



Delbert "Del" Leiss

January 28, 1927 - December 24, 2014

Delbert "Del" Leiss, age 87 of Arnold's Park, died on December 24, 2014 at his home. Funeral services will be 2:00 PM Monday at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, with burial at the Okoboji Cemetery in Arnold's Park. Visitation will be 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM Sunday at Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.

Delbert (Del) John Leiss, son of Henry and Alvina (Winnie) Schmoker Leiss was born on January 28, 1927 on the family farm in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Delbert was the fifth of eleven children born to Henry and Winnie. He graduated from the Fort Dodge High School in 1945 where he played football and wrestled. The Leiss family enjoyed hosting the Barnum & Bailey circus on the family farm each year. The many hours working on the family farm growing up developed Del's strong work ethic. Following high school, Del served in the United States Army from 1945 to 1946. Upon returning from the Army Del was employed by the Iowa National Guard. In 1950 Del married Dorothy Dahlquist in Fort Dodge. Del & Dorothy were blessed with 5 children: Mark, Douglas, Doyle, Connie, and Rhonda.

The couple moved to the Iowa Great Lakes in 1956. Del was employed as a Field Representative for Mobil Oil. In 1957 Del & Dorothy purchased the Mobil Gas station in Arnolds Park from Bill & Carolyn Stolley. The station was operated until 1965 when a new station was built to include a Lounge. Del's

Mobil and Lounge was a local hangout known for morning coffee, cards, a beer after work, and great memories! Del and Dorothy sold the property in 1988 after 31 years in business. Del's other business ventures included owning and operating Hackett's Resort, and for a brief time, a portion of the Arnolds Park Amusement Park.

During Del's time in business he also served on the Arnolds Park City Council, and the Arnolds Park Fire Department. He had the task of being Fire Chief during the Tornado of 1968. In 1977, Del and Dorothy had the great honor of being named the University of Okoboji Homecoming King and Queen. During his retirement years, Del enjoyed time on Emerald Hills Golf Course, where he was a charter member. Del could also be found at many sporting events, cheering on his grandkids. The TV at Dels was always tuned to the Twins games, or Hawkeye Football. Del also had many fond memories of camping, travel, and years of companionship with his special friend, Betty Smith.

Del was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 384, Milford, Iowa.

Del was preceded in death by his parents, Henry & Winnie Leiss. His wife, Dorothy. Four brothers; Kenneth, Eldo, Dale, and Billy. Three sisters: Delores, Verla, and Colleen.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Mark (Alice) Leiss of Spirit Lake, Doug (Janis) Leiss of Arnolds Park, Doyle (Darlene) Leiss of Spirit Lake and Sioux City, Connie Rice of Milford, Rhonda (Todd) Burgeson of Milford.

Sisters; Rosie Denny of Anoka, MN, Gladys Fuller of Fort Dodge, IA, Donna Gartin of Callender, IA. Special friend, Betty Smith of Milford, IA.

Grandchildren: Craig (Jody) Ferguson of Johnston, Iowa. Julie (Chad) Mitchell of Reno, NV. Sondra (Marc) Ripperger of Albuquerque, NM. John (Renae) Miller of Seargent Bluff, IA. Tyson Leiss of Okoboji, IA. Jesse (Melissa) Leiss

of Milford, IA. Tony Leiss of Spirit Lake, IA. Lona Leiss of Sioux Falls, SD. Kate (Josh) Rinehart of Everly, IA. Nick (Kara) Rice of Milford, IA. Maxwell Burgeson of Milford, IA. Weston Burgeson of Milford, IA.

Great Grandchildren include: Nathan & Hanna Ferguson, Kaylyn & Wade Mitchell, Faith & Paige Miller, Talen & Teya Leiss, Sofia ,Grace & Ayla Leiss and Noah Rice. Many nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *Del was a favorite of our growing up days in the Lakes Region. He was an active part of the community. Always a smile & sense of humor. He will be missed, but know he's in the hearts of many friends. Prayers & thoughts are with Connie & all... Our sympathy.*

Lacie & Terry (Jacobsen) Thrall - January 05, 2015 at 12:54 PM

BS

“ *Delbert "Del" Leiss*

Bob and Kate Shaw - January 05, 2015 at 12:26 AM

MM

“ *Great to see the family pictures. Enjoyed a lot of fun times at Del's lounge. Also fun times golfing with Del after we moved to Emerald Hills in 1995. With sympathy, love and prayers. Fred and Margaret*

Margaret McKim - January 03, 2015 at 12:15 PM

MB

“ *Del and my dad Arnold Buehler were first cousins, and very close in age. My dad talked about him often. One of my fondest childhood memories is when I was a little boy, in the late 60's or early 70's, we visited Del, and he took me for a motor boat ride on the lake, and let me steer the boat. I remember this like it was yesterday! My deepest sympathies to all the family.*

Micah Buehler - January 01, 2015 at 08:29 AM

NH

“ Rhonda and family, I was so sorry to hear your dad's name on the radio today. Have loved seeing your pics of him and you and the boys you had on FB. Also enjoyed the photos posted here. So sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Nancy Hill - December 29, 2014 at 01:25 PM

TW

“ Thoughts and prayers to your families.

Tim & Kristie Wintz - December 29, 2014 at 12:05 PM

JM

“ Our condolences to all of the Leiss family and to Betty. John tells the story every Winter about the time that Del left some "liquid refreshment" for him in the mailbox when he was snowed in at the acreage.. He was a good friend and neighbor... We will remember him with fondness.

John and Marlys - December 29, 2014 at 06:31 AM

KH

“ Mark, Doug, Doyle, Connie and Rhonda,
So sorry to hear about the passing of your father Del. Looking at the photos brought back so many great memories of the lakes and our two families in the "younger years." My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kim (Shaffer) Hannan - December 27, 2014 at 04:03 PM

TG

“ Doyle, Dar, and family,
I am sorry to hear about the loss of Doyle's Dad. Please know that you are in Carole's and my prayers. We hope you find peace and comfort with your family and friends
Tom & Carole Golden

Tom Golden - December 27, 2014 at 03:11 PM

JB

“ Delbert was a wonderful Uncle and I will cherish the memories I have of him while visiting Iowa. He was a warm, gentle person and he will be greatly missed by our family. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time, Mark, Doug, Doyle, Connie and Rhonda.

Julie Blea - December 27, 2014 at 01:44 PM

CS

“ Mark, Sorry to hear about your loss of your Dad.

Carol J. Stoner - December 27, 2014 at 12:17 PM

CS

“ Delbert "Del" Leiss

Chad Schuchert - December 27, 2014 at 10:35 AM

RN

“ Mark, Doyle, Doug, Connie, and Rhonda, I am so sorry to read that Del has passed. My prayers are for your family as you grieve this tremendous loss. Rest in peace, Delbert.

Rhonda Nelson - December 26, 2014 at 11:49 PM

RN

“ Delbert "Del" Leiss

Rhonda Nelson - December 26, 2014 at 11:45 PM

CT

“ Our memories are when the guys always went up to "Del's"--Having their good old chats etc. Us gals would always call it "the guys hiding place". Del would just laugh. (:) You're in our thoughts and Prayers, so sorry for your loss. May you have wonderful memories. Sending our Sympathy.

Chuck and Donna Tielbur - December 26, 2014 at 10:14 PM

JJ

“ *Delbert "Del" Leiss*

judy johnson - December 26, 2014 at 09:54 PM

FJ

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you, Connie and family.. at this very difficult time. Love and Hugs, Fran*

Fran jungjohan - December 26, 2014 at 08:13 PM

DE

“ *we will be keeping your family in our prays. Delores and Harley*

Delores - December 26, 2014 at 05:59 PM

SH

“ *What a wonderful man and so many great memories. He was a friend to Jerry and I and I will always remember him with much love and respect*

Sally haas - December 26, 2014 at 11:22 AM

SH

“ *Delbert "Del" Leiss*

Sally haas - December 26, 2014 at 11:16 AM

BS

“ I don't have one specific memory of Del, but my favorite times with Del were when he and Mom would come down to our little cottage and sit on the deck with us, drinking beer, eating good food, and looking out at the lake. I never missed an opportunity to kid Del about what a handsome man he was, and get a chuckle from him.

Becky Smith - December 26, 2014 at 11:02 AM

DK

“ *Delbert "Del" Leiss*

Dale Kimball - December 25, 2014 at 09:18 PM

BH

“ *My condolences to the Leiss family. Del was a wonderful and kind person. He will be missed by many who knew him.*

Barb Haagenon - December 25, 2014 at 10:40 AM