



Charlie and Toni Berkel

CHARLES J. BERKEL

1925 - 2013 |Obituary|

Charles J. Berkel, 88, Chairman of the Board and Founder of Berkel & Company, passed away November 4, 2013. Mr. Berkel was born May 10, 1925, in Muskegon, Mich., the third of six siblings born to Tena and Herman Berkel. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Antoinette "Toni" Berkel; son, Dana Stephen Berkel; brothers, Kenneth Berkel and Richard Berkel; and sisters, Ruth Graves and Viola Hoeksema. He is survived by his sisters, Roberta Lorenz and Hazel Whittaker, his daughters, Glori Berkel of Mission, Kan., and Danielle (Keith) Uhrmacher of Shawnee, Kan., and his son, Stephen (Siobhan) of Margate, Fla., and grandchildren, Melinda Maples, and Zak, Tzana, and Natalia Berkel. Mr. Berkel was proud to have held a job since the young age of 12. While in junior high, he worked as a paperboy for the Muskegon Chronicle. He graduated from Muskegon High School and enlisted in the Navy's V-12 program. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and was commissioned as an ensign - an officer - in the U.S. Navy. After serving his country, Mr. Berkel began his career in deep foundation construction working for Intrusion-Prepakt in Chicago. During his employment there, he was the project engineer for the first commercial project supported on Auger Pressure Grouted Piles (APG) in the United States. While working in Chicago, he met the love of his life, Antoinette "Toni" Strauss. They were wed in June of 1948. Mr. Berkel was transferred to Kansas City in 1951. And, eight years later, he resigned from Prepakt. With Toni's assistance - and working out of the basement of their home - Mr. Berkel started his own company specializing in Pressure Grouting and the installation of Auger Pressure Grouted (APG) piles. From that beginning, Mr. Berkel grew Berkel & Co. into one of the largest piling contractors in the U.S., with six regional offices in addition to its national headquarters in Bonner Springs, Kan. Mr. Berkel was a leader in the Kansas City community sharing his wisdom, his time, and his means, particularly with Catholic organizations and with those in need. He served on numerous boards including: the University of Saint Mary; Brotherhood Bank and Trust; Providence Hospital; St. Joseph Care Center; United Way of Wyandotte County; Wyandotte Mental Health; national, state and local chambers of commerce; Villa Saint Francis; and the National Agricultural Hall of Fame Center. Mr. Berkel was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Railway Bridge and Building Association, Sierra Club of Kansas City, Knights of Columbus, Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, Knights of Malta, and Sacred Heart Parish. Throughout his career, Mr. Berkel received numerous awards including Ernst &

Young's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2008, the Deep Foundation Institute's 2007 Distinguished Service Award, and the Boy Scout District Recipient Award of Merit and Silver Beaver Award. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of industrial science from the University of Saint Mary. Mr. Berkel loved to work and wasn't sure what to do when he wasn't working. In many ways, his work defined him. He worked hard and generously shared the rewards of his efforts. He built a strong company based on integrity, loyalty and hard work. He has left his company in the hands of his faithful employees, many of whom were like family to him. The family will receive visitors and friends from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Shawnee, Kan., with the Rosary at 7:30 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 8, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment will follow at the Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kan. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Mr. Berkel's name to the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan., the Sister Servants of Mary, Kansas City, Kan., or Sacred Heart Church. Arr.: Alden-Harrington Funeral Home, (913) 422-4074. aldenharrington.com

Published in Kansas City Star from Nov. 6 to Nov. 7, 2013

ANTOINETTE DOROTHY BERKEL

1224-2006 | Obituary |

SHAWNEE — Antoinette Dorothy (Toni) Berkel, 81, of Shawnee died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006, at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday by the Rev. Craig Maxim at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment followed at Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa. Visitation and the rosary were Sunday at the church.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the Sisters, Servants of Mary, the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the University of St. Mary, the Catholic Charities, or the Villa St. Francis all in care of the Alden-Harrington Funeral Home 214 Oak St. Bonner Springs KS 66012 (913) 422-4074.

Mrs. Berkel was born Dec. 26, 1924, in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of Antoinette and Stanley Strauss. She was a devoted and loving housewife for 57 1/2 years, and had also worked as the treasurer for Berkel & Company Contractors Inc. She volunteered her time in the intensive care unit for many years at Providence Medical Center and was an extremely gifted artist, a wonderful cook, animal lover and she loved to shop. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and a Lady Commander of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dana Stephen Berkel, in 1968 and is survived by her husband of more than 57 years, Charles J. Berkel of the home; two daughters, Gloriann N. Berkel of Overland Park, and Danielle A. Uhrmacher of Leavenworth and her husband, Keith, of Leavenworth County, Kan.; and one son, Stephen C. Berkel of Margate, Fla., and his wife, Siobhan; and four grandchildren, Melinda, Zak, Tzana and Natalia.

Published January 23, 2006