



A lasting memorial has been given to  
**Spirit of Hope Church**  
in memory of  
**George E. Klouda**  
February 5, 1924 - December 5, 2010



George was born in Hopkins, Minnesota. He was valedictorian of Harley Hopkins Grade School in 8th grade. He organized the Hopkins High School golf team. He caddied, like his brothers, Ed and Charlie, at Interlachen Country Club, and he often caddied for golfing legend Patty Berg. In 1942 he was the State High School Golf Champion.

He worked for a short time at Minneapolis Moline with his dad. He joined the U.S. Army and they sent him to Cornell for three semesters. They then sent him to England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany. He was eventually made a medic, serving with a Combat Engineer unit. His was the unit that captured the Bridge at Remagen. He was sitting in the hold of a ship in Marseille, France, waiting to ship out to the Pacific when the first atomic bomb was dropped.

Upon discharge in 1946, he enrolled at the University of Minnesota and joined the golf team. He rode the streetcar from Hopkins to the "U" and back every day. He earned two letters in golf at the "U" and was the last surviving member of the 1946 University of Minnesota golf team. He worked part time at the Bureau of Veterans Affairs office where he met Marilyn Hoag. They were married in August of 1947. Upon graduation he joined American Hardware Mutual Insurance Company. He earned his CPCU designation in a year and a half. They had one child, Gary. In 1955 he joined Mutual Creamery Insurance Company, which at the time was losing business to large creamery co-ops. He was employee number ten, and he eventually led the company to well over 400 employees.

George was a director of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, a director of the Richfield Bank and Trust Company, and twenty-year member of the Worker's Reinsurance Association. He belonged to the Disabled American Veterans, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Masons, the Shriners, and was a long-time golfing member of Golden Valley Country Club. In 1975 he played in the Westchester Classic Golf Tournament Pro-Am with Gibby Gilbert. During his golfing years he had three holes in one.

He looked after family and treated his employees as family. He enjoyed winter in Florida, sitting on the balcony watching dolphins swim by and pelicans diving for fish.

George and his wife Marilyn were a loved, long-time part of the Golden Valley Methodist Church family, which is the current Spirit of Hope.

