

**Hello, my name is Gerry Ricken and I am a recovering accountant.**

**I am also the most outwardly emotional person I have ever met, so bear with me as I cry through this. I even cried at George Brett's induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.**

**For me, it began on June 22, 1981. That was countless laughs, several tears, and about 35 pounds ago.**

**On that day, I started my 1<sup>st</sup> job out of college as an accountant at Arthur Young and Co.**

**Day 1, I met this cute girl with a contagious laugh named Ellen Kriegshauser.**

**I thought, hey, maybe I've got a shot here . . . until she told me about her Naval Officer boyfriend Dave Norburg.**

**Months later, I met Dave and as we got to know each other, and I nicknamed him The Admiral.**

**Ellen met The Admiral as a college junior when she used senior Mary Ernst's ID and went to the KU Senior Party in 1980 with her older sister Sheila. The guys outnumbered the girls 8 to 1 and Ellen scoped one of them out.**

**Sheila was upset, but I am happy because Ellen introduced me to her, along with the rest of her 27 sisters!**

**I was lucky enough to laugh with The Admiral; be in his wedding; we vacationed together; and raised our families together in Kansas City until we moved to St Louis in '95.**

**On our 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 1985, we decided to visit he and Ellen in Jacksonville, Florida. Ellen was out of town, so The Admiral was in**

**charge of us when we arrived. We arrived late and Sheila was pregnant with Mary Beth and was craving red meat.**

**The only thing she wanted was a steak. The Admiral took us to a great place. We ordered alligator appetizers, Sheila ordered her medium rare steak and The Admiral and I ordered seafood. Although it was late, everything was set for a great evening.**

**We had a drink and our appetizers and were waiting for our entrees. The waiter lowered the boom and told Sheila they were out of red meat. She immediately started to cry and The Admiral looked at me with a deer in the headlights look.**

**We left the restaurant in search of a steak and couldn't find one. At this point, the grocery stores were even closed. Being a gracious host, The Admiral made us sandwiches from the lunchmeat in the fridge.**

**That was his 1<sup>st</sup> indoctrination of the hormonal imbalance of pregnancy. I think it prepared him well for Ellen's future cravings.**

**The Admiral loved the Jayhawks!**

**In the Kriegshauser family, a friendly rivalry exists in the Big 12. Cut me and I'll bleed purple. Yes, I am a K-State Wildcat.**

**The Admiral, however, was fond of those fictitious birds in Lawrence. I understand his passion, since I have a mixed marriage with Sheila haling from the Flaw on the Kaw as well.**

**The Admiral and I often reminded each other of our victories when we played each other. Unfortunately I was more often the recipient of the phone call, especially in basketball.**

**Like every Jayhawk, he liked beating the Wildcats, but he LOVED beating Mizzou. Last fall, when the heavily favored Tigers met his beloved Jayhawks in Arrowhead, he called me during the game.**

**It was right after a key turnover by Mizzou when a close up of MU fan George Kriegshauser's anguished face was plastered on the TV.**

**The Admiral said, "At this point, even if lose, the look on George's face was priceless." Yes, he loved his 'Hawks.**

**The Admiral loved playing golf.**

**He was my favorite person to play with because he knew I was terrible and he insisted that we never keep score.**

**In the mid – 80's our in-laws purchased a resort chalet in Innsbrook about 3 hours east of Kansas City. That is where I first played golf with The Admiral, my father in law, and another brother in law - Chris Haffner.**

**Without exception, either The Admiral or Chris would hit the same out-of-bounds bridge. To this day there is disagreement as to whether this bridge in the Haffner Memorial Bridge or the Norburg Memorial Bridge.**

**One thing is for sure, it isn't the Ricken Memorial because I barely made it past the ladies tees on that hole.**

**The Admiral loved family gatherings, whether on the Norburg or Kriegshauser side of the family.**

**Ellen is actually one of six girls and almost all of the grandkids are girls as well.**

**Can you say outnumbered?**

**The Kriegshauser gatherings typically consisted of all the strong-willed German women making it all happen while the outnumbered guys followed directions or took refuge.**

**The Admiral had a knack for finding a place for the guys to hang out, drink a few beers, talk sports, have fun, and just be guys.**

**The Admiral loved friends and family.**

**He was a man of commitment, courage, humor, strength, faith, hope and most of all love.**

**Ellen, he loved you with all his heart and would walk through walls for you.**

**Matt, Casey and Molly, your Dad's love for you and pride of your accomplishments was unmatched.**

**On behalf of the entire Norburg and Kriegshauser families, we wish thank each and every one of you for your continued love, support, and prayers for Dave, Ellen, Matt, Casey and Molly.**

**Please join me in a final salute to The Admiral.**