



## Mr. Al R Vandenberg

September 11, 1935 - February 2, 2024

Aloysius “Al” R. Vandenberg, 88, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 2, 2024 surrounded by family.

Al was born in Little Chute on September 11, 1935 to John and Anna (West) Vandenberg. Due to family hardship, the youngest sibling spent his grade school years with his brothers, David and Jack at St Joseph Orphanage in Green Bay, WI and at the Guardian Angel Boarding school in Oneida, WI. In his high school years, he lived with his sister, Rose Grunwald and her family.

He graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1954 and put himself through college at LaCrosse State, where he excelled in football and track. He graduated with a degree in Physical Education and Social Studies in 1959. He married Kathryn (Mueller) in 1960 and they moved to Cashton, WI where Al began his teaching career. In 1965 they moved to Ashwaubenon, WI where he taught until he retired in 1991. Al is most remembered as being a career-long track and field coach. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Track and Field Hall of Fame and just last May had the honor of the track at AHS named after him.

Al was the ultimate physical education teacher. He practiced what he preached and “ran circles” around most of his students. He ran in numerous Bellin 10K runs, 22 Birkebeiner cross country ski races, and his favorite memory, biking the Door County Century with his brother Dave on a tandem.

He also enjoyed golf, especially at Brown County Golf Course, always walking and sometimes jogging from hole to hole.

Play and hard work were values Al lived by, which he passed on to his 4 daughters. After the chores were done, quality time was spent camping, swimming in the backyard pool and jumping on the trampoline at school.

Al was a kind and gentle soul with a smile that could capture the hearts of all who knew him. He was full of shenanigans and loads of fun. His daughters and grandchildren will always remember his loving devotion to his wife, Kathy, singing songs around the campfire, ghost stories, relaxed family dinners, swimming in the backyard pool, playing “tiger” and “monster,” and his attendance and support at their activities.

Al was preceded in death by his wife Kathy and 11 siblings.

He is survived by daughters: Amy (Dave) Steavpack, Beth (Mike) Simoens, Jennie (Dean) McNeill, Anne (Mark) Slusarek; 10 grandchildren: Lauren (Evan Simpson) and Abby (Zach Smith) Steavpack, Drew (Nicole Baughan), Ryan (Jordi Novo) and Meghan (Jonathan Okie) Simoens, Brooke (Josh Schloesser), Ian (Sydney) and Derek (Danielle) McNeill, Ben and AJ Williams; 7 great grandchildren: Carter Simoens, Uli, Ida and Otto Schloesser, Renick, Retta and Reeve McNeill; sister-in-law, Peg Harthun, and many nieces and nephews.

Thank you to the staff at Tender Hearts Assisted Living (especially Kyla, Magdalena, Sue) and Unity Hospice for treating Al with great compassion and care. Also, a warm note of appreciation to a special family care giver Ada.

Family and friends please join in Al's wish by celebrating his life at Badger State Brewery Barrel Haus, 990 Tony Canadeo Run in Green Bay, on Thursday, February 8 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. A time for sharing memories will begin at 6:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

Badger State Brewery Barrel Haus  
990 Tony Canadeo Run  
Green Bay, WI 54304

## Sharing of Memories

FEB 8. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (cst)

Badger State Brewery Barrel Haus  
990 Tony Canadeo Run  
Green Bay, WI 54304

# Tribute Wall

PH

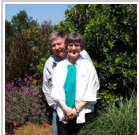
“ *My sympathy to all of you at this time of loss of your dear dad, grandpa, and great grandpa. He and Kathy were great neighbors and friends. Miss them both. Sorry I'll miss the Celebration of Life but you are in my thoughts and prayers 🙏😘😘*

phyllis hooglanf - February 07, 2024 at 09:47 AM

SH

“ *Amy, Beth, Jenny, Ann  
Sorry it's taken me so long to send my condolences to your dad. I just can't find the words. He was a great mentor, teacher and coach. He taught me so much. I have some many great memories of him. He will definitely be missed. Ashwaubenon lost a truly great man. I would be there for the Celebration of Life but I'm in Costa Rica. Will be thinking about you and your families on Thursday. Big hugs to you all. Miss you Mr. Vandenberg. ❤️*

Sue Hickey - February 06, 2024 at 10:23 PM



“ *I was a rookie student teacher in 1968 when I came to Ashwaubenon and wormed my way into the teaching and coaching group of teachers and coaches. They welcomed this snot-nosed kid and we shared many adventures and stories over the years. Al and Kathy became very good and dear friends and they will forever be treasured. I have stories which can be told and some that cannot, but he lives forever in my memory. Rest in Peace, my friend. -Steve Frozena*

Steve Frozena - February 05, 2024 at 07:48 PM

BL

*Al was one of the first teachers I met when I started my career in Ashwaubenon. He was a kind, funny and just plain nice guy! RIP!!!*

**Barb Larsen** - February 06, 2024 at 09:56 AM

BK

*When Rolf Kroeber & I, Bette Kroeber, were in college, Al Vandenberg was a Senior & "The Man" on campus. I first saw him one day walking to classes. Someone told me, "that's Al Vandenberg"!*

*When we moved to Ashwaubenon, I never dreamed of seeing him again. But, I remember it all so well! I got to know Kathy then thru Faculty Wives Club!*

*Our 2 boys had been friends of the girls & the boyfriends of them over the years. My sympathies to the whole family for the passing of Al. God's blessings to you all. We will miss a great guy & friend too.*

**Bette Kroeber** - February 06, 2024 at 10:45 AM

KM

*“ Mr. Vandenberg, you were an unbeatable class act! It was many years ago that you were in Cashton, yet so many of us fondly remember you and really hated to see you leave. In your short stay, you were our friendly neighbor who offered us a ride to church, let us help you wash and wax your car, and even had maniacal snowball fights with us! What enduring memories from our childhood. Thanks for being a part of it, for letting us babysit your little girls, and for returning to Cashton once a year to say hello to our parents. Warmest condolences to your family. You will be missed. Kathy Martens (Schroeder)*

**Kathryn J Martens** - February 05, 2024 at 06:55 PM

SS

*“ Sending our love and prayers to the family of Al Vandenberg. Sy and I meant your Mom and Dad at Bethany Church, it was a pleasure knowing them. So sorry for your loss. Sy and Jean Swiecichowski*

**Sy and Jean Swiecichowski** - February 05, 2024 at 05:36 PM