



# Kent I. Vandevrede Sr.

DEC 28, 1936 - JAN 2, 2021



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## **Kent I. VandeVrede Sr.**

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**K**ent I. VandeVrede, Sr., passed away at home on Saturday, January 2, 2021 at the age of 84. Kent was born December 28, 1936 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Isaac and Helen (Ruse) VandeVrede. He graduated from Eastern High School in Lansing, MI. He later entered the Air Force with his best friend, Bob Moore, who he met at MSU. While serving at the Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware, Kent met his future wife, Patsy Ann Remus. They were married on August 17, 1956 and moved to Lansing, MI. Kent worked with his father at Central Welding Supply until his father passed away unexpectedly at the age of 49. Kent and Pat moved to Adrian, where he was Sales Manager for Tri-County Welding Supply. In his pursuit to own his own business, Kent purchased Apex Welding Gases and Supplies, Inc. and Tupes Spring and Welding in Muskegon Heights in 1970. He built and opened a second location in Holland, MI in 1980.

In the early 1970's, shortly after moving to Muskegon, Kent became involved in sailing. After crewing on Joel and Kay VanderWall's International 210, he bought his own 210, Coquina, and raced with his family on Muskegon Lake. In 1978, Kent bought a 42' racer/cruiser that he named Venturous. With his family and friends, he sailed many races on Lake Michigan including the Queen's Cup and Chicago to Mackinac.

The role Kent most cherished was that of father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was a devoted fan attending every choral, band and sporting event his children and grandchildren participated in.

In 2000, Kent sold the business and retired. He and Pat moved to Hudsonville to start an equestrian Quarter Horse business, Terra Verde Acres. At the age of 64, Kent began riding and competing in Western Reining with his beloved Quarter Horse Dry Wood Smoke (Woody) and his palomino, Sosa Del Cielo. Kent won many ribbons and bronze statues and several of his horses competed at the Futurity in Oklahoma



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City.

Kent and Pat have been members of First Congregational Church for many years. He served on the board as President and Treasurer. Dr. James Bidle and his wife, Jo, as well as many FCC friends were their travel companions on trips to England, Wales, Ireland, Italy and throughout the U.S.

Kent is survived by his wife, Pat; son, Kent (Nancy) VandeVrede Jr. and their children, Elizabeth (Scott) Prentice and Dr. Kent (Mary) VandeVrede; daughter, Lisa VandeVrede and her daughters, Nicole (Keegan) Hoezee and Lauren Dodd; daughter, Diane (Ken) Beach and their children, Garrett and Meredith; great-grandchildren: Natalie and Chloe Prentice, Luke Meredith and Grant VandeVrede, Axel and Sadie Hoezee; sister, Marlene Boyce of Muskegon; and brother, Russ (Katie) VandeVrede of Whitehall. Kent was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Kerry VandeVrede and sister, Carolee.

A private family service will be held at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444. A memorial service will be held in the spring. Memorial gifts may be made to: First Congregational Church, 1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon, MI 49441.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the VandeVrede Sr. family.



January 5 at 6:43 AM



**Sara Kammeraad** posted:

Kent was my very first boss in my life, I rode my horse passed his house everyday hoping he was hiring a stable hand and one day he gave me that chance. I owe alot to that man and I admired him, he shared his horsemanship wisdom, shared his stories of sailing and was never one to just let others do the work for him. He was an example of a leader he got his hands dirty and helped pull the wagon as they say. I loved watching him give woody and Sosa their workouts in the riding arena. How he cared for every foal born at his stable. He even taught me things on not just riding but etiquette too how to better my walk and was so proper in manners too, an example of how a true gentleman today should be. Most of all I admired how much he loved and cherished his family and his strength in his Faith. He was always excited whenever his family was coming to stay and he adored every member and treated his lovely wife like the queen she is. I'll never forget him and owe him and his family alot and I will definitely carry on his lessons. Pat, I am very sorry for your loss, my family and I are here for you and yours and God bless you all and God bless Kent, well never forget him. Sara Kammeraad

January 4 at 5:49 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Kent by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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