



Kirk Charles Graves

July 2, 1946 - November 7, 2020

Kirk Charles Graves passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2020, after a brief illness in San Antonio, Texas.

He was born on July 2, 1946, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Donald Holmes and June (White) Graves. His youth was spent in Winterset, Iowa, and he graduated from Winterset High School in 1964 as a three-sport letterman in football, wrestling, and golf. He attended the University of Iowa and graduated in 1968 with a B.A. in Journalism.

In college, Kirk met the love of his life and future wife, Kendra Goecke. On July 5, 1969, they married in Marshalltown, Iowa, and had two children, Kelly Holmes and Jamie Lynn. Kirk and Kendra lived and traveled extensively and, in retirement, split time between their homes in San Antonio, Texas, and Woodbury, Minnesota.

After college, Kirk joined 3M as a sales representative based in San Antonio, Texas, for the Construction & Home Improvement Markets Division, Consumer Products Group. Kirk retired in 2005 after 37 years of service as Vice President of the same division where he began his career.

An avid golfer, Kirk enjoyed time spent on a golf course with his many friends. Above all, he cherished his family and enjoyed many holidays with his children and grandchildren.

Kirk is preceded in death by his parents, Don and June Graves, and his son, Kelly.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Kendra; his daughter, Jamie (Brian) Thomas; his grandchildren, Alexa Graves, Ella, Leah and Sophia Thomas; his sister, Penny (Paul) Moehn; his niece, Candace (John) Mailand and their son, Michael; his nephew, Todd Tiernan; his life-long friends, Torben and Karen Svendsen and Ken and Ruth Felty as well as many other close friends.

It is said that people who live a life of purpose make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Kirk touched many lives. He was a man of great integrity and love. He will be dearly missed.

Comments



“ We are so sad to hear of Kirk’s passing. We were blessed to spend most football weekends, in recent years, cheering on the Hawkeyes football team. It was always a pleasure to spend time with both of you Kendra. Much love to you & your family.
Lori & Rick

Lori Tarbell - December 08, 2020 at 11:42 PM



“ My sincere condolences and prayers to Kendra and the Graves Family. I’m so sorry for your loss. Kirk was a mentor, exceptional leader and a supporter of many. I will always appreciate Kirk believing in me and giving me the opportunity to join the DIY sales team along with his winning advice and coaching! One of many memories to share....Kirk & I were traveling Asia together and he gave me clear career advice. Kirk wanted to be sure for all the customer dinners I scheduled on the trip that I better be certain I booked steak houses only! He reminded me he was from Iowa frequently on that trip. We will all miss you Kirk!

Jim Schmidt - November 22, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ Such a shock to hear of Kirk's passing. There is a DIY Golf outing in the plans for next year and it would have been great to see him again. Kirk brought me in from California in 1984 to be the Marketing Coordinator for packaged abrasives. What a thrill to work for Kirk. He had Laura and I over to his home for dinner on our first night in St. Paul to get to know each other. My cubical was right next to Kirk's and I always knew when he was in his cube from the plume of smoke that hovered overhead!! How crazy it seems now to think about smoking in the office but that was the norm back then. He was always willing to sit down and answer any questions and teach you the fine points of navigating the office politics at the time. Many road trips to the plants, particularly Ames, Iowa to check out our abrasives converting equipment and support the plant who made many of our products. Loved going to lunch with him at Benson's Steak House and talk about our plans over a cheap steak, great fries and a pitcher of beer! Wow, those were the good old days! Prayers and blessings to Kendra and the family. Gary & Laura Smith, Woodbury, MN.

Gary & Laura Smith - November 21, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ My sincere condolences and prayers to Kendra and the Graves Family for this tremendous loss. I first met Kirk in the DIY Training Room as a young, ambitious S1 in 1992, eager to make my mark on 3M and the world. While intimidating at first, it did not take long for Kirk to let me know that he genuinely cared about me as a person and my success within the company. In my 15 year career with 3M, Kirk always encouraged and inspired me to take no prisoners and kick butt in everything I did...and have a lot of fun along the way. His laugh was contagious and I am grateful for the time I spent learning from this man and all of the opportunities he afforded me. I am so very sorry for your loss and thank you for sharing Kirk with his 3M Family.

Irene (Davey) Pini



Irene Pini - November 17, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working for and with Kirk over many years in the Consumer Business. He was a strong leader, mentor and friend to many. One of his greatest assets was how he related to people, and how he remembered so many by name. Always gracious and instrumental to building DIY, he will be greatly missed.

Tom Portner - November 16, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ Kirk was my boss , my mentor and most of all a good friend. He was a work buddy, a golf buddy but most of all someone who you could always count on for support and guidance. I miss him already. Rest in peace Kirk !

Tom Nelson - November 16, 2020 at 03:55 PM



“ Kirk was my friend and mentor. I still have all of his notes of encouragement in a file. He was respected by so many and loved by all those who knew him well. He would come by my office at 5 or 6pm and say: “come on young man, stop working for the day. Let’s go get a beer!” He will forever be in my thoughts. He created a magical team from DIY to the CHIM division. We are all better business people as we learned leadership excellence from Kirk. I miss my friend.

Mike Horton - November 16, 2020 at 01:11 PM



“ Kendra, Eunice and I are shocked to hear of Kirk's passing. He was a very close friend and we shared many things together at work and outside as well. He loved his family ahead of everything else. If there is anything we can do for you please let us know. He will truly be missed.

John Voorhees - November 14, 2020 at 11:50 AM



“ I was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Kirk. He was definitely the best boss I’ve ever had. I still talk about him to this day with others when reflecting on great leaders. He truly made a positive impact on the lives of many. My condolences to his beautiful family he loved so deeply. He will be missed by many. ~ Stacey Raaf

Stacey Raaf - November 14, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ Kirk was the trainer for our freshman class of 1978. I remember meeting him in the lobby of the Ramada Inn on the first day and being totally intimidated as he introduced himself to me with those steely blue eyes. Over the next thirty years I came to love Kirk and appreciate how much he did for me and my family during a magical 3M career. Kirk and those that worked under his leadership built the consumer business for 3M. Those of us who were lucky enough to know and work for Kirk are grateful for that experience. He will always be in our hearts and memories as long as we walk on the earth.

Jim McLaughlin - November 13, 2020 at 08:12 PM



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Mike Horton - November 16, 2020 at 11:34 AM



“ To the Graves family, my sympathies are with you during this time and going forward for the void kirk’s loss will create. As a peer at 3M, I always admired his confidence and humility. RIP, Fred Harris

Fred Harris - November 27, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Kirk Graves_1963



Candace Mailand - November 13, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Kirk Graves_3M



Candace Mailand - November 13, 2020 at 05:53 PM



“ I am saddened to hear of Kirks passing. He was the Division VP when I started at 3M and he was an impressive leader and mentor. He gave me some advice once that I continue to carry with me to this day and it has made a great difference in my life. My condolences to his family and all who are mourning his loss. He did indeed impact many lives.

Karen a Chapley - November 13, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ It was such a sad shock to hear about Kirk. I worked in the division while he was VP. I truly appreciated him and he always had a smile for me. May God bless all of you and give you comfort.

Mina Richardson - November 13, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ My path and Kirk's crossed many times. I was always impressed by his intelligence, common sense and demeanor. He was a great coworker, boss, and friend. Our many interactions provided so many fond memories.

John Leuck - November 13, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ Kirk and I were fellow Product Managers in Brussels from 79 to 82. We both brought back Saabs from Europe and had some memorable times. He did very well at 3M and his gold game was outstanding. My best to Kendra and the family.

red mcgarry - November 14, 2020 at 08:41 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Kirk's passing, he was our division VP for a large chunk of my career at 3M - always fond memories of those days under his leadership. My condolences to his family and close friends.

Suzanne - November 14, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ CONNIE GOECKE WHITEHEAD lit a candle in memory of Kirk Charles Graves



CONNIE GOECKE WHITEHEAD - November 13, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ MEMORY: Celebrating a family occasion out to the Farm in LaMoille and we were to meet and of course, eat wonderful food. Here comes Kirk in this BMW blue convertible traveling at about 5 to 10 MPH as those gravel roads sure goof up a paint job little alone on a new car. We all laughed and fully understood why such a slow pace. It was a good laugh! Oh, and that garage set up in Minneapolis area was something now referred to as a "Man Cave." The Goeckes and The Graves were/are wonderful family based people. Kendra/Kirk celebrated 51 years on July 5th of wedded bliss. I remember attending their wedding like yesterday. It was beautiful and in Marshalltown. Then at Jamie's wedding the family all came together again and I sat with Kirk's sister and her husband. Blessings to all - this is our first "first" cousin to pass. Kirk is a "first cousin" by marrying Kendra. With me being the oldest cousin at 75, that is really saying something about all our cousins being still with us until this loss of Kirk.

CONNIE GOECKE WHITEHEAD - November 13, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ Kirk was a true leader, who, cared as much about people as he did business results. His greatest legacy was his deep love and commitment to his family. He will be missed!

John Nance - November 14, 2020 at 06:37 AM