

Mueller's death felt by many

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By Jim Bastian, Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - If you ask anyone who knew Al Mueller, the words that they all mention are "sincere, honest and caring."

Mueller died Tuesday night at the age of 89.

"He was a very decent, sincere friend of mine," former New Ulm mayor Carl "Red" Wyczawski said. "I met him many years ago. Al personified the true word of friendship. He was one of those people who never had an enemy - never said anything bad about anyone. He was a very generous individual. He proved that with the donation for Mueller Park. If there was any legacy that he left behind it would be a testament to his true friendship to the community. He loved New Ulm but he was also well-liked across the state as he was a member of the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame."

Herb Schaper, another long-time friend of Mueller also used the word "sincere" when describing Mueller.

"He was a sincere, wonderful man," Schaper said. "He was generous and shared his time, talent and resources to the benefit of his hometown and mankind. Although he was very humble in being selected to the Minnesota State Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, he was especially honored by that award and the Sertoma Service to Mankind recognition."

Mueller was also a supporter of high school athletics in New Ulm and especially of Minnesota Valley Lutheran, where he would be in the front row at Charger basketball games.

"He was a great guy," MVL athletic director and boy's basketball coach Craig Morgan said. "When he came to games he always had a smile on his face - he always had something positive to say to you and about your team or school. He was just a nice man. He was great for our community. He gave his time to his church also."

Mueller was also a member of the New Ulm Baseball Association for many years.

His smile was always present at games.

"He was also a big Gustavus fan," Wyczawski said. "He was very supportive of MVL and just a super guy."

Mueller was also a person who did not want attention drawn to himself.

"I remember when [former New Ulm City Manager] Dick Salvati and I were working on the committee for Mueller Park that never wanted any publicity - he wanted to be behind the scenes. We are losing a great person."

Mueller was also a gentleman who was genuine.

"There was nothing phony about him," Wyczawski said. "He was down to earth. And he was very modest."

Mueller was the kind of person that is very rare nowadays. He cared more about other people than himself. He was as genuine as any person could ever be.

New Ulm lost more than just a man Tuesday.

They lost a dear friend.