



Ernest W. Wilcke

March 29, 1925 - December 21, 2017

Ernest William Wilcke, 92, survivor of World War II, of Spirit Lake passed away on Thursday, December 21, 2017 from a brief illness at Lakes Regional Health Care in Spirit Lake.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake with Dr. Martin Lucin officiating. Military funeral honors will follow the service presented by the American Legion Timpe Post #23 and John W. Kidd VFW Post 4514. Military Graveside Rites will be held in the Clinton Lawn Cemetery in Clinton, Iowa. The Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake is in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Ernest was born on March 29, 1925 near Preston, IA. He graduated from high school in Preston and went to Wartburg College. He entered the U.S. Marines in 1942. There he served in the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa where he rose to the rank of Corporal. He served aboard the USS Iowa at the signing of the Peace Treaty. After his honorable military discharge, he returned to Wartburg College and graduated in 1948. He taught 2 years of High School History in Tama, IA and Timberlake, SD. He then entered Drake Law School graduating in April of 1953.

On August 15, 1954, he was united in marriage to Elaine Hillmann of Grinnell,

IA. He first started working as a Claims Adjuster for the Iowa Farm Bureau. In 1956, he became the Claims Manager for the Farmers Mutual Reinsurance of Grinnell, IA. In 1960, he entered law practice with K.B. Welty. In 1980, he opened his own law practice and served as a well-practiced lawyer until his death.

Ernest was an avid hunter and fisherman. His “Buddies” were his dogs Caesar, Palladin and Caudy.

He gave 29 years of service as a member of the board of Trustee of St. Luke Lutheran Home in Spencer, IA from its inception. He served a term as a President of Rotary. He also served several positions at Grace Lutheran Church. At the time of his death, he was currently serving as a Legal Adjutant for Spirit Lake VFW. Ernest also served on the Iowa State Bar Assoc., Iowa Association for Justice, Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers, Iowa Association of Workers’ Compensation, American Association for Justice, and the Workers Injury Law & Advocacy Group.

Left to mourn are his wife, Elaine of Spirit Lake; son, Victor of Spirit Lake; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Southern Poverty & Law Center or the Student Law Education Fund.

Cemetery Details

Clinton Lawn Cemetery

2610 Manufacturing Dr.
Clinton, IA 52732

Previous Events

Service

DEC **27**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Grace Lutheran Church
801 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Tribute Wall

PR

“ I was the Medical Librarian at the State Library of Iowa for many years before it closed in 2010. Ernie was one of my faithful customers. I never met him, but I always enjoyed talking to him and I enjoyed looking up medical information and sending it to him on behalf of his law clients. He still called me even after the library closed and I still sent him information. During the last few years of his life, he sent me fruit from the Harry and David Company. He did not have to do that, but I really appreciated his devotion! When he stopped calling, I looked for an obituary for him which I did find a couple of years ago. He must have been working almost up to the time of his death if I remember correctly. I will always remember him fondly as my favorite client.

*Pam Rees
State Library of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa*

Pamela C Rees - November 02, 2020 at 03:42 PM

KL

“ *Kristi Lauver lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Kristi Lauver - January 05, 2018 at 08:50 AM

DR

“ *Liz Lenox and Deborah Reed-Margetan lit a candle in memory of Ernest Wilcke.*



Deb Reed-Margetan - December 27, 2017 at 10:39 AM

LH

“ *Laura And Ray Hague lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Laura and Ray Hague - December 26, 2017 at 10:54 AM

DB

“ *My sympathy to your family.*

Dayle Brooks



dayle broocks - December 26, 2017 at 09:34 AM

DR

“ *Don & Jean Reed lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Don & Jean Reed - December 24, 2017 at 03:48 AM

CF

“ *Colleen Frederick lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Colleen Frederick - December 23, 2017 at 09:45 AM

AM

“ *Alan And Reba Munson lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Alan and Reba Munson - December 23, 2017 at 08:47 AM

KK

“ *Kevin T. Kuehl lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Kevin T. Kuehl - December 22, 2017 at 09:16 PM

SM

“ *Sheryl McKeivitt lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Sheryl McKeivitt - December 22, 2017 at 06:23 PM

LG

“ *Larry Gjerde lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Larry Gjerde - December 22, 2017 at 02:37 PM

CW

“ *Connie Weir lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Connie Weir - December 22, 2017 at 01:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernest W. Wilcke.*



December 22, 2017 at 12:11 PM

JL

“ *Julie Lande lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Julie Lande - December 22, 2017 at 10:34 AM

LS

“ *Larry And Karen Stoller lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Larry and Karen Stoller - December 22, 2017 at 09:12 AM

PR

“ *When we joined Grace Lutheran Ernie and Elaine were our sponsors. We always appreciated their kindness. Ernie and Sara shared the same birthday. Our prayers are with you Elaine and Vick.*

Peggy Rick - December 22, 2017 at 08:54 AM

HC

“ *Home Instead Senior Care lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Home Instead Senior Care - December 21, 2017 at 10:25 PM

MD

“ *Mary Dean lit a candle in memory of Ernest W. Wilcke*



Mary Dean - December 21, 2017 at 10:25 PM