

Comforting and Rejoicing through faith

Ephesians 4:2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* Fred and Elaine's relationship is an unending love story. Their 61 years of marriage together produced millions of cherishing memories to savor and a lifetime of happiness. While life brings curve balls, together they batted those stressors out of the park. This legacy lives on in their offspring and they are so grateful to witness the 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren's presence to add savoring joy. Elaine's heart will take time to heal through this heartbreak of goodbyes; for where there is great love, there is deep grief. Kindly keep her steady in prayer and send loving kind wishes for peace.

1 John 4:7 *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* Fred's innate nature was to LOVE; his family, friends, animals, and even strangers -his kindness escorted him everywhere. He reflected God's love in every way as bright as a ND horizon sunrise.

Ephesians 4:32: *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.* Fred's tenderheartedness was evident in raising 4 girls; imagine the hormones in those teen years. Being in a family of 5 women truly invited opportunities to extend grace, (especially when waiting his turn to use the bathroom in the home).

Psalms 46:10 *Be still and know I am God.* One of Fred's most cherished qualities was his gentle presence and calm demeanor. His patience was of a thousand-fold for you need to be when farming. Fred had a touching way of making you feel like you were the most important person in the moment for when you were visiting, he cared wholeheartedly for all of you.

Proverbs 2:6 *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.* Respect, empathy, and pause for reflection were some of the strongest lessons modeled for his children growing up. Fred had a quiet nurture of supportive care based on experience, that led to the door to possibilities, although he let each one make their own decisions. When coming to him for advice, you would be met with wisdom beyond measure.

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light shine before others so he may see your good works and give glory to our father in heaven.* Fred's smile was a proclamation of JOY- from the wellspring of his very being, God's radiance sprung forth. Fred's good deeds were visible, whether helping strangers or loved ones, his kind compassionate actions glowed of God's presence.

Galatians 5:22-23 *The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

Fred's life reflected the Holy Spirit's presence. Influenced by his caring upbringing he decided early on to give away more than he received, and his best gifts came from within, these supernatural fruits.

Psalms 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all of my days, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* Fred shared in conversation just days before his passing as he was reminiscing of the origin of his and Elaine's 61-year relationship, "I just want to be known as a good guy. I aim for that." He surely lived just that- showering goodness to all and humbly walking in the ways of the Lord, all of his days.

Matthew 19:14 *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven".* Open, humble, and welcoming all, Fred opened his heart to others, especially the children, just like Jesus. Fred embraced a childlike faith, meeting vulnerability and trusting God's love rather than focusing on self-importance or complexity. Perhaps Bible verses were not fluent from the tongue; yet actions spoke loudly and that is what is remembered.

1 John 4:16 *God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.* Fred was the Fred "ROY-gers" of all neighborhoods in which he lived & visited, and he modeled gratefulness for the blessings in his life as he reached out to bless others. He was gifted in giving more than he received and for that we are all richly blessed. Love was the answer to Fred; kindness the key reflected from God's goodness bubbling forth.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* Fred is our heavenly angel keeping watch over his precious family and friends. What a friend we have in Jesus, and the promise of the resurrection offers comfort in this difficult grieving time.

When you live your life for others, you are living your life through God. You touched a piece of heaven on earth by knowing Fred, and now he has gone to the heights of heaven to support those who've traveled before him while keeping watch over us all.

May your relationship with Fred continue although different; he will appear in unexpected ways to bring a grin and memory forth; every act of kindness, inspired by his ways; every sunrise glory, he will greet us; every victory by the Vikes or home run by the Twins will bring a smile as those are the celebrations Fred savored too. His attention was the purest form of generosity, and his kindness was his life song and rhythm whispering to us to *keep on taking care*. Treasure memories. Live in love. Go forth with the inspiration our cherished Fred has shown for a life well lived!