



Bill Ferns

August 15, 1932 - June 25, 2014

Bill J. Ferns, age 81, of Spirit Lake, passed away Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at Avera-McKenna Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was born on August 15, 1932, in Sioux City, Iowa, to Will and Florence (Goodman) Ferns. Bill graduated from Anthon High School in 1950, and Buena Vista University with a B.A. Degree in 1954, while lettering in football and baseball. On August 18, 1954, Bill was inducted into the Army, where he was stationed in Germany and playing football for the 9th Division.

Bill spent 33 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in Iowa and Minnesota, before retiring in 1990. In 2006, he received a Distinguished Athletic Award and was inducted into the Buena Vista University Hall of Fame. Bill was a member of the American Legion in Milford, Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park, where he was very active in church activities, the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners. He enjoyed spending his spare time fishing, hunting, and having coffee with his friends. Bill was always willing to help in any manner he could!

Bill is survived by two sons, Chris Ferns of Orlando, Florida, and Doug Ferns, and his wife, Tammy of Sartell, Minnesota; sister, Virginia Harder of Centennial, Colorado; two grandchildren, Brandon and Bria Ferns of Sartell, Minnesota; nephews, Kent Harder of Littleton, Colorado, and Brad Harder, and his wife, Kathy of Centennial, Colorado; nieces, Maribeth Pethoud, and her husband, Gary of Littleton, Colorado, Jo Lynn Bender, and her husband, Rev. Harold of West Alms, Wisconsin, and Kerri Walenta, and her husband,

Jeff of Olney, Maryland; and brother-in-law, Al Draegert of Centennial, Colorado. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, LaVonne Draegert; and nephew, Pat Harder.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00A.M. Monday, June 30, 2014, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park. Visitation will be held Sunday, from 5:00P.M. until 7:00P.M. at the Schuchert Funeral Home. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery in Anthon, Iowa. Memorials may be given in Bill's name to Calvary United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 280, Arnolds Park, Iowa, 51331. The Schuchert Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

SP

“ *Mr Ferns was my high school principal(class of 1975) and later my boss after he recruited me to come and teach ag under him at Round Lake, Mn. He always impressed me as a stern yet fair principal that was certainly "in charge". He also was my "drivers ed" instructor showing great patience and humor. He always had a hunting or fishing story to tell.*

Scott Place - June 30, 2014 at 05:51 PM

PW

“ *Mr. Fern was the principal at Round Lake High School when I was in high school. I remember him as being a very honest and fair person. My sympathy to the family.*

Paula Wagley - June 30, 2014 at 05:28 PM

JE

“ *Sorry to hear about Bill, a really nice guy. Played football with him at Buena Vista and kept our friendship going when he coached at Paullina and I coached at Sutherland. We also attended summer school together in Colorado in the late 60's.*

Julian Erickson - June 29, 2014 at 10:27 PM

TA

“ *I WAS BLESSED TOO HAD KNOWN BILL ,HE HAD SUCH A BIG HEART AND WOULD DO SO MUCH FOR OTHERS.AND IT TRUELY MADE HIS DAY WHEN MY HUSBAND DAVE ASKELSON ASKED HIM TOO BE HIS BEST MAN IN OUR WEDING ,IT WAS THE BEST.LOVE YOU BILL AND MISS YOU!!!*

TONIA ASKELSON - June 29, 2014 at 09:17 AM

DA

“ *Bill Ferns was a very special man and would do anything for anybody he was my fishing buddy and best friend ! I will treasure all the wonderful memories that we have shared together he was like a second father too me. Love you and miss you.*

Dave Askelson - June 29, 2014 at 09:13 AM

CS

“ *Bill Ferns*

Chad Schuchert - June 28, 2014 at 01:53 PM

PR

“ *Dear family of Bill,
What was said in the obituary is very true. I help the town of Orleans out and Bill was always there to help me out. He watered our little patch of grass by his home and always willing to share his produce. Bill will be missed by many. Prayers to you all.*

Peggy Rick - June 27, 2014 at 10:14 PM