



Steven Welken

February 13, 1974 - August 24, 2013

Steven Denver Welken, 39, Valley City, ND passed away August 24, 2013 from injuries sustained in an auto accident near his home.

Steve was born February 13, 1974 in Fargo to Larry and Deloris (Helland) Welken. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Valley City, ND. Steve graduated from Valley City High School and attended Valley City State University earning a degree in Business Administration with a minor in accounting. He worked briefly for Great Plains Software in Fargo, ND before joining Grotberg Electric Inc. in Valley City in 1996. He was named President of Grotberg Electric, Inc. in 2010.

Grotberg Electric was a second family for Steve. He was a devoted leader who always put others first. He could be counted on for integrity, honesty and compassion. Steve was proud to work as part of the Grotberg team.

Steve loved all sports and had a special passion for playing softball. Steve had strong ties to his alma mater Valley City State University where he taught accounting classes and spent countless hours promoting and volunteering. Steve believed in giving back to his community. He served on the VCSU Foundation Board, V-500 Club, Barnes County Development Board, Valley City Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club.

Steve married the love of his life, Erin Hultman, September 1, 2007 in Center City, MN. They were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Reanna age 4 and Kaelyn age 2. Steve's greatest personal accomplishments were marrying Erin and bringing their daughters into this world. Steve believed family came first in life. This was evident in the love and devotion he showed his wife and daughters every day. He will be deeply missed.

He is also survived by his parents, Larry and Deloris Welken, Valley City, ND; sister, Lisa (Bruce) Amundson, Abercrombie, ND; brother Brian (Georgia) Welken, Sanborn, ND; grandfather Denver Helland, Valley City; aunts Marlene (Tom) Sagaser, Jamestown, ND; Donna (Roger) Hentges, West Fargo, ND; uncles Dennis (Paula) Helland, Kathryn, ND; James (Anita) Welken, Wheatland, WY; Ivan Welken, Valley City, ND; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alan and Verna Hultman, Center City, MN; sisters-in law, Emily (Don) Honerbrink, Fargo, ND and Amber Hultman, Lindstrom, MN; brother-in-law Shane Hultman, Center City, MN; nieces Abbee Welken, Lexi Welken, Tegan Amundson, and Halle Welken; nephews Gavin Welken and Bryson Honerbrink. He was preceded in death by grandparents Mabel Helland and Leonard and Clara Welken, all Valley City, ND.

The funeral service for Steven Welken, 39, Valley City, ND, will be 10:30 A.M., Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse, Valley City State University Campus. Interment will be in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery, southwest of Valley City, at a later date.

Visitation will be held at the W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse on Tuesday from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. A prayer service will be held there beginning at 7:00. Visitation will continue an hour prior to the service on Wednesday morning.

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel has been entrusted with handing arrangements. Please share your thoughts or special stories in Steve's online

guestbook at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Zion Cemetery

3725 - 110th Ave. SE
Valley City, ND 58072

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Valley City State University W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse
Valley City, ND 58072

Prayer Service

AUG 27. 7:00 PM (CT)

Valley City State University W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse
Valley City, ND 58072

Funeral Service

AUG 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

Valley City State University W.E. Osmon Fieldhouse
Valley City, ND 58072

Tribute Wall



“ *Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven Welken*



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - August 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *To Erin and Family;*

I was stunned to hear of your loss and I know how overwhelming this is for you. I know there is nothing we can say to assuage your grief only that we will keep you and your family in our prayers and thoughts.

*My most heartfelt condolences
Jim Thomas*

Jim Thomas - September 03, 2013 at 07:23 PM

SM

“ *My deepest sympathy for you and your family, Erin. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Shannon (fellow JWMI student)

Shannon Mercier - September 01, 2013 at 11:30 PM

ML

“ Dear Deloris & family,

I am so sorry to hear of Steve's death. When I first heard the name, I knew right away it was your son. It's been a few years, but I still remember you talking about your kids! This evening my soon-to-be daughter-in-law asked if I had heard about the accident and said she works with Emily, so it really is a small world. My prayers go out to you and your family. I watched the tribute video and he really does have a precious family! HUGS!

Malinda Lindstrom

Malinda Lindstrom - August 29, 2013 at 09:55 PM

JB

“ Dear Erin and family,

Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We share in your sorrow. We ask God to show you His mercy at this difficult time and for the repose of Steve's soul.

*With love,
Jimmy and Cheryl*

jim bevins - August 28, 2013 at 09:14 PM

CK

“ Cook And Shelly Krump lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken



Cook and Shelly Krump - August 28, 2013 at 05:07 PM



“ *Rebecca Berntson lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken*



Rebecca Berntson - August 28, 2013 at 01:44 PM

JR

“ *A number of MEA's members know Steve and want to let his family, friends, and co-workers know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. He is remembered as an optimistic, smart, generous leader and will be missed. Your friends at the Minnesota Electrical Association*

Judi Rubin - August 28, 2013 at 11:14 AM

SM

“ *Welken, Hultman family,*

I had the opportunity to grow up and go to high school with Steve. It had been quite a few years since I had talked him but, when I did get see him, it was as if no time had past at all. As everyone knows, Steve put others and their needs ahead of his own. I am lucky enough to have a lot of wonderful memories of some great weekend hunts after friday night football games. My prayers and love to all of Steve's family and friends. The world has lost one cool, funny dude.

Scott and Roni McLeod

scott mcleod - August 27, 2013 at 07:59 PM

EC

“ Steve was barely out of college himself when he began volunteering as one of the early leaders in VCSU's expanding efforts to raise funds for scholarships and other important purposes. He exhibited a level of loyalty, persistence, and commitment far beyond his years and was an invaluable member of the university family. We reviewed a lot of numbers together! I enjoyed teasing him about his bachelorhood, and I enjoyed even more watching his relationship with Erin grow and flourish. He was a good person, and we are all the poorer for his loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Ellen Chaffee

Ellen Chaffee - August 27, 2013 at 06:11 PM

MB

“ I was deeply saddened when I heard about Steve's accident. He was a high school wrestling teammate of mine and then I played softball with him before moving away from Valley City. What I will remember about him is probably what many people will say about him, "He was one of the nicest guys you could ever know." Valley City lost a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Matt Berglund - August 27, 2013 at 05:11 PM

DB

“ Many hearts in Valley City are saddened today due to the untimely loss of a good friend, good citizen, and loving father and husband. Our sympathy extends to everyone whose life was touched by this vibrant young man. It is very difficult to find words that will comfort during such a tragic time. Please know that you are not walking this journey alone; others are remembering your son, husband, and father and praying for your comfort.

Diane Bjerke - August 27, 2013 at 02:52 PM

KC

“ *Karen Sandness Rice 1992 Classmate lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken*



Karen Sandness Rice 1992 Classmate - August 27, 2013 at 02:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 27, 2013 at 01:57 PM

DH

“ I remember Steve as a thoughtful boy who grew into a great man. He was a polite, quiet little kid. I recall his happiness the day he married Erin and how he blossomed as a father when Reanna and Kaelyn came into their lives. I think of Steve as being gentle and kind and I'll always remember his laugh... that little chuckle. Whenever he'd stop by our house I always seemed to have a small project for him, usually involving a ladder because Roger won't get on one (!). He'd cheerfully help clean the shower fan or replace a light bulb or whatever it was. His final project entailed he and Roger rehanging two large pictures over our open stairway. Needless to say, I should have stayed to supervise. I've looked at those pictures for over a year now and visualize those two with their heads tilted, proudly saying "that looks pretty good". Today the alignment of those pictures isn't so important to me but rather I look at them and think of Steve. Words can't express how much we'll miss him but oh those memories will be there forever. He was much too young to leave this world but the world is a better place because of him. I take comfort in knowing he's with his Grandma Mabel and cousin Jil and that together they're watching over us. We love you sooooo much, Steve!! Aunt Donna (Helland) & Uncle Roger Hentges

Donna Hentges - August 27, 2013 at 12:31 PM

DJ

“ Dave & Jeanne Johnsen lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken



Dave & Jeanne Johnsen - August 27, 2013 at 12:09 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 27, 2013 at 10:55 AM



“ *Erin -*

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Remember, you have friends everywhere who can and will help when you need it. Take care of your little ones and yourself. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.



Andrea Ball

Andrea Ball - August 27, 2013 at 10:46 AM



“ *The time I spent with Steve was very special. Steve brought strength and compassion to our discussions. I viewed him as tremendous leader. He was truly a great guy. I wish only the best for his family and friends.*

Deepest condolences from Dennis Kubica and family

Dennis Kubica - August 27, 2013 at 10:36 AM

LS

“ *Linda & Jason Stewart lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken*



Linda & Jason Stewart - August 27, 2013 at 10:15 AM

EC

“ *Larry & Delores & Family;*

I just read of your son Steve's tragic and untimely passing. I knew Larry from my old NWB and USW days. Our family pours out our sympathies to you in your loss and sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*E. John & Brenda Carlson
Oxbow, ND*

E John Carlson - August 27, 2013 at 09:19 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 27, 2013 at 08:56 AM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 27, 2013 at 08:47 AM



“ *On our first computer we had a Wheel of Fortune game. Steve would challenge me frequently and I always won. He just couldn't understand how I could figure out all those words. Well, he finally beat me. He was in grade school at this time but he was always striving to figure it out. Through the years whenever I watch Wheel of Fortune I would wonder which one of us would figure out the puzzle first. Yeah, most likely Steve with a chuckle at the end.*

Paula Helland

Paula Helland - August 27, 2013 at 07:28 AM



“ *Lisa Amundson lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken*



Lisa Amundson - August 27, 2013 at 07:10 AM

NP

“ Please know we hold you all close to our hearts. Steve was fair, loyal, kind, and extremely proud of his family and community. He has left a legacy of unselfishness and commitment to all those things, people, and ideas that will live on in all of us. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Matt, Nicole, Shayne and Cade Powers

nicole powers - August 27, 2013 at 12:37 AM

JO

“ Jerry(OZZIE) And Lea Oswald lit a candle in memory of Steven Welken



jerry(OZZIE) and Lea Oswald - August 26, 2013 at 10:20 PM

JO

Erin
Please know our hearts ache with the loss of Steve. He will be missed at the races where we were able to get to know him. Hugs and prayers. Blessings and Gods peace

jerry(OZZIE) and Lea Oswald - August 26, 2013 at 10:22 PM

DB

“ Erin....I'm so sorry for your loss. My fondest memories of Steve always include his infectious smile and awesome laugh. He was such a great guy. Never doubt that he will be with you always!

Diane Burr - August 26, 2013 at 10:05 PM

AK

Erin...my thoughts and prayers are with you and your girls. Take Care.

Anita Knipper - August 27, 2013 at 11:01 AM

HB

“ *Sending love from the JWMI family.*

Heidi Boyd - August 26, 2013 at 08:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 26, 2013 at 01:01 PM

LR

“ *Steve was a big part of our community and the VCSU Foundation. He was always committed to making things better today than they were yesterday. We enjoyed having him as a member of our team and benefited greatly from his leadership, expertise, and dedication. He was especially proud of Erin and the girls. He gleamed when we talked family and he couldn't wait to join them at the end of the day. I thoroughly enjoyed our many conversations. Steve was a special person in every way. He gave so much to so many. He will be missed. His family is in our thoughts and prayers. His passing is a big loss to our entire community.*

Larry Robinson, Executive Director, VCSU Foundation

Larry Robinson - August 26, 2013 at 12:55 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 26, 2013 at 12:20 PM



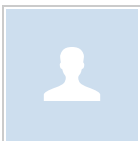
“ *To the entire family and the crew at Grotberg Electric,*

We are so very sorry to hear about Steve's death. I met Steve as part of our peer group. He helped us grow our business and we used to love to visit about strategy and learn about each others businesses. We will miss him dearly, as will the industry. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

*Red River Electric, Inc.
Clark Bernard, CEO*

Clark Bernard - August 26, 2013 at 11:45 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 26, 2013 at 11:18 AM

ST

“ *With deepest Sympathy and prayers to your family - brad and sue thornton*

sue thornton - August 26, 2013 at 11:09 AM

AN

“ *To the entire family of Steve,*

I am so very sorry to hear about the loss of such a dedicated family member. I am lost for words, but believe the one thing for sure that he is with Christ our Savior. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during such a most difficult time. By the sounds of it, Steve sounded like he had a life filled with a great amount of purpose, how wonderful is that....



Sincerely,

Amy (Sommers) Nelson & Kevin Nelson

Amy Nelson - August 26, 2013 at 09:17 AM

CB

“ *Larry, Deloris, and all of Steve's family, Shocked to read of Steve's death--please know my prayers are with you through this very difficult time.*

Carol Winter Bjorge

carol winter bjorge - August 26, 2013 at 09:17 AM

JS

“ *To the Welken Family,*

Prayers for your family in this time of loss. I enjoyed being around Steve on the softball field. He showed true sportsmanship toward his teammates and opponents alike.

John Schonert

John Schonert - August 26, 2013 at 08:26 AM

JA

“ *Brian and all the Welkin family:*

I was saddened by the news of Steve's passing. My heart felt condolences to all of you.

Jeff Aas

Jeff Aas - August 26, 2013 at 06:40 AM

KA

“ *My heartfelt sympathy to all of you in the this time of sorrow, you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Kristi Tait Anderson

Kristi Anderson - August 26, 2013 at 02:25 AM

NM

“ *Brian, Georgia and family,*

I am sorry to hear about Steve. Thinking of you and your family! You are in our thoughts and prayers!

Nancy Maresh Melo

Nancy Maresh Melo - August 25, 2013 at 10:28 PM

BE

Larry, Deloris, and family,

I am so very sorry to hear of Steve's passing. You are all very special to us and our love and prayers are with you during this time. He was a wonderful playmate, friend and neighbor. He will be truly missed by all.

Brenda Erber

Brenda Erber - August 26, 2013 at 10:49 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 25, 2013 at 08:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Steven Welken.*



August 25, 2013 at 07:31 PM

DD

“ We were so saddened by the news about Steve. All our thoughts and prayers go out to you all during this difficult time.

Dick & Cindy Dunsmore - August 25, 2013 at 06:49 PM

AO

“ Dear Family of Steve Welken,
We were saddened to hear the news of Steven's crossing over. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of mourning his loss and celebrating his life.

"When someone we Love becomes a Memory, the Memories become a Treasure."

Love is sent to you with our Thoughts and Prayers.

Allen & Fern Olson

Allen & Fern Olson - August 25, 2013 at 03:06 PM

DF

“ It is okay to be sad! It is okay to cry! But it is also okay to smile and remember the good times! Steve was a wonderful friend and a great supporter of VCSU Athletics. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Deb Feuerherm

Deb Feuerherm - August 25, 2013 at 12:19 PM



DS

“ I am so sorry to hear of this terrible news. Please accept my most sincere condolences on your loss.

Daniel Szpiro - August 25, 2013 at 10:38 AM



DK

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Steve. He was a great friend to VCSU and the community. His energy and friendship will be missed. God bless.*

David Klein - August 25, 2013 at 10:09 AM

AN

“ *Very sorry to hear of your lost of Steven he is in Heaven with our lord tonight*



arlene nelson - August 24, 2013 at 11:06 PM