



Herbert R. Eldean

April 12, 1942 - May 9, 2022

Herbert Eldean, age 80, of Macatawa, unexpectedly passed away Monday, May 9, 2022 at Eldean Shipyard.

Herb was a life-long boater, sailor, gardener, builder, developer, and entrepreneur. A loving father and grandfather, he encouraged his children and grandchildren to pursue their interests. Herb grew up on the waterfront in Chicago where his father founded Monroe Street Harbor. At 8 years old, Herb might be found catching and selling perch off the pier; at 10 years old, he was sailing and racing Penguins at the Chicago Yacht Club; and by 12 years old, he was running the water taxi and launch service. At age 18, Herb helped turn the Chicago River green for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and at age 24, Herb was appointed Federal Harbormaster for Monroe Street Harbor. At 25, Herb was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in appreciation of his many rescues of life and property in the Monroe Street Harbor (This was the first time a non-member of the auxiliary was given this award). In college Herb would raise additional tuition funds at the pool hall. After graduating from Northern Illinois University with a degree in accounting, he and his wife, Pat, moved to Macatawa in 1973 and purchased the marina with his brother, Roger, and founded Eldean Shipyard & Yacht Sales. In 1995, Eldean Shipyard was internationally recognized by winning the inaugural "Marina of the Year" award. In 1985, Herb and Pat opened the Sandpiper Restaurant (later redeveloped into the Piper) and Pat operated the restaurant until her retirement in 2015.

Herb was a huge proponent of education and learning and was still active with his alma mater, Northern Illinois University, where he had been recognized both as one of the School of Business' Distinguished Alumni and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Phi Sigma Kappa National Fraternity. Herb served on the Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois University Foundation and was a member of the College of Business – Board of Executive Advisors. Herb established the first endowment fund for the College of Business. Herb also served as Vice President on the Holland School Board. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Outdoor Discovery Center and the formation of the Patricia Eldean Preschool there.

Herb was also a sailboat racer, Commodore at the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, and was inducted into the Michigan Boating Industry Hall of Fame. He enjoyed fishing, reading, traveling with family and friends, & skiing in Snowmass Colorado.

Herb is survived by his:

Wife of 55, years, Patricia

Children

Kori (Doug) Rentz of Darien, CT

Wade (Kris) Eldean of Macatawa

Grandchildren

Ryan (Bethany) Eldean of Boise, ID

Alexander Rentz

Ella Rentz

Lachlan Rentz all of Darien, CT

Siblings

Roger (Carol) Eldean of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Judy Eldean of Holland

In-laws

Dolores Haynes of Gurnee, IL

Kay (Don) Saffield of Golden, MO

Lori Neff of Lake Villa, IL

Don Bauer of Lake Villa, IL

Several nieces and nephews.

Visitation is planned for 3:00-6:00pm Sunday, May 15, at the Eldean Shipyard Pool and Clubhouse, 2223 South Shore Drive, Macatawa, MI 49434. Services will be 3:00pm Monday, May 16 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 195 W 13th St, Holland. Fr. Charles Brown will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to the Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland via: <https://outdoordiscovery.org/in-memory-eldean/>. Arrangements are by Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home and condolences may be left online at www.langelandsterenbergh.com.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 03:00PM - 06:00PM

15

Eldean Shipyard Pool and Club House
2223 S Shore Dr, Macatawa, MI, US, 49434

MAY **Memorial Service** 03:00PM

16

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church
195 W. 13th Street, Holland, MI, US, 49423

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Langeland Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - May 12 at 05:20 PM



“ Herb was a great guy and I will miss his company and financial conversations when visiting the Shipyard. My favorite memory was when Herb told to me take it easy on the ski slopes to avoid injury after a trip to Snowmass. This was after Wade, you broke your collar bone on the same trip. I said, Herb, what about Wade? The reply was something like "I don't think he will ever take it easy, he has to keep showing Ryan he still has it."

Continued prayers and love for the family. Joe and Anna Johnson

Joe Johnson - May 20 at 02:00 PM



“ Dear Eldean Family,
I am truly sorry for your loss. All of your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. I will miss Herb. He was always good to me. -Nathan J. Hofstra

Nathan J. Hofstra - May 16 at 06:19 AM



“ I first knew Herb in 1971 when he, his Dad & Roger ran Monroe Street Harbor. I had a Shields on a mooring at the entrance to the harbor. I remember his Dad sitting by the old wood launch shack, from which they ran the harbor and the launch service in the old steel launches. One of them went on its own bottom up to Macatawa to serve as a utility boat in the new Eldean Shipyard. The Shields was replaced by a succession of three cruising sailboats, all moored in Monroe Street, all of which spent a few weeks each summer at "Eldean's" on their way back home from the North Channel. The last two boats stored in the winter in Herb's and Roger's "new" shipyard, for a total of 11 years. We outfitted our last boat, an expedition 52 ft. sloop, in preparation for retiring and sailing offshore to the Caribbean, South America, Gibraltar and on to Turkey. We returned to Ft. Lauderdale after 15 years of living on INDIGO full time for 12 month per year. Dick Israels and his crew did the final fitting out of INDIGO at the beginning of that adventure, in 2002. It was very well done! And fully tested at sea over the subsequent years.

Carol and I have many very fond memories of Herb and Roger. Herb was a great leader and businessman. His success in building the shipyard from its legacy of the old rickety boat storage sheds to what it is today, and then successfully passing it on to the next generation, speaks for itself. He could be tough to deal with as a customer, but he was always fair. And he was surely creative, as a businessman, an architect and a master gardener. I've seen no other shipyard as beautiful. As a legend, he will live forever. Like so many, we are grateful.

Gus and Carol Hancock

Vero Beach, Florida

Gus Hancock - May 15 at 12:29 PM



“ Dear Eldean Family, Ken and I are so sorry to hear about Herb's passing. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. In lieu of flowers Ken and I donated to the Outdoor Discovery Center in honor of Herb Eldean.

Vicki & Ken Yeager - May 15 at 11:38 AM



“ I worked Herb on boat shows/ advertising and promotions for a few years
I remember a conversation we had - Herb did not like face to face contact with customers
I once told him stay in your office with the door closed. He laughed and agreed
My condolences to Pat and the family
Bruce Kenat

Bruce Kenat - May 14 at 05:22 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 12 at 09:40 PM



“ PAT: We are really surprised to hear of Herb's passing. We are still down here in Florida. He was a real sailor and loved the water...we loved docking our sailboat at Eldean's. And we watched Herb walking up and down 64th street in the summer. Our heart goes out to you and your family and we hope we will see you about this summer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jessie and Ron Dalman

Jessie Dalman - May 12 at 05:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 12 at 03:48 PM



“ So saddened by this news! I've know Herb for many years and had the great pleasure of racing with him for many years on Lake Michigan. Herb was always patient with his crew, only yelling at us when he was hungry. I found a direct way to Herb's heat by always making sure there was either a pastrami or salami (can't remember which one) sandwich on board! To Pat, Roger and all the kids, be sure he will be missed but NEVER forgotten!

Steve Swaney - May 12 at 10:58 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of summer days hanging around the shipyard and waterskiing in Lake Macatawa (and a few forays into the lake before it was quite warm enough!). My condolences to Kori, Pat and Wade.
Much love, Krissy Dziedzic

Kristina Wright - May 12 at 08:43 AM



“ Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 11 at 01:53 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 11 at 11:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 10 at 07:36 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Herbert R. Eldean.



May 10 at 07:22 PM