

**JEFFREY CONN**  
**1939 - December 1, 2022**



Muskegon lost one of its outstanding citizens this week when Jeffrey Howard Conn died at the age of 83 after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease. Jeff was an integral part of the Muskegon community where he lived and made his home for 56 years.

Jeff started his career at Coopers & Lybrand, a Big 8 accounting firm in New York City and in 1974 and went on to establish his own accounting firm in Muskegon, Jeffrey H. Conn CPA. For 44 years, he provided trusted financial advice for individuals and

businesses contributing to building a vital business community in Muskegon and the surrounding areas imparting what he felt was clear cut advice - "always spend less than you make." When it came to his clients, nothing made him happier than to find a way to beat the IRS.

To know Jeff was to know his passion for golf. He enjoyed a regular five-some at the Muskegon Country Club with Buzz Kersman, Dick Shantz, the late Fred Livingston, and the late Bob Hilleary. They travelled together with their wives, Wendy, DJ, Jeannie and Bobbie to play the great courses of the world. Jeff could recall just about any shot he made on any hole at any course. He was a skilled golfer who made a hole-in-one in 1990 on the 11th hole of the Muskegon Country Club with his trusty 6 iron and won a number of golf tournaments in the 80's and 90's. Jeff's rules of golf were to 1. Play fast 2. Swing slow 3. Count to 2 at the top of your swing 4. And keep your head down ...damn it You could make a case that these are the rules by which he also lived his life.

Jeff was born in 1939 in Davenport, Iowa to Ruth and Mickey Conn. He stayed in the Quad cities and grew up in Rock Island, Illinois starring on the basketball and football team at Rock Island High. In fact, Jeff played basketball at "Rocky High" with basketball legend and NBA Hall of Famer, Don Nelson.

After high school he attended Dartmouth College ROTC- Navy. Perhaps an ironic choice of military branch since he was afraid of the water. He was a proud "Dartmouth man" and member of Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity and earned his BS and MBA in economics and finance that helped to set him on his way to his successful career in accounting and business consulting.

Jeff was more than just an accountant to his clients; he was a confidante who often helped them think through and make general business decisions that they could bank on. Jeff's nickname was "Grumpy Jeff" - not made up by his family, but a waitress at The Hearthstone and the name stuck. At first blush, he was maybe a little grumpy, but was really a kind-hearted, generous man who contributed to the Muskegon community as an active member of Jr. Achievement and Big Brothers.

Not surprisingly, family was central to Jeff's life. In 1961 he married Ilana Kean, and had his first child, Amy in 1964. He had two more children, Wendy, born in 1967 and Adam, born in 1970. His children describe him as a dedicated, supportive, and loving father and he truly held a special place in his heart for his grandchildren-all girls and the light of his life. Following his divorce to Ilana Kean in 1977, Jeff married Lois Cole Nofsinger in 1982, and Jan Kleiner in 2006. Jeff had an amazing zeal for life and was a fighter to the end.

Those who knew him called out his wonderful wit and sly sense of humor. When you spent time with Jeff, you better pay attention, or you might miss a gem. He is survived by his wife, Jan Conn; his sister, Marsha Conn; his children, Amy Conn Tenny, Wendy Frantz, and Adam Conn; and his grandchildren, Jessica, Liz and Zoe Tenny, and Emily and Laura Frantz.

A memorial service and, of course, a golf tournament in his honor will be held in the spring at The Muskegon Country Club to benefit [The Parkinson's Foundation](#) and the [National Multiple Sclerosis Society](#). If you want to honor Jeff, the family suggests that donations in Jeff's memory be made to the [National Multiple Sclerosis Society](#) [www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org) or [The Parkinson's Foundation](#) [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org). Please visit [www.clockfuneralhome.com](http://www.clockfuneralhome.com) to leave a memory or sign the online guestbook.

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