



## Gordon "Gordy" Benit

March 24, 1935 - May 27, 2023

Gordon "Gordy" Benit, 88, of Okoboji passed away on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at the Accura Healthcare of Milford.

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Maser Monarch Lodge in Okoboji. A luncheon and visitation will follow the service at the lodge. Burial will be held in the Okoboji Cemetery.

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)

Gordon L. Benit, the only son of Eldo and Thelma (Kruse) Benit was born March 24, 1935, in Spirit Lake, IA.

He was raised in Arnolds Park. His grandfather, CP Benit and later his father Eldo Benit were the owners and operators of Benit Amusement Park which is where Gordy spent his summers. Winters were spent hunting and fishing. He loved our lakes area. He attended Arnolds Park School, graduating in 1954.

On March 24, 1955, he was united in marriage to Bette Barber.

The first 15 years of their married life he worked for his father at Benit Amusement Park. In his early 30's, he took up the game of golf. He remembered the interesting terrain of farmland in SE Arnolds Park. He was able to obtain that land and he turned it from farmland into an 18-hole golf course. Thus, in the early 1970's, Emerald Hills was born. It was a family business in which Gordy, Bette and at different times their children were involved in the operation. He planted trees, maintained the golf course, and thrived on the long hours of outside work. After 20 years of operation, they

sold the course in 1993. Gordy continued to work in outdoor golf course maintenance until his retirement.

He loved the game of golf and cherished the camaraderie of his golf buddies. He had 5 holes in one in his golfing career and he played his last 18 holes of golf at the age of 87.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife Bette, together they had a special life of love and devotion for 68 years; his four children, Susan Benit, and her significant other Clark Christensen of Arnolds Park; Steve Benit of Okoboji; Sally (Steve) Morkovsky of Corsicana, TX; and Kate (Scott) Krout of Mesa, AZ; six grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his close aunt Anita (Irving) Bockman.

# Cemetery Details

## Okoboji Cemetery

HWY 71  
Arnolds Park, IA 51331

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

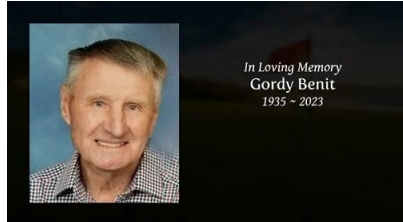
JUN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Maser Monarch Lodge  
22785 Nature Center Rd  
Okoboji, IA 51355

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



Robinson Funeral Home - June 09, 2023 at 04:34 PM

JN

*Very Nice a Great Tribute to Gordy!*

Jeff Nielsen - June 15, 2023 at 05:15 PM

JG

*Betty and family, thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Gordy was one of a kind and one hell of a guy. So many great memories. A great friend, husband, and father and grandfather. Sorry, I was not able to attend yesterday, but I was there in spirit. Again so many great memories. I was honored to call him my friend.*

Jim Gardner - June 16, 2023 at 01:22 PM

DM

“ *Don Maranell lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



Don Maranell - July 18, 2023 at 09:16 PM

 Linda  
Ruble

“ *Bette and family-Thinking of you at this difficult time and wishing you peace and comfort. We have many wonderful memories of Gordy shared over the years at the golf course. Our thoughts and prayers . . . Roger and Linda Ruble*

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**Linda Ruble** - June 16, 2023 at 10:10 AM

LS

“ *So sorry to hear about his passing. He was a great guy and will be missed. I had great times at their house the amusement park and golfing.*

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**Lynn (Lorensen) Sorenson** - June 14, 2023 at 04:48 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Gordon "Gordy" Benit.*



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June 14, 2023 at 04:08 PM

TG

“ *Twyla Garnmeister lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



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**Twyla Garnmeister** - June 13, 2023 at 01:20 PM

MS

“ Marge Schneidawind lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Marge Schneidawind - June 11, 2023 at 10:52 AM

DS

“ Dean And Judy Sitzmann lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Dean and Judy Sitzmann - June 06, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gordon "Gordy" Benit.



June 06, 2023 at 12:49 AM

CA

“ My husband and I have the honor of living in the little green home Gordie built on the 9th fairway. We love our home!!!!



Cheryl Aumer - June 03, 2023 at 06:16 PM

TS

“ *Betti and family  
Sending prayers and sympathies to all of you. So many good visits  
with you and Gordy in my years in Okoboji.  
Nick and myself send our best to all of you.  
Rest in peace Gordy.*

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**Tim Smith** - June 01, 2023 at 06:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Gordon "Gordy" Benit.*



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June 01, 2023 at 08:04 AM

DK

“ *Bette & family, Gordy was one of the best. I remember him from the  
amusement park & riding the roller coaster again & again with the  
kids. Then moving on to the golf course & working in the pro shop  
for years. What a great time it was. Thinking of you all.*

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**Donna Kawana** - June 01, 2023 at 12:49 AM

LG

“ *The years have flown by since we lived on Loch Knolls and you  
were our neighbors. Gordy was a great guy, always smiling and  
cheerful. You were a wonderful couple together and for our area.  
Gordy left a legacy to be admired and never to be forgotten.  
Thinking of you.....Linda & Loren*

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**linda Gustafson** - May 31, 2023 at 04:29 PM

DS

“ Donna Schmidt lit a candle in memory of  
Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Donna Schmidt - May 31, 2023 at 11:55 AM

TM

“ What a fine man... Well played Gordy, both off and on the course.

Tom Madigan - May 31, 2023 at 10:42 AM

TK

“ Theresa Kuiper lit a candle in memory of  
Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Theresa Kuiper - May 30, 2023 at 05:24 PM

TK

Deepest Sympathy to Gordy's family. Thinking of you....

Theresa Kuiper - May 30, 2023 at 05:25 PM

PG

Bruce and I are honored to have known Gordy... an Okoboji legend.  
Lifting you up Bette and all your family in your loss. We are here for  
you.

Love from  
Your neighbors,  
Peggy & Bruce

Peggy Gustafson - May 31, 2023 at 11:13 AM

TP

*Good memories !*

the Pfluegers - June 12, 2023 at 03:31 PM

AJ

“ *Bette and family - I am sorry to see that Gordy has passed. I'm thinking of you.*



Alesia Johnson - May 30, 2023 at 12:38 PM

CI

“ *Betty and family - we have all lost an amazing man!!! His kindness and heart will live on forever!!! May God wrap you in his arms during the difficult days ahead and provide you happiness with all of the memories you have!!!*

Cheryl Ihry - May 30, 2023 at 06:22 AM

JG

“ *Janine Gapinski lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



Janine Gapinski - May 29, 2023 at 07:56 PM

CT

“ Betty and family: Our hearts go out to you at this time. May you find comfort in the memories of your happier times shared as a family over the years. The one who has been truly loved never leaves but will always be part of your life. My My in our younger years we all had lots of fun so we will remember Gordy of all those times we had. Sending our Love and Sympathy.

Chuck and Donna Tielbur Milford IA



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**Chuck and Donna (Christensen) Tielbur** - May 29, 2023 at 06:47 PM

VM

“ Vicki Vos Milverstedt lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



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**Vicki Vos Milverstedt** - May 29, 2023 at 03:08 PM

LB

“ LeAnn Budrow lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



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**LeAnn Budrow** - May 29, 2023 at 02:55 PM

JG

“ Thinking of your family.



Janine Gustafson - May 29, 2023 at 02:30 PM

RH

“ Raymond L Hill lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Raymond L Hill - May 29, 2023 at 12:16 PM

MD

“ Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley sent a virtual gift in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - May 29, 2023 at 12:04 PM

SE

“ Shar Eckard lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Shar Eckard - May 29, 2023 at 09:34 AM

JW

“ Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter - May 29, 2023 at 09:29 AM

FJ

“ Fran Jungjohan lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Fran Jungjohan - May 29, 2023 at 08:43 AM

SM

“ Shirley McCann lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Shirley McCann - May 29, 2023 at 08:40 AM

NM

Many great MEMORIES

Norm Meinking - May 30, 2023 at 11:11 AM

MU

“ *Marlys Unrau lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



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**Marlys Unrau** - May 29, 2023 at 04:18 AM

MS

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Benit families. Mark and Mollie Sander*



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**Mark and Mollie Sander** - May 29, 2023 at 12:18 AM

KS

“ *Kathy Stockdale lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



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**Kathy Stockdale** - May 28, 2023 at 10:51 PM

DB

“ *My deepest sympathy to the entire Benit family. Gordy was an incredible man. Prays for you all. David*

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**David Buckingham** - May 28, 2023 at 08:33 PM

MZ

“ *Sending my deepest sympathies to Gordy’s family. He was a pleasure to know. So sorry to hear of his passing.*  
*Mora Zinn*

Mora Zinn - May 28, 2023 at 08:16 PM

MB

“ *Michelle Babbitt lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



Michelle Babbitt - May 28, 2023 at 08:09 PM

MB

“ *Our uncle will be missed dearly by the Barber sister’s families. What a wonderful man and a blessing to our family. Aunt Bette is Suzanne Barber Rollinson’s younger sister. The Barber girls are amazing and Gordy has been a part of their lives since high school. Rest in peace and love to all our Benit cousins.*  
*Michelle Babbitt*

Michelle Babbitt - May 28, 2023 at 08:06 PM

KK

“ *Kevin T Kuehl lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit*



Kevin T Kuehl - May 28, 2023 at 04:32 PM

JG

“ *What a wonderful human being. Always friendly, always a smile  
always sincere. He will be missed.* ”

Joanne Matthiesen Gonnerman - May 28, 2023 at 02:26 PM

DB

“ *Deb Bockman lit a candle in memory of  
Gordon "Gordy" Benit* ”



Deb Bockman - May 28, 2023 at 11:59 AM

KF

“ *Krout Family lit a candle in memory of Gordon  
"Gordy" Benit* ”



Krout family - May 28, 2023 at 11:41 AM

SK

“ *What a devoted and caring man. A wonderful Father-in-law and  
Grandpa to our kids. You will be forever missed.* ”

Scott Krout - May 28, 2023 at 11:36 AM

KH

“ *What a wonderful man he always had a smile and knew how to  
work hard and have a good time, he was one of the Best* ”

keith hughes - May 28, 2023 at 11:13 AM

RN

“ My deepest condolences on the loss of Gordy. Always friendly, always a smile, always a good word to say, he will be missed. Many prayers to your family and friends rest in peace.



Rhonda Nelson - May 28, 2023 at 08:42 AM

JS

“ You could not find a nicer man. RIP my friend.

John Smith - May 28, 2023 at 07:41 AM

KB

“ Kris Berning lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Kris Berning - May 27, 2023 at 07:55 PM

SM

“ What a great guy!



Sally Haas Martens - May 27, 2023 at 06:56 PM

KF

“ The world has lost one it's best, what a special man. Cheers Gordy to a life well played!

Ken and Terri Farmer - May 27, 2023 at 05:55 PM

KF

“ Ken And Terri Farmer lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Ken and Terri Farmer - May 27, 2023 at 05:53 PM

SD

“ Bette and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Gordy was a gem as well as the rest of the Benit family. Hugs and prayers.

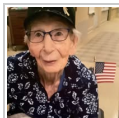
Sally Christensen DeLoss - May 27, 2023 at 04:30 PM



“ Mary Ellen Inbody lit a candle in memory of Gordon "Gordy" Benit



Mary Ellen Inbody - May 27, 2023 at 03:57 PM



My deepest Sympathy to the family!! Will miss Gordy and Bette and family! ❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️

Mary Ellen Inbody - May 27, 2023 at 03:59 PM

JK

Gordy was a fine human being. My sympathy to Bette and the family.

Jane Kauzlarich - May 29, 2023 at 01:15 PM

GV

“Gordy was one of our favorite people. We were both employed by the Benit's, Gary as a rock harvester at 14 at the beginning of the golf course and Marilyn as a bartender at the clubhouse . Everyone loved Gordy and the entire family. A local legend has passed. Rest in peace Gordy. Marilyn and Gary

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**Gary Vos** - May 27, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gordon "Gordy" Benit.



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May 27, 2023 at 02:59 PM