

## Vernon Rinkel

December 26, 1940 - January 30, 2008

Vernon John Rinkel passed away on Wednesday, January 30th. Vern was born on December 26, 1940 in Hillman, Minnesota to Mercedes (Beumer) and George Henry Rinkel. Vern was an electrical engineer who worked for Western Union in Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Hawaii. He was an electronics teacher at Wadena Technical College for fifteen years. He believed in changing the world one mind at a time and valued each and every person, student or worker that he engaged. He was passionate about the environment and politics, and "never had a bad day in his life." Vern was a man committed to home, family and work. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Scully) Rinkel of Perham; four children Jeff (Sharyl), Michaela (Heidi), John (Kelly) and Andrea (Mike) Rinkel-Jessen; perfect grandchildren Jennifer, Patrick, Jessica, Kallia, Jarred and Ethan Rinkel; his siblings Ron (MaryAnn), Joyce (Lyle) Keehr, Marlys (Harry) McDonald, Ginny (Jim) Thorn, Gladys (Dale) Thompson and special brother Carl (Rosie) whose generous gift of a kidney made life both longer and more fulfilling. He is also survived by his other family of brothers and sisters-in-law; Dorothy (Tom) Noud, Jim (Anita) Scully, Larry (Marcy) Scully and Teresa Scully; mother-in-law Mildren Scully as well as many wonderful nieces and nephews. Vern was preceded in death by his parents; sister Carol Ham and nephew Jason Rinkel. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, February 4th at 11:00 AM in the St. Ann's Catholic Church with Fr. Donald Wagner as celebrant. Burial will take place in the Calvary Cemetery in Wadena.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Condolences to the family. I was just thinking about Vern at work this morning. He did a lot to instill both knowledge, and a great work ethic in us as his students. It was an honor to have him as an instructor at Wadena Tech. May he rest in peace. Dan Meyer.* ”

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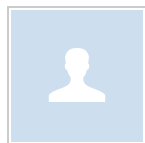
**Dan Meyer** - February 01, 2024 at 10:31 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the entire Rinkel family! May God bless and comfort you in your sorrow.* ”

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**Carla (Suchoski) Good** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My love and condolences to your family.* ”

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January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Andrea, our condolences to you and your family.* ”

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**Matt & Brenda Hamann** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I too learned a lot from Vern - I learned that it is true - we can build a house (X2) from a pile of sticks and bricks. I learned what love is really about - I learned to care about everyone and every where in the world -to act on my beliefs and to accomplish something every day. Unfortunately I did not learn his marvelous patience - and forbearance.

Vern loved every day that he lived and let everyone know it. He wanted to leave the world a better place than when he had come - and I believe he has - he lives on in many lives and as a tissue donor will continue to leave an impact.

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**Mary** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ What I learned from you:

*It's OK to show that you love your wife in front of the kids.*

*If you have an opinion - express it.*

*Are you part of the problem or part of the solution>*

*The scenic shortcuts are usually better!*

*Why run on the treadmill when you could split wood or mow the lawn.*

*Family matters.*

*There is no problem that can't be fixed.*

*You CAN do anything!*

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January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ *What a sad day for all of us! Vern has been part of our family for so many years. Words cannot express how we will all miss him. He was an encyclopedia of information on so many subjects, especially those having to do with nature, politics, and just plain common sense. We will miss all of this as well as the light and humor he brought into all of our lives. Our love and prayers are with you, Mary, Jeff, Michaela, John and Andrea.*

*Tom and Dorothy*

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**Tom and Dorothy Noud** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss of a husband, father, and above all a very good instructor and leader. I had the good fortune to have Vern as an instructor the first year he taught at the Wadena AVTI. I could not have asked for a better foundation for electronics. Vern hired me to teach Cable Television, I've always been thankful for that opportunity. As the department head for electronics Vern pushed us instructors to train all the students, no matter what the students learning abilities. I remember Vern telling us a failure was not only the fault of the student but also that of the instructor. I still live by this rule. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whole family.*

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**Douglas Schwartz** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ *Mary*

*We enjoyed the visit we had with you and Vern on our anniversary party. Vern will be missed by you and your family. He was an excellent employee, friend and Mary and I are blessed to have known him. We will keep you and your family in our prayers*

*We are so sorry that we will not be able to be there for Vern's service. He will be remembered by us for a long time and we will miss him. Give your family a hug for us.*

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**Lowell & Mary Rasmussen** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *John,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Love,  
The Prado Family*

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**Prado Family** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*I consider myself lucky to have known Vern. I also give credit to Vern on many of my successes and my ability to get a job after school.*

*Vern was more than just a teacher, or friends dad. He was an intelligent, fun (and sarcastic) guy we always liked to talk to... especially tech stuff.*

*You could always count on him for a good laugh when we would come over to your house.*

*Your Friend*

*Keven*

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**Keven Gunwall** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ *John and all my almost 2nd family,*

*Thank you for the notice. I am in a little shock as I'm sure you all are in different ways.*

*I was very moved yesterday evening during prayer - for those who lost someone close to them. So, I guess I was praying for all of you and didn't know it.*

*You are each in my prayers these next few days. I know you are swamped but give me a call if you have a minute so I can get your phone number. 320.266.6691*

*My love,  
Kurt*

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**Kurtis Gunwall** - January 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM