



Cornelius Richard Karelse

May 26, 1936 - June 20, 2009

Cornelius Richard Karelse, "Rich", of Grand Ledge passed away June 20, 2009. He was born in Paris Township, Michigan on May 26, 1936 to the late Abraham and Cornelia (De Blaay) Karelse. He was retired from the State of Michigan as a Vocational Education Consultant. Richard was actively involved in FFA as a State Advisor and a faithful member of Delta Presbyterian Church. Beloved husband of the late Joann who passed away in 1985. Loving father of Pam (Paul) Jacobson of Negaunee and Julie (Norm) Naimy of DeWitt. Grandfather of Luke, Allyson, Brendan, Kaylie, and Maddyson. Brother of the late Henry Karelse and Tom (Effie) Karelse of Caledonia. The family will receive friends Tuesday 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Holihan-Atkin Funeral Home Grand Ledge, and Wednesday, June 24, 2009, from 10am until time of funeral service 11am at the Delta Presbyterian Church 6100 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing with The Reverend Dr. Herbert Swanson officiating. Interment will follow at Delta Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be given to the College Of Osteopathic Medicine Michigan State University A310 East Fee Hall East Lansing, Michigan 48824-9902 or National FFA Center P.O. Box 68960, FFA Dr. 6060 Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Tribute Wall



“ My sincere condolences to the Karelse family. I first worked with Mr. Karelse in 1980 when I was a State FFA Officer in the Michigan FFA. I always "looked-up" to Mr. Karelse as the ethical leader of the Michigan FFA. No matter how old I got, he was always Mr. Karelse to me. He will be sadly missed.##imported-begin##Dr. Jim Connors##imported-end##

January 03, 2011 at 02:44 PM



“ Mr. Karelse touched many many young live in this state. He will be missed, but never forgotten!!!!##imported-begin##Brad Cesal##imported-end##

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“ Our condolensences to the Karelse family and our appreciation for the contributions Rich made to youth leadership in the Michigan FFA and national organization.His contributions will be felt for generations. /Glen Shinn, Texas A&M University.##imported-begin##Glen Shinn##imported-end##

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“ testing##imported-begin##Naimy##imported-end##

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“ I worked with Rich at the State Department. He also, at one time, had a cottage here at Canadian Lakes. He was a fine man and very committed to education, more specifically to Agricultural Education. My sincere sympathies to the family. He will be and is missed.##imported-begin##Sherry Anderson##imported-end##

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“ Rich was one of the kindest men I have every known. He treated state FFA officer teams like family--he was our fun-loving, yet firm father figure. I learned a lot about character and compassion from him, and admired his life-long commitment to the organization. I will miss him.##imported-begin##Beth Stuever##imported-end##

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“ Rich was my friend for many years and we worked on issues for Michigan Teachers of Agriculture and the Michigan Rural Safety Council. A Great man and Friend. Rest in peace my friend. My condolences to his family. Howard Doss, Farm Safety Specialist, Emeritus Michigan State University##imported-begin##Howard Doss##imported-end##

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“ Mr. Karelse was one of the kindest men I know. He was a wonderful role model to all FFA members. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and Prayers to his family!##imported-begin##Leslie Siefka Donovan##imported-end##

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“ I remember Rich during my Michigan years as the most welcoming and open individuals I have ever worked with. His loyalties to his family, his friends, and the profession were strong. I will miss Rich. Jack Elliot###imported-begin##Jack Elliot###imported-end##

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