



Douglas G. Heeter

MAR 15, 1939 - JUL 30, 2019



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Big Rapids - On July 30, 2019, Douglas G. Heeter began another in his series of lifelong adventures. As he embarks on this journey, his family and friends wish him well. Doug's life full of adventures began on March 15, 1939 in Holland, MI. His parents Eugene F. Heeter and June Halstead Heeter had no idea what adventures awaited as parents of a joyful, precocious child. He treasured many stories of growing up with his brothers, Steven J. Heeter (Helga Carpenter) and Mark H. Heeter (Susan). Sixty years ago on July 3, 1959, Doug married Patricia Bower in LaGrange, Illinois. They started their new adventure together and raised three children who provided many more family adventures and stories. Geoffrey Heeter (Kyle) Lansing, WV; Kari-Lynne Clark (Joe, COL Ret.), Big Rapids; and Kristopher Heeter, Big Rapids. And whether they call him Grandpa or Opah (Old one in Afrikaans), his grandchildren and great grandchildren adore him. Amber Johnson (Chris) and daughters Isabelle and Avery, Big Rapids; Erin Heeter, Washington, DC; and Cameron Heeter, Morgantown, WV provide many moments of joy for Doug and his family. For thirty-four years as a Professor of Management and Insurance at Ferris State, "Doc" brought his own style and spark to the classroom. In 2003, he was inducted into the Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame. He also participated in the Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England.

In the fall of 1975, Doc arrived at FSC, the same year Rick Duffett arrived as the first coach of Ferris State's new hockey team. Since that first season, Doc has attended virtually all of the games. In 1980, he organized and was the founding president of the hockey support group, the Blue Line Club. Doc and Pat also hosted many students for home cooked meals.

Treasured memories of travels include South Africa and Zimbabwe while hunting and sightseeing; England, including a summer sabbatical at Lloyd's of London, Scotland and Wales; Sweden and Norway as well as throughout the United States.



Obituary

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Doc enjoyed summer music in the Big Rapids' parks, particularly if the concert included a few rousing Sousa marches. Stained glass candle holders and window hangings created by him continue to delight family and friends. The sale of donated pieces benefitted Artworks throughout the years and in 2014, Doc and Pat were named the Artworks Patrons of the Arts. Doc and Pat were long time members of The United Church of Big Rapids,

The family requests no flowers and there will be no services. Donations may be made to the United Church children's ministries, 120 South State Street, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307 or Artworks children's programs, 106 N Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307. Please embrace your family and do something fun like play a game, watch a movie, walk the Riverwalk, go fishing and spread joy as Doc, Dougie, Doug, Dad, Opah, Grandpa, and Uncle Duggie would like you to do.



Tribute Wall

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VM

Vicki Mathews posted:

Such a wonderful and kind teacher to everyone. Heaven gained a good one.

November 18 at 8:00 PM

KP

Krys M Bond (Pennell) posted:

Doc Heeter was the best thing that happened to Ferris State and myself. I graduated in 1982 with an insurance degree, among others. I returned to visit with Doc, after being away for nearly 10 years, and as I walked down the corridor of the business bui

July 13 at 8:00 PM

MH

Mark Heeter posted:

1 1/2 years without my good big brother. A unique addition to the life of all that knew him.

February 17 at 8:00 PM

MW

Michelle Littleson (Wellnitz) posted:

Always enjoyed seeing "Doc" at the Hockey games . He will be missed, my condolences

October 30 at 8:00 PM

RC

Roger Card posted:

So sorry to hear about Doc. He was a good friend of mine and I will miss seeing him at the Ferris football games.

August 13 at 8:00 PM

JD

John & Karen Deluca lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

Doc was the ultimate man's man. He was funny and quirky, smart and smart ass, and over all a person who could lead a conversation in a way that resulted in everyone being just a little smarter and happier. Doc set an example for all, smart, kind, happ

August 6 at 8:00 PM





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JM

Jeanette Munro posted:

Awesome Doc, in life as in the next one. It is nice to have known you.

August 6 at 8:00 PM

TD

Tim Palczewski And Mary Doran posted:

Pat and family, One of our favorite memories of Big Rapids was Bulldog hockey and the honor of sitting by Doc and Pat. The two of you as well as the others in that section made us feel at home even if I was a WMU alumnus! I always enjoyed talking with

August 4 at 8:00 PM

BC

Billy Craig posted:

So sorry to hear of the loss of one of BR's finest gentleman. He built a wonderful life and family and will be missed dearly- he was an incredible example of how to live a life the right way 😞

August 4 at 8:00 PM

JM

Jack Mitchell posted:

Doug was such a great guy, enjoyed him so much in our church PITTS group for many years.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

JW

Jean Wilkins lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

My heart feels for You and your whole family Mrs. Heeter!!!

August 4 at 8:00 PM



LS

Lisa Lyons-Stockley posted:

Sorry just doesn't ever seem enough. Mrs Heeter thank you for all you do and have done and I'm glad you had Mr Heeter there to do it with May he Rest In Peace

August 4 at 8:00 PM



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LB

Lianne Briggs posted:

My condolences to your family on the loss of Doc. He was a wonderful human being. I remember the warm welcome he gave me when I started at Ferris as well as kind words and support over the years.

August 1 at 8:00 PM

MH

Mike Hubbel posted:

Very sad. We had many fun times together through Gamma Iota Sigma and our insurance programs...many trips throughout the country, tubing on the Muskegon, and even the business meetings (even when business meetings are not supposed to be fun!). Best wishes

July 31 at 8:00 PM

DR

David Russell posted:

Doug was a warm, big-hearted man who gave generously to his community. I will always remember his friendly waves from his comfortable chair in the front window as I would walk past his house on summer afternoons.

July 31 at 8:00 PM

SC

Scott Cohen posted:

My condolences to Pat and the rest of the Heeter clan. I really enjoyed Doc the times I got to spend with him (such as a Tuba Bach Paella Dinner at his and Pat's house), and appreciated his support and generosity of so many diverse things in our comm

July 31 at 8:00 PM

KO

Karen Ottobre posted:

Dear Pat and Family, What a beautiful tribute to Doc you have written for him. What a wonderful life he lived, so full of love and adventure. I'll miss hearing about him even if I didn't see him. He was a great guy and I always loved, "s

July 31 at 8:00 PM



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ME

Michael Ells posted:

Loved Duggie! Will always remember his Mountain Man outfit at Bulldog Hockey games. We'll miss him.

July 31 at 8:00 PM

JH

Jill Haldeman posted:

Just a great guy. Spreader of laughter & joy. A man who made the world a better place. Love and peace to you Pat, and to all of your family as well.

July 31 at 8:00 PM

LH

Larry & Cj Higgins lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

Doc has been a long time friend and we will miss his smiling face. We met him through SCI in Mt. Pleasant and I'm not sure if he befriended us or vice versa. We were definitely connected by his and Larry's love of hunting. Doc was always our fi



July 31 at 8:00 PM

JC

Julie Cole lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

Doc was my favorite teacher of all in college. We shared a birthday, a love of hockey and I loved his sense of humor! I remember sitting in class and furiously highlighting the paragraphs in my text book that would be "TQs" (test questions on th



July 31 at 8:00 PM

RK

Robert Klueg posted:

Our sympathies to all the family at this time of loss. Bob & Nancy

July 31 at 8:00 PM



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JH

Jeff Harrold posted:

I am saddened by Doc's passing. I had him as a professor his first year at Ferris. He touched many lives and positively influenced many people in their insurance careers, mine included. Extending prayers of comfort and wishing peace to the family.

July 31 at 8:00 PM

DB

Dan Rothstein, Laura, Gus And Cecilia De Bold posted:

You will be missed Doc....enjoy the PITS party in heaven!

July 30 at 8:00 PM

VU

Velvet Underwood lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

Doug and his wife Pat were two of the first people I met when I moved to Big Rapids six years ago and went to Artworks to inquire about volunteering there. They both were so kind and friendly that I knew I wanted to develop a friendship with them. Over th



July 30 at 8:00 PM

BW

Betty Walston lit a candle in honor of Douglas.

So sorry for your loss Kari and Joe! Hugs to you!

July 30 at 8:00 PM



MH

Mark Heeter posted:

Always, Always, Always a Great Brother to me. A void I will not be able to fill.

July 30 at 8:00 PM

RS

Randy And Cheryl Stein posted:

I am saddened by this news because you want people like Doc to live forever. He and Pat have been huge support for our community and he will be sorely missed. Thank you Doc, Rest In Peace and enjoy the big hockey game in the sky ❤️

July 30 at 8:00 PM



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Karen Hogenson posted:

Farewell, my good neighbor. God's speed.

July 30 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Douglas by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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