



Hugh Edward Van Voorst

October 5, 1934 - July 5, 2023

Hugh Edward Van Voorst, 88, passed away peacefully in his Union Hill home on the morning of Wednesday, July 5th, 2023.

Hugh was born on October 5th, 1934, in Union Hill, Illinois, to Gilbert and Eileen Van Voorst. In 1956 Hugh graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Business.

Hugh married the love of his life, Anita, on February 27th, 1960. The two were lifelong companions and friends for 59 years. The couple were blessed with three children: Grant, Beth, and Jill Van Voorst.

Hugh worked running Van Voorst Lumber Company and started and operated Vanfab metal fabrication while working as a career pilot for United Airlines. He was dedicated member of the community and served as mayor of Union Hill for 40 years.

Hugh's other endeavors included serving on the Kankakee Community College board for 37 years including as its President, serving as the Director of Aviation for the State of Illinois, owning and operating 17-47 Bowl in Dwight, and being an active member of the Kankakee Farm Bureau. Other ventures included waterfowl hunting and wetland conservation.

Hugh is survived by his sister Barbara, children Grant (Susan), Beth, Jill (Gregg), two grandchildren, Clara Lennae Van Voorst and Emma Grace Van Voorst, his nieces LeAnn (Scott) Anderson and Lori Nelson, and many, many friends. Hugh is preceded by his parents and his wife Anita and brother in law, Bill Bumpous.

Hugh will especially be remembered by his devotion to his family, his passion for aviation, his dry sense of humor and his fiery spirit.

Many thanks to all of his amazing caregivers for their patience, professionalism, and understanding.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, July 9th, 2023, at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. An additional visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Herscher. Pastor Eric Brown will officiate the service. Burial will follow in Coleman Cemetery in Buckingham. Memorial donations are to the Kankakee Community College Foundation. Please sign the guestbook at <http://www.clancygernon.com/>

Cemetery Details

Coleman Cemetery

Buckingham, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

JUL 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. 3rd
Herscher, IL 60941

Funeral Service

JUL 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
255 E. 3rd
Herscher, IL 60941

Tribute Wall

LH

“ I knew Hugh for many years through our involvement with Kankakee Community College, and he was chairman of the board during my last 6 years as president, so he and I worked especially closely during those years. Hugh was always a strong supporter of the college, and I was particularly appreciative of his support for me during those 6 years. We didn't always agree about everything, but we never let our differences of opinion interfere with the working relationship we needed to have in the best interests of KCC, the college's employees, and the students we were all there to serve. I suppose some people would say that in our respective positions, we shouldn't have been friends--but we were friends, then, after, and forever. I had a great deal of respect for Hugh, and I was pleased and honored that he made the effort in May of 2022 to come hear my commencement speech at KCC. My longtime friend and professional colleague Charles Novak said upon hearing of Hugh's passing, "He was more of a positive presence and compelling leader than 99.7% of the people on this planet," and that says it all. Condolences from Chris and me to Jill, Beth, Grant, and the entire family in your loss--we share in your sadness but also know we will carry memories of Hugh in our hearts forever.

Larry Huffman - July 10, 2023 at 06:06 PM

RH

“ Hugh was my Director at Div of Aero down in Springfield. I have good memories of the time I got to spend with him - flying with him and going to get pie in Pontiac, eating at Krekel's, and letting me go with him to some Illini basketball games.

I will miss him.

Robert Hahn

Robert Hahn - July 10, 2023 at 12:00 PM

TO

“ *My heart and condolences to all of you.*



Tom - July 10, 2023 at 02:13 AM

MC

“ *Sincere condolences.*
Sue and Pat Foley
Michele and Matt Cannon

Michele Cannon - July 09, 2023 at 04:23 PM

TD

“ *Teresa Rademacher. (Jims Daughter) lit a candle in memory of Hugh Edward Van Voorst*



Teresa Rademacher. (Jims daughter) - July 08, 2023 at 09:29 PM

GG

“ *Gloria And Bill Graham lit a candle in memory of Hugh Edward Van Voorst*



Gloria and Bill Graham - July 08, 2023 at 06:35 PM

DM

“ *To his family,
It is with sorrow that I read today's death notices. I spent 17 years
with Hugh on the KCC Board, 13 as his secretary. To his family, I
can only say what a giver to our community was Hugh.*

Denny Marek

Denny Marek - July 08, 2023 at 02:56 PM

DF

“ *Debra S Foltz lit a candle in memory of Hugh
Edward Van Voorst*



Debra S Foltz - July 08, 2023 at 10:41 AM

MT

“ *Prayers for God's peace and comfort at this sad time. May your
memories of a good man help dry the tears and bring smiles.
Mary n John Thomson*

Mary Thomson - July 07, 2023 at 10:48 PM

RM

“ *Mr. VanVoorst left a legacy of service to his community that will long
be remembered. As Chair of the KCC Board of Trustees, his
leadership was legendary. I had the privilege of being the Board's
secretary and President Jerry Weber's executive secretary so I was
fortunate to get to know and work with him and his lovely wife,
Anita. We will mourn their loss while God rejoices having them both
together and home with Him. Rest in peace kind sir. Bet your flying
adventures have just begun in God's kingdom.*

Rose Devine Mitchell - July 07, 2023 at 07:56 PM

BJ

“ Beth, I am so very sorry for your loss. What a wonderful man. I'll never forget his offering of flying my mom to Mayo's. Definitely a selfless offer. Both mom and dad were true givers in all aspects of their lives even if just a kind word. The apples do not fall from the tree. They will be missed. Hugs, thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Barb (Jensen) Jackson



Barb Jackson - July 07, 2023 at 04:22 PM