August 16, 1944 - April 19, 2013

Kelly Richard VanHouten died peacefully at home surrounded by his family early Friday morning, April 19, 2013.

He was born on August 16, 1944 to Richard and Irene VanHouten, in Osceola County. After graduating from Northern Michigan Christian School, Kelly was a partner with his father in VanHouten Painting. On March 5, 1965 Kelly married Sharon (Austin) and they worked side by side for the past 28 years after Kelly took over the business.

Throughout his life, he was always supportive of his children and grandchildren: Kim and Darrell Kuiper (McBain), Megan, Natalie, Olivia and Paige; Kerri and Mike DeRuiter (Crestwood, IL), Alison, Nathan, and Caleb; Rev. Kendra VanHouten (Kingston, NY) and Kraig and Jennifer VanHouten (McBain) all who were a source of great joy and pride. Kelly is also survived by his siblings: Jerry and Barbara VanHouten (Bartlett, TN), Bonnie and Larry Bouza (Lake City), David and Kim VanHouten (Merion Station, PA) and his mother, Irene VanHouten (Cadillac). Brothers-in-law: Ivan (Joyce) Austin of Rockford, MI, Richard (Ruth) Austin, and William (Barb) Austin all of Cadillac. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard VanHouten in 1999.

Kelly was an active member of Lucas CRC, serving on consistory, leading Sunday school singing and he had an exceptionally close bond with his

buddy, Levi Sluiter, whom he mentored through the Kids Hope Ministry. He also served the McBain community as a Volunteer Fire Fighter and as a City Councilman.

Under the care of Peterson Funeral Home of McBain, friends can greet the family on Sunday, April 21 from 2-4 and 6-8pm at Lucas Christian Reformed Church at 10479 South Lucas Road, McBain, MI. A celebration of Kelly's life will take place 11:00 am Monday, April 22 at Lucas CRC with Revs. Steve VanNoort, Kendra VanHouten and David VanHouten officiating. His final resting place will be Mount View Cemetery in McBain.

To honor Kelly's life, donations can be made to: Lucas Christian Reformed Church Kids Hope, Northern Michigan Christian School, or the Melanoma Research Foundation (www.melanoma.org). An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and all of your family.

Steven Doornbos - May 27, 2013 at 04:06 PM

BD

“ I'm sorry for your loss. Didn't learn of his death until after the funeral was already completed. My prayers are with you and your family.

Betty Doornbos - May 27, 2013 at 04:05 PM

DH

“ I can shamefully say I have not thought about Kelly for almost 50 years. Having read about his passing it brought back many fond memories and good times we had in highschool. We laughed and joked with eachother for the 3 years that I was in school with him. God needed more joy in heaven and his work here is done. May He give you strengh during this time of grief.

Dale J Hoekwater - April 24, 2013 at 08:16 PM

WH

“ With deepest sympathy we send our prayers to the family at this difficult time.

Wayne and Janie Hellenga, DeWayne Hellenga and Janet Moelaart Hellenga - April 24, 2013 at 11:50 AM

GV

“ I posted a comment here yesterday that doesn't seem to have taken.- I say that just so folks won't think my memory's gotten so bad that I didn't remember posting yesterday too, in case it still does show up. It's joking about failing memory and things like that that always made Kelly laugh, however, and I'll always remember Kelly's wonderful sense of humor and how I loved to make him laugh and laugh with him, which you couldn't help doing when that huge smile preceding his hearty laughter spread across his whole face. That was true when we were kids and true every time I ran into him in recent years. That's what I'll miss the most. My memories go back to when I'd go with mom and dad (Perry and Tressa) to Rich and Irene's on many a Sunday night after church and we'd get to play with Kelly and Jerry who were my age. Even then Kelly was a fun, and funny, kind, sweet kid and he remained a funny, kind and sweet man that I loved to run into, infrequent as it was in recent years. There are so many who will be missing him along with you - until we all are rejoined as one.

My deepest sympathy to Sharon and family.

Gary VanHouten

Gary VanHouten - April 23, 2013 at 10:42 AM

PP

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with your family as you say goodbye to Kelly. His job on this Earth is now complete. He's waiting for us with God in Heaven.

Phil and Jan Potvin - April 22, 2013 at 09:23 AM

DW

“ We only knew Kelly through the wonderful stories we have heard from brother Jerry! The childhood memories, and adult pranks they shared have brought hours of joy to many hearts in Bartlett, our heartfelt sympathy to the VanHouten family.

Don & Jan Walker - April 21, 2013 at 10:03 PM

LV

“ I'
Il miss you, Uncle Kelly. You always managed to bring a smile and a laugh. Visiting the family in Michigan won't be the same without you--a truly uplifting presence. My thoughts and love go out to you and your family.

Lucas VanHouten - April 21, 2013 at 04:24 PM

SN

“ *So very sorry for your family's loss.*

Sonia Natoli - April 21, 2013 at 02:15 PM

HM

“ *I am so sorry for your families loss. You are all in our prayers. This world's loss is heaven's gain.*

Harold and Dodie Moores - April 21, 2013 at 12:42 PM

HV

“ *Have had very little contact with Kelly since attending Northern Michigan High more years ago than I care to think about. What I do know is that the comments expressed about Kelly's character through the life he led following his school days is very reflective of the character he portrayed even during his "school days"*
. My condolences to those he loved and who loved him. God's grace to you all and have the peace that you can be assured you know where he is.

Harry Vredevoogd - April 21, 2013 at 10:22 AM

BB

“ Kelly, my oldest brother, was a great man. A Christian example of love, honesty and sacrifice. I will always remember his laughter and wonderful smile. You lived a great life on this earth and know that you are now in heaven - safe in Jesus' arms - singing His praises. I will miss you but know I will " see you later"

Bonnie Bouza - April 20, 2013 at 10:29 PM

ED

“ Kelly will be missed on this earth but welcomed in Heaven! Praying for all of the family in their loss. I' m going to miss you my friend.

Ed Dracht - April 20, 2013 at 12:44 PM

DR

“ Thoughts and prayers go to the family and many loved ones. A father' s legacy can often be found in his children, and Kelly' s children are a wonderful living legacy of the man he was. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Doug Roede - April 20, 2013 at 11:26 AM

ME

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Peace be with your & your family.

Mike & Kitty Elenbaas - April 20, 2013 at 10:19 AM

SS

“ Deepest sympathies go out to this remarkable family on the loss of a great husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa and friend. He will truly be missed ... but never forgotten.

Sharon Harris Spangler - April 20, 2013 at 09:38 AM

BA

“ I will always remember Kelly as a man of integrity and always a man with a positive attitude. He always had a smile on his face. I know this was because of his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

Bill and Barb Austin - April 20, 2013 at 07:50 AM

CE

“ It's all been said about this wonderful man, Kelly VanHouten. Amazing husband who loved Sharon to the 'enth' degree. I never saw two people so in love and 'attuned' to each other. Literally, 'made for each other'. Such a great father, too. They all meant the world to him: Kim, Kerri, Kendra, Kraig. So happy Sharon has been such a great friend for so very long dragging Kelly along, which he seemed to love. You will be missed so very much, Kelly. But, you'll be waiting for all of us and painting all the rooms of Heaven!

Carin & Cy Ecker - April 20, 2013 at 07:15 AM

JA

“ Kelly will be greatly missed by all. His smile was contagious. What a wonderful man!

Joyce and Ivan Austin - April 19, 2013 at 10:56 PM

RH

“ I'

Il always remember Kelly as a " stand up"

person who stood steadfast in his beliefs. He worked hard, loved all his family beyond measure, loved his church and community and was ALWAYS there when you needed him - a perfect example of a good man.

Ron Hellenga - April 19, 2013 at 08:39 PM