



Gordon Jay DenOuden

October 28, 1954 - January 16, 2025

Gordon Jay DenOuden, age 70, of DeMotte, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 16, 2025, in Crown Point, Indiana.

Born on October 28, 1954 in Modesto, California, Gord was the son of Rev. Bernard and Dorothy (Dekker) DenOuden. He graduated from Calvin College, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology/psychology. Gord had a distinguished career, working for almost 25 years at Herman Miller, finishing as the General Manager of Rocklin Operations. He later retired from Pivot Interiors as the Vice President of Service Operations.

On November 30, 1979, Gord married Cynthia Vandermeer. He was a dedicated member of the Community Church of Roselawn and an active participant in the Calvinist Cadet Corps. Outside of his professional life, Gord had a deep love for collecting stamps and spending time with his grandkids. He also enjoyed reading, fishing, playing games, and working on puzzles.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy DenOuden; their son, Jeremy & Jaclyn DenOuden, grandchildren, Ramona, Henry, Calvin; daughter, Jennifer & Dan Broersma, grandchildren, Alida, Marijke, Pieter; and son, Justin DenOuden. Gord is also survived by his brother, David DenOuden; his sister, Evonne (Doug) Wesseldyke; and numerous extended family members and in-laws.

He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Beverly Becksvoort, and brother-in-law Rev. Benjamin Becksvoort.

In keeping with Gord's wishes, he will be cremated, with Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte handling arrangements.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 26, 2025 from 1:00 until 3:00 pm at Community Church in Roselawn, Indiana.

A second visitation will take place at First CRC in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Saturday, February 1, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM, followed by a Celebration of Life service at 4:00 PM with a reception afterward.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Calvinist Cadet Corps or DeMotte Christian Schools.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 26. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Community Christian Reformed Church
10498 N 450 E
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 345-3388
<http://www.communitychurchroselawn.com>

A Time of Remembrance

FEB 1. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Reformed Church
651 M.L.K. Jr St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
<http://firstcrc.org/>

Memorial Service

FEB 1. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Christian Reformed Church
651 M.L.K. Jr St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
<http://firstcrc.org/>

Tribute Wall

“ Dear Cindy and Family,

My heart goes out to you all during this incredibly difficult time.

Gord was more than just a mentor and boss—he was a friend, a leader, and an inspiration. I will always cherish the memories we shared, from the walks around our building in the early mornings, talking about life, to the simple joys of having him and you, Cindy, over for dinner at our home. Jennifer and I felt so happy to have you both there, just kicking off our shoes and enjoying each other’s company.

Of all the great times we had, I have to bring up one that still makes me laugh to this day—our work trip to a 49ers game. Jeremy was along for the ride, and let’s just say... he really enjoyed himself. Maybe a little too much. By the end of the game, lol Jeremy was not feeling his best, but Gord? He handled it like the incredible dad he was—no scolding, no frustration, just a knowing shake of the head and that classic Gord smile that said, Well, lesson learned! It was a moment that showed just what kind of father he was—patient, understanding, and always able to find humor in life’s little hiccups.

Gord led with heart, whether in his career, his friendships, or his family. He was someone I admired not just professionally, but personally. His impact on my life is immeasurable, and I will miss him dearly., the laughter, and, of course, the unforgettable “Gord Bucks” with his face on them—these are the moments that will stay with me forever. He had such a special way of making people feel valued and appreciated, and his kindness extended far beyond the workplace. I’ll always remember how fondly he spoke of you, Cindy, the kids, and the grandkids. And who could forget your deviled eggs and cherry cheesecake.

Gord was a remarkable man, one who led with integrity and heart. He taught me so much—not just about work, but about what it means to be a great leader, a devoted husband, and an incredible

father. He set an example that I will carry with me always.

I hope you find comfort in the legacy he leaves behind and the countless lives he touched. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, and if there is anything I can do to support you, I am here.

Jennifer and I will be watching the live service from afar, and while we may not be there in person, please know that we are there with you all in spirit—honoring and remembering a truly remarkable man.

*With deepest sympathy,
Rick and Jen Holder*

Rick Holder - February 01, 2025 at 12:16 AM

KT

“ Kevin and Terri Tibbetts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gordon Jay DenOuden.

Kevin and Terri Tibbetts - January 31, 2025 at 11:52 AM

KT

“ Kevin and Terri Tibbetts purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Gordon Jay DenOuden.



Kevin and Terri Tibbetts - January 31, 2025 at 11:52 AM

TS

“ *The Office of the General Secretary purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gordon Jay DenOuden.*



The Office of the General Secretary - January 28, 2025 at 06:00 PM

AF

“ *I worked for/with Gord for many years in Rocklin. He was a very special person, dedicated to his folks, creating a great environment. Lots of fun memories ... including the time he was holding a site meeting and crickets crawled up his pant leg (serious dance moves) and the time mice got into his flipper cabinet and ate his paperwork. For a big guy, he really was horrified by mice. My heartfelt condolences.*

Ann Finegan - January 19, 2025 at 02:12 PM

CC

“ *I worked at Herman Miller in Rockland with Gord. He was such an upstanding man with core values and what I remember most is his hearty laugh.*

Cathy Cruz - January 19, 2025 at 12:10 PM

TW

“ *I remember working with Gord when he ran Rocklin for Herman Miller. he was always a man of integrity and Compassion and I respected him and admired the man. I felt privileged to call him a friend. RIP big guy you will be missed*

Tom Widlits - January 18, 2025 at 08:44 PM

NB

“Gord was a good friend since 1988. We have worked together in 3 different companies—main one is Herman Miller in Irvine and Rocklin CA.

I was very fortunate to work with Gord as he was a great human being full of integrity, love, and peace. He established a family atmosphere and working together environment wherever he worked in a place. He was kind man with pure heart and a peacemaker. He was very rarely when he gets angry.

God Have mercy on his soul.

My prayers and thoughts are with Cindy, Jeremy, Jennifer, and Justin and may God comfort all family members.

Nagi Badroos

Nagi Badroos - January 18, 2025 at 06:51 PM

NB

“Nagi, Hanan, Andrew, and Jean Badroos planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gordon Jay DenOuden.

Nagi, Hanan, Andrew, and Jean Badroos - January 18, 2025 at 06:13 PM

NB

“Nagi, Hanan, Andrew, and Jean Badroos purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gordon Jay DenOuden.



Nagi, Hanan, Andrew, and Jean Badroos - January 18, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ I will always be grateful for Gord, the man who took a chance on me and changed the course of my life. When I was searching for an opportunity, he saw something in me and gave me a shot when others might not have. That decision set me on a path that led to where I am today. Without him, I wouldn’t have had the experiences, the growth, or the confidence that I now carry with me.

His passing is a tremendous loss, but his impact remains. I was lucky to have worked for him.

And of course, I will never forget his deviled eggs recipe—it was just as legendary as he was. He was, without a doubt, the best boss I ever had.

Juan Revuelta - January 18, 2025 at 05:19 PM

BB

“ Gord was a dear friend and colleague for 40 years. He so loved his family and his years with Herman Miller.

Bill Bundy - January 18, 2025 at 03:51 PM

BB

I add, Gord and I often recalled the day I called him in Rocklin, Ca from Michigan to tell him “you’re the guy”. It was my way of telling him he had been selected and promoted to lead the Herman Miller Rocklin facility. He led so well and he loved his team.

Bill Bundy - January 18, 2025 at 04:00 PM

AH

When I first met Gord, he and Cindy were visiting HMI Irvine, CA. Cindy was pregnant with Jennifer and Jeremy was just a little guy, clinging to his mom's leg. We were more than co-workers, but truly friends. During my time of loss, I don't remember much, but I remember seeing Gord and Cindy at the service, providing me with love and comfort. I can't believe my friend is gone. But I celebrate that he is now with the Lord. Gord, you made a difference to many of us. Your work here is done. Rest my friend. Rest.

Aneatra Harper - January 18, 2025 at 05:02 PM

KF

After working with Gord in the nonprofit arena, it became very clear to me that he was one of the most competent and caring persons I ever worked for. He was more than a boss. He was a good friend that went to bat for you when it was needed. I was sad when he moved to back to California. One of the "Good guys"

Ken Frederick - January 18, 2025 at 08:36 PM

JF

What an amazing man. He never was unwilling to listen and give his advice. Thank you Sir for the time we shared.

Joel French - January 27, 2025 at 02:25 PM

DE

I worked with Gord back in the late 80's. The SF bay was hit with a serious earthquake in '89 and I was managing WDI's installation team in San Jose (later purchased by Space Designs Inc. which became the current Pivot Interiors.). In the Salinas area there was need for an earthquake support center and Herman Miller Rocklin provided the furniture to us to install. It was always a pleasure working with Gord even up to the time he retired from Pivot Interiors. Always a smile on his face and an idea to do something to benefit others. Will certainly miss Gord. He was a treat for all of us who got to spend time with him. I was lucky to have him in my life for 36 years. Best, Dennis Oliver

dennis - February 01, 2025 at 01:18 PM