



Howard John Conrad

February 22, 1946 - March 14, 2021

On March 14, 2021 our family lost a loving husband to Vaun; a proud father to Brett, Bryan, and Brandon; a doting grandfather to Parker Laine and a baby boy due in July, a loyal brother to Roger and Jeff, and a caring uncle to dozens of nieces and nephews. Of course, his family would not have been complete without his two beautiful daughters in law: Shannon and Donna-Marie.

Howard John Conrad was born 2/22/1946 in Oceanside, California; however, his heart always resided in northern Minnesota and later in Michigan. Howard earned a Bachelor of Arts from Central Michigan University and a Master of Arts from Eastern Michigan University, with Education being his focus in both degrees. It was in Michigan in 1967, where he began his career as educator, it is also where he met the love his life Vaun Kay, they were married on August 8, 1970. In 1983, he coached the Flint Hamady boys' basketball team to a 25-2 record, falling in the State Championship game; he was later voted 1982-1983 Class C Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

In 1985, the Conrad family moved to Ocala, Florida where Howard taught and coached at Forest High School, Lake Weir High School, and The Villages High School over the span of 22 years. During that time Howard was awarded the 1992-1993 Lake Weir High School Teacher of the Year.

Howard was blessed to have made so many wonderful friends in Florida, Michigan, and Minnesota with whom he spent countless weekends for camping trips, ballgames, or barbeques by the pool. He was also privileged to be a positive influence on thousands of former students and players that brought infinite joy to him during his 40 years as a teacher and coach.

In 2007, Howard retired from teaching; he spent much of his remaining years playing golf and softball or traveling the world with his ever adventurous wife, or at Dunkin Donuts. In 2016 he was elected to the Itasca Community College Sports Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as an athlete and coach.

A Prayer Vigil Service for Mr. Howard John Conrad will be held 11:00 AM Friday, March 19, 2021 at the Lady Lake Chapel of Beyers Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held at the Stonecrest Pavilion from 1-4 PM following the Prayer Vigil Service.

In lieu of flowers, please donate blood to Life South Community Blood Center (<https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/center/26>). Without the assistance of wonderful blood donors and the 53 units of blood, Howard's final months with his family would not have been possible. If donating blood is not an option, please consider donating to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (<https://donate.lls.org/lls/donate>) or Hospice of Marion County (<https://www.hospiceofmarion.com/donate/>), both organizations displayed incredible compassion and patience towards the Conrad family during Howard's last days.

Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com
Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL.

Tribute Wall

RR

“ My three boys and I still talk about Coach Conrad. What they remember most is what a good person he was. They enjoyed playing for him. He introduced them to organized sports in little league. I thought he was the best coach they had. My deepest sympathy on your loss,
Mary Liz and Ralph Ranieri

Ralph Ranieri - April 05, 2021 at 05:26 PM

DG

“ I had the privilege to be coached by Coach Conrad at Lake Weir High School '93-94 and then as a mentor/friend when I taught and coached at The Villages Middle/High School years later. My family and I loved Coach and the positive influence he made not only in my life but many others. I still keep in close contact with a lot of the players from Lake Weir and we still to this day talk about how much he meant to us all. Know that we love you and are lifting you up in prayers of His grace and comfort. I will never forget Coach Conrad!

Daniel and Michelle Brown (Dallas, Ga.) - March 20, 2021 at 10:52 PM

CM

“ I am so sorry to hear that Howard has passed. I remember the great love that he had for his family, and I know that you will miss him greatly. He made working at The Villages High School fun; I always appreciated his thoughts and observations, which could be highly entertaining :). Howard was an ethical man and a role-model for countless students who were lucky enough to have him as a teacher. He will be missed by his students and his friends.

Clare

Clare Malloy - March 20, 2021 at 02:16 PM

RP

“ We knew Howard through the Denton Family and for over 40 years found him to be a first class person and generous human being. His loss will be felt by all, his legacy will continue forever.

*Roger and Sharon PerKins
Grand Rapids, MI*

Roger Perkins - March 20, 2021 at 10:25 AM

KS

“ My sincere condolences to Vaun and the Conrad family. I will forever treasure my time coaching, golfing, and laughing with Howard Conrad. Howard was a great friend and mentor to all of us. God Bless

Kevin Scarbrough - March 19, 2021 at 09:40 AM

RP

“ The Conrad Family,
I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Howard. Howard and I worked together at Lake Weir High School and The Villages High School. He was a great man and a dear friend. I will truly miss all of his stories. May God comfort you all during this time.
Coach Richard Pettus

Richard Pettus - March 19, 2021 at 07:47 AM

LA

“ I am saddened to hear of Coach Conrads passing. He was the first coach/teacher to motivate me to be better. I always will remember Mr. Conrad approaching me in the seventh grade after our basketball game and encouraging me to work hard and someday I would be playing for him on the varsity team at Hamady High. To me at that time it was like meeting a celebrity. I did get to play for him on the JV football team however he moved to Florida before I had the chance to play basketball for him. I am not sure he ever knew how much that chance meeting in the seventh grade meant to me. Thank you Coach! RIP

Lane Anderson - March 18, 2021 at 08:25 PM

RC

“ Growing up in Northern Minnesota during tough times made childhood challenging, but the Conrad boys always kept busy. Howie began basketball by shooting his socks into a laundry basket while Jeff "fished" off the couch.

Our mother taught us to work hard, be kind and respectful, and never give up...and we listened! Howie contributed with a paper route, mowing lawns, bagging groceries, and working at a nursing home. He was destined to be a teacher and a coach, forever giving little brother Jeff directions. That was Howie being Howie! He was one of the finest people you would ever know..warm, friendly, sincere, and respectful. Howie was a little shy until he met this adorable little waitress named Vaun and that was that. They spent 54 years together and were blessed with three wonderful sons. Everyday, Howie strived to be the best husband, father, grandfather, as well as son, brother, and uncle. Spending time with family and friends was important to Howie; and it provided all of us with many wonderful memories. If you knew Howie, you wanted to be around him.

Not being able to travel to my brother's funeral service or spend time with the ones he loved is heartbreaking, but I find comfort in knowing that his legacy will live on in his family and all of us! We will forever miss our brother.

With love and sincere sympathy,

Roger and Anita Conrad

Roger and Anita Conrad - March 18, 2021 at 05:39 PM

WO

“ Vaun my heart goes out to you, your 3 sons, your daughter in laws, grandchild, other family members and friends. I know Howe will be missed by a lot of people.
I'm sorry about for your loss. Please let know if there's anything I can assist you with.

Wanda and Eddie Oglesby

Wanda and Eddie Oglesby - March 17, 2021 at 08:36 PM

DK

“ I am sorry for your family's loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.

Dorothy Kapuscinski - March 17, 2021 at 03:09 AM

TK

“ Dear Aunt Vaun, Brett, Bryan, and Brandon;

We loved Uncle Howie very much. We will miss his stories and advice.

When Heather and I were little; he would always play the up high/down low game with us. Over the years, when he had spent time in Minnesota- he would play the same game with my 3 kids. It is in those silly moments his love of children, his fatherly nurturing, and humor would be ever present.

Listening to him and my Dad argue about sport stats, teams, and players over the years and tease each other like brothers do - provided a glimpse of their bond.

I feel so blessed to have had Uncle How in my life. He was inspiring, wanted us to reach our potential, and loved us unconditionally.

Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you all.

Tracy (Conrad) Reese, Gregg and kids - March 16, 2021 at 10:39 PM

TJ

“ *Brett -
So sorry to hear of your fathers passing. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.*

Tracy Joy - March 16, 2021 at 03:37 PM

DS

“ *So sorry for the loss of Howe, he will be greatly missed*

Denise Stryker - March 16, 2021 at 03:25 PM

CD

“ *Vaun I wish we had gotten to know you and the boys better. It always seems that there is more time to do so.*

We knew Howie as a skinny, little blonde boy that grew into a tall, well liked, terrific basketball player for both Greenway High School and Itasca Junior College.

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Penny Watts and Gordon and Deanne (Dee) Meredyk.

Cousins Penny and Deanne - March 16, 2021 at 02:45 PM

KH

“ *Dear Vaun and boys,
So sorry to hear of Howard's passing. I always remember your visits to Michigan when I was growing up, and what a great friendship you've had for so long with my parents. "Uncle" Howard was a great guy and he will be missed by all. Please know you are in my thoughts during this difficult time.
Love, Kelly Hershberger & family*

Kelly Hershberger - March 16, 2021 at 11:14 AM