



MERNIS ARDEN ASHPOLE

July 19, 1935 -July 27, 2024

God summoned our father's soul to Heaven and for the remainder of our lives, as it has been on Earth, we will continue to look up to him.

On a farm in Brainerd, Minnesota, Mernis Arden Ashpole was born to Gertrude Zona (Love) and Lloyd William Ashpole. He was the first son for the couple and oldest brother to Patti, James, Connie and Cherrie.

When he was 15 years old his family moved to Rochester, Minnesota and it was in the halls of Rochester High School that he met our mother, Sue Ann Smeeton. In his words, "She was the best thing that ever happened to me." He and our mother married in August of 1957, and he remained enchanted with her for 72 years. Our father's devotion and respect for our mother is forever etched in our minds. Together our parents nurtured three children; Ann, Amy and Mikeal and together our parents provided most everything we wanted and exemplified everything we really needed.

Mernis was a Minnesota All American State Champion swimmer, and he was a hero among his classmates. He also attended the University of Minnesota. He dedicated 35 years to the JCPenney Company and was a loyal company man. He loved to fish, golf and hunt and had many long-lasting friendships.

To our family he was our brave and trusted leader, our role model, a deep thinker and problem solver. He was honest and fair and a positive force in our family. He was a gentleman who lived his life by The

Golden Rule, he had faith in God, and he was grateful for all that he had. He could break a large apple in half with his bare hands and he was a proud and loving Bapa to 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He is now and forever in our heart and in our mind.