



## Edward A. Purdy

February 17, 1940 - December 24, 2023

Edward "Ed" Purdy, 83, of Spirit Lake passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2023, at Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

A celebration of life will be held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 29, 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.

Online condolences may be left at [www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com)

Edward Allison Purdy was born on February 17, 1940, the son of Harry and Eliza (Jetter) Purdy in Sioux City, IA. He moved to Spirit Lake his junior year, where he not only met the love of his life, but also got involved with activities like debate that would be so important to him. After graduating from Spirit Lake High School, Ed continued his education receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Iowa, where he was on the debate team. He then went on to further his education at South Dakota State University earning a Master of Arts degree. Ed was a Speech Communication Teacher at Iowa Lakes Community College for years, but after retirement spent time working at the Spirit Lake campus of Iowa Lakes as well as spending time working at the Abby Gardner cabin. He had so much interest in history and in sharing that with others.

He was united in marriage to Janice Baker on August 18, 1961, at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake, and they welcomed their daughter Marcy in 1971. They were a very close family and enjoyed so many activities together, from early morning skiing in the summer to various trips in the winter... they took advantage of their time together. He was very proud of his daughter who took his advice and went into teaching. He was also so proud of his grandson and was excited to see the direction Carter's life would take.

If you knew Ed, you knew that the most important thing to him was taking care of people. He cared so much for his family, and he was brought so much joy making them happy...From thoughtful presents at Christmas to the safest car for his grandson, he spared no cost to make these things happen.

In his free time, Ed enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, spending the winters in Florida with Jan for many years. Some of their travels brought them to Caribbean Islands, Mayan ruins, whitewater rafting, ghost towns, Civil War battlefields, and many more. As Jan says, "We were two drifters off to see the world." Ed was excited that his daughter and family had the chance --thanks to him--to also experience traveling.

He also enjoyed cheering on his grandson Carter at sporting events. Many of you remember his tried and true vintage stadium seat that he carried into the bleachers each time.

Ed also loved to spend time with friends playing cribbage or poker or backgammon.

Ed had a wonderful sense of humor... And a wonderful smile and glint in his eyes as you can see in so many pictures of him.

Also, Ed loved a good dark chocolate, which we are hoping many of you will

enjoy with us as we celebrate his life.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife Jan of 62 years; daughter Marcy (Mark) Toews of Spirit Lake; grandson Carter Toews of Spirit Lake; sister-in-law Joyce Tague of Council Bluffs, IA; many nieces and nephews; his dog Lucy and grand dogs Tripp and Huck.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

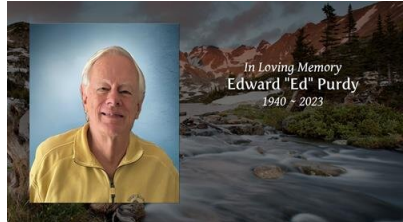
DEC **29**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
3501 Hill Ave.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



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**Robinson Funeral Home** - December 28, 2023 at 11:08 AM

RW

*This is a very beautiful tribute to a wonderful man ! I thoroughly enjoyed playing cribbage with him and the rest of the foursome. He always kept the game lighthearted and fun. Thank you Ed.*

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**Ron Wms** - December 29, 2023 at 12:52 AM

SR

*Ed was a wonderful member of the community and will be dearly missed. I recall him being a narrator at an event at the Nature Center. His passion for history really struck me and his oration was truly wonderful.*

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**Scott Reed** - January 05, 2024 at 11:57 AM

DR

“ *Condolences to the Purdy family. I never knew Ed - just a random reader of the LNS. He sounded like a good man. I was tickled to read that he was a fan of good dark chocolate. I am as well! So I broke off a square of my bar of Lindt 90% and enjoyed it in honor of Ed.*

*Take care :)*

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**Drew** - January 02, 2024 at 07:56 PM

CA

“ *Carol Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



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**Carol Armstrong** - December 29, 2023 at 07:52 PM

CA

*Ed, Jan, and Marcy were good neighbors at the lake.*

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**Carol Armstrong** - December 29, 2023 at 08:01 PM

TC

“ *Teresa Clark lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



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**Teresa Clark** - December 29, 2023 at 05:32 AM

CW

“ *Cheryl Waltman lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



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**Cheryl Waltman** - December 28, 2023 at 03:54 PM

CW

*One of my favorite people. He will be missed so much by my family whom Ed, Jan and Marci are a part of for many years.*

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**Cheryl Waltman** - December 28, 2023 at 03:57 PM

SZ

“ *Mr.Purdy was both my high school and college speech teacher. Always enjoyed his classes.*

Sue Zitterich - December 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Matthew Hawn lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



Matthew Hawn - December 27, 2023 at 07:46 PM

SH

“ *Steve And Sharon Hanson lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



Steve and Sharon Hanson - December 27, 2023 at 06:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward A. Purdy.*



December 27, 2023 at 04:28 PM

DB

“ Dickinson County Conservation Board planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward A. Purdy.

Dickinson County Conservation Board - December 27, 2023 at 04:28 PM

DB

“ My sympathy to your family.

Dayle Brooks



Dayle Brooks - December 27, 2023 at 03:20 PM

DF

“ Dennis And Diane Fisher lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



Dennis and Diane Fisher - December 27, 2023 at 03:10 PM

PR

“ I had so many good times with Ed and Jan on East Okoboji when I first came here in '72. Loved watching him share his love of life with Jan, Marcy, Mark, and Carter. He was such a great supporter of SL activities. I will miss seeing him come through my gate.



Peggy Rick - December 27, 2023 at 12:10 PM

SP

“ Sarah Page lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



Sarah Page - December 27, 2023 at 11:39 AM

CC

“ Christi, Jim, Merritt and Marcus Cassell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward A. Purdy.

Christi, Jim, Merritt and Marcus Cassell - December 27, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward A. Purdy.



December 27, 2023 at 11:30 AM

AW

“ Am Sorry to hear this news, I met Ed back in the 80's at ILCC, worked with/knew him for many yrs. He just was a good guy in my book and from what students said, a great teacher. My Condolences to his family.

AL Wudel - December 27, 2023 at 11:15 AM

TM

“ Tom Madigan lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



Tom Madigan - December 27, 2023 at 10:27 AM

JC

“ Julie Christenson lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



Julie Christenson - December 27, 2023 at 10:18 AM

LV

“ Linda Voss lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



Linda Voss - December 27, 2023 at 09:23 AM

CW

“ OUR SYMPATHY TO THE PURDY FAMILY. I HAD ED FOR A TEACHER AT IOWA LAKES. GREAT TEACHER.



CONNIE/BILL WYMER - December 27, 2023 at 08:32 AM

DK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you, Jan and Marcy.*



**Diana Doocy Koppen** - December 27, 2023 at 05:26 AM

DK

*I have fond memories of student teaching 5th grade, and Marcy was in that class. It's very sweet that your dad encouraged you to be a teacher too.*

*Jan, my mom, Gladys Doocy, always had kind words of substitute teaching for or alongside you. My sympathies to you both.*

**Diana Doocy Koppen** - December 27, 2023 at 05:39 AM

CH

“ *Cheryl & Clarence Harms lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



**Cheryl & Clarence Harms** - December 27, 2023 at 12:17 AM

MM

“ *Mary McClurg lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



**Mary McClurg** - December 26, 2023 at 08:10 PM

JH

“ John And Jan Huntsinger lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



John and Jan Huntsinger - December 26, 2023 at 07:53 PM

BI

“ Thinking of Ed's two favorite girls. He loved you both so very much. He gave me the greatest gift -a friend like you Marcy. Praying for you as you grieve this enormous loss and (as his greatest loves) must carry Ed's light and shine for him.

Billie - December 26, 2023 at 06:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Ed



Marcy Toews - December 26, 2023 at 05:10 PM

KS

Thinking of you all! I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. I know he loved his family and he will be missed by many.

Kristen Summers - December 26, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward A. Purdy.



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December 26, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ Doug Sally Kness lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



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Doug Sally Kness - December 26, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ Fred Kaminska lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy



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Fred Kaminska - December 26, 2023 at 02:28 PM



“ I'll never forget the day Ed came to the Museum to record the story of the Spirit Lake Massacre. He sat down, asked if I was ready, and then pure magic happened. Ed spoke for 22 minutes without rehearsing. Without notes. Without mistakes. With warmth, great knowledge, humor, wisdom, and charisma. By the end I was crying - I knew I was witnessing something that transcended this world. Ed, keep telling your stories. We're listening....

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Mary Dreier - December 25, 2023 at 10:35 PM

BH

“ *Ed Purdy was a knowledgeable and passionate historian of Dickinson County! He will be greatly missed by so many.*

**Bryanna Huffman** - December 25, 2023 at 09:39 PM

BS

“ *Beverly Sill lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



**Beverly Sill** - December 25, 2023 at 09:27 PM

KK

“ *Karen Krieger lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



**Karen Krieger** - December 25, 2023 at 05:57 PM

KK

*We go back a long ways..Ed will be missed a great deal..He always was a "people" person so interesting and clever.*

**Karen Krieger** - December 25, 2023 at 06:00 PM

TC

“ *We all had such fun on Fridays after school at P.O.E.T.S. club!! What a great guy! Remember the situations, mysteries, only answered by yes/no questions? That was totally our friend, Ed!!*

**Tom/Mary Corcoran** - December 25, 2023 at 05:42 PM

ML

“ *Mary Eedy Linton lit a candle in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



Mary Eedy Linton - December 25, 2023 at 09:43 AM

LJ

“ *Larry And Mary Ann Jansen sent a virtual gift in memory of Edward A. Purdy*



larry and mary ann jansen - December 25, 2023 at 09:13 AM

JW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

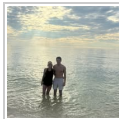


Jim Weipert - December 24, 2023 at 05:16 PM

JW

*Ed was in his element at the Dickinson County Nature Center portraying a famous naturalist*

Judy Weipert - December 24, 2023 at 05:23 PM



*This was a great memory. Thanks for sharing.*

Marcy Toews - December 25, 2023 at 04:33 PM

BR

*Ed and I have known each other going back around 65 years when we were members of the Spirit Lake 4-person debate team in 1957. That year our team won the Iowa State-wide high school debate contest for class B schools. Although we seldom ever saw each other since in person, we corresponded occasionally and shared our interests in history particularly in our later years. What a wonderful mind and warm heart he possessed. It is my honor to have been a life-long friend of Ed Purdy.*

*Bryce Redington, Frederick, Maryland*

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**Bryce Redington** - December 26, 2023 at 12:39 PM

RH

*For over 50 years I have known Ed—as a co-educator, a pool and cribbage partner, a Florida traveler but mainly as a great friend. He was a master story teller and I think he really enjoyed telling those tales as much as everyone enjoyed hearing them. We will truly miss him.*

*Roger Harms*

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**Roger Harms** - December 26, 2023 at 09:41 PM