



Gordon Lee Espelund

October 2, 1934 - October 8, 2022

Gordon Lee Espelund of Spirit Lake, Iowa passed on peacefully on Saturday October 8th, 2022, at the age of 88. After several months of declining health, Gordon died comfortably with his beloved wife Ruth by his side at Lakes Regional Hospital.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, October 17, 2022, at the First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. A visitation with family present will be held on Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake and one hour prior to the service on Monday at the church. A Masonic service will be held at 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening at the funeral home. A private family burial will take place at a later date in the Matlock Cemetery in Matlock, IA.

Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake, formerly the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home.

Gordon was born to Knute and Mary Espelund on the family farm near Callender, Iowa on October 2, 1934. He was the youngest of five children and was raised in Burnside, Iowa. Following graduation from Burnside high school in 1950 he worked as a car mechanic where he developed a love of cars and racing. He later transitioned into the agriculture industry which would become his lifelong career and where he developed his keen ability to build relationships by telling jokes. He was however best known for his impressive work ethic and his unwavering honesty. After starting his career by managing a grain elevator near Burnside, Iowa he moved to Sioux City, Iowa to work for

Modern Farm Systems as a territory manager. Gordon's job later took him to Grand Island, Nebraska and eventually to Spirit Lake, Iowa in 1982 which was his home for the last 40 years. Gordon worked for Modern Farm Systems until his retirement in 2002. Gordon was also active in the Great Lakes Shrine Club raising money for Shriners Hospital for Children and enjoyed woodworking and watching NASCAR races in his spare time. After retirement, Gordon and Ruth enjoyed spending time with family and traveling the Southern United States for several years before finding their winter home in South Padre, Texas.

Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, as well as, his brother Richard, sisters Yvonne and Jane, and grandchildren Emma and Asher. He is survived by his wife Ruth; brother James; children Kim, Kelly, Karri, Tom, Ben, Josh, and Luke; grandchildren Mellisa, Matt, Rachael, Rebecca, Nick, John, Jeniffer, Jeremy, Justin, Harper, Lucy, Oliver and Charlotte; as well as, numerous great-grandchildren.

People wishing to honor Gordon's lifelong commitment to family and community can make donations to the Shriners Hospital for Children. <https://www.shrinerschildrens.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 16. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlekefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com>

Visitation

OCT 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Service

OCT 17. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

FP

“ From Sandy, Mark, and Yangjin Patterson purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.



From Sandy, Mark, and Yangjin Patterson - October 14, 2022 at 10:33 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.



October 14, 2022 at 02:42 PM

JK

“ Ruth, Our thouths and prayers are with you. John Kragt

John Kragt - October 14, 2022 at 12:18 PM

KL

“ My thought and prayers to Gordon's family and friends. Although I haven't seen Gordy for a number of years, I never forgot him. We grew up together doing all the things kids did back then. Went to the same school. Riding our bikes everywhere, going to the city dump looking for stuff to drag home. Going hunting rabbits at nite. Going some where in his 48 gray coupe. Gordy was a true friend and never did me wrong.

Ken Lathrop - October 14, 2022 at 11:45 AM

GJ

“ My sympathy to Gordy's family OH the memories, snowball fights, walking 2 miles to go sledding in the hills, the makeup ballgames us guys had, AND when Gordy and I would shag the drag in Ft D in Gordy red Ford convertable where I met my late wife. Thanks Gody. PUT THE TOP DOWN AND GO....

Guy Lathrop Jr - October 14, 2022 at 10:33 AM

MN

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you find comfort in the fond memories of Gordon.
Miki Susnjar

Miki Susnjar, niece - October 14, 2022 at 07:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.



October 14, 2022 at 07:44 AM

JL

“ Jim, Miki & Lance purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.



Jim, Miki & Lance - October 13, 2022 at 08:52 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.*



October 12, 2022 at 03:40 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy Ruth, Josh, Luke and family.
Rod and Connie Lange*



Connie Lange - October 11, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. He will be truly missed.
He was a great Shrine-Mason.*



Michael Pickett - October 11, 2022 at 04:07 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gordon Lee Espelund.*



October 11, 2022 at 11:35 AM

PR

“ *Sorry to hear of your loved ones passing.*



Peggy Rick - October 10, 2022 at 06:56 PM

AE

“ *Angela (Osdoba) Ericson lit a candle in memory of Gordon Lee Espelund*



Angela (Osdoba) Ericson - October 10, 2022 at 05:02 PM



“ *Sending sympathy to your whole family--especially Josh and Luke. I pray you feel God's tangible presence as you celebrate your Dad's life and grieve his death.*
With Resurrection Hope,
Sara Tolsma

Sara Tolsma - October 10, 2022 at 04:22 PM

JE

“ One of many fond memories of my beloved brother, Gordon. I was 8 years old and Gordon would have been 4. I was upset with our mother about something and told her I was going to run away from home. She told me “to go ahead”. I gathered some of my socks and underwear and put them in our red wagon. I also got some of Gordon’s underwear and also put them into the wagon. Then I put Gordon in the wagon and went quarter of a mile South of Burnside. It became late in the day and started getting dark out. I decided to turn around and go back home. When I returned to our house with Gordon mom asked “I thought you were running away”???

I told her “Gordon got scared.”

(It was never Gordon who was scared ---IT WAS ME!)

James Espelund, Brother

James Espelund - October 10, 2022 at 02:57 PM

GB

“ Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of Gordon Lee Espelund



Greg & Dee Baloun - October 10, 2022 at 02:53 PM

GV

“ Dear cousin Ruth, You and your family have my sincere sympathy. Gen (VerSteeg) VanVeldhuizen

Gen VanVeldhuizen - October 10, 2022 at 02:52 PM

JS

“ *JEFFREY W VANDER SLUIS lit a candle in memory of Gordon Lee Espelund*



JEFFREY W VANDER SLUIS - October 10, 2022 at 11:19 AM

DB

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Gordon. My sympathy to your family.*



Dayle Broocks

Dayle Broocks - October 09, 2022 at 10:17 AM