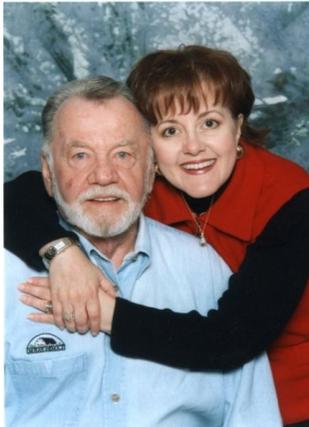




A memorial to the music ministry has
been given to
Spirit of Hope Church
in memory of
Joseph Donald Popelka

June 28, 1932 - September 3, 2011

“Don” was born in Virginia, Minnesota, to Joseph and Yolanda Popelka. He was an only child for 12 years before being blessed with a baby brother, Michael, whom he doted on. He was part of a large extended family who lived in Virginia, including all the Agamenoni and Popelka relatives.



He graduated from high school in 1948 and proceeded to Virginia Junior College. He then attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, graduating in 1956. He was offered a full scholarship by MCAD to continue his studies in fine art for painting, but chose to enter the work force as a commercial artist. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1956 and

served in Germany until 1958.



Upon his return, he married Gwendolyn Boe. They had four children, Mary, Elizabeth, Therese, and Christopher. In the late 1960s, he became sole proprietor of Popelka and Associates. He was passionate about hunting and fishing and shared this love with countless family and friends.

Don loved to cook and was considered by many to be a “grill master”! Food was an important aspect of his family life, from the time he was little and sneaking food from Nona’s kitchen to the rituals he created for his own children during the Christmas season.

The 1990s brought immeasurable joy to Don, through his marriage to his wife, Susan Hofflander, and the addition to his family of two step-daughters, Caroline and Mary Kay. The raising of a new family was a delight for him, not to mention his elation at the arrival of his beloved grandchildren, Katie, Samantha, Paige, Kyle, and Meta.



In the last months of his life, Don was surrounded by his family and dear friends. He maintained his sense of humor, love of food, and joy of having those he loved at his side.