



Joseph Leo Meyer

July 27, 1943 - July 10, 2022

Joseph Meyer, 78, of Spirit Lake, passed away on Sunday, July 10, 2022, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake.

A celebration of life will be held on July 30th, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at the Good News Community Church in Okoboji, Iowa. There will be light refreshments to follow after the service.

Joseph Leo Meyer grew up in Easton, Minnesota where he fell in love with farming as a young boy. After graduating from Mankato Commercial College, he was drafted into the Army for 3 years. Shortly after that, he began his career in the agricultural field at ADM for 20 years and then the remainder of his career in the original start-up of Ag Processing (AGP) in Omaha, Nebraska.

Joe was married for over 30 years to Anne and together they raised two sons, Bruce (Kelli), and Matthew (Cindy). In 2003, he remarried and, with his new wife, Julie, raised a second family who considered him Dad. Through their marriage, he increased his family by 8 children. Joe was the proud Papa of 22 grandchildren.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Julie; brothers, Sandy (Marlene), Irv (Cleone), and Cal (Kathy); sister Ellen (Steve); sisters-in-laws, Coralee and Joan; many in-laws, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his late wife, Anne; his parents; his brothers, Gene and Paul; and his son-in-law Matt Witt.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the “feeding Joe’s overly-

spoiled, beloved birds' fund" at 400 Hill Ave., Unit B, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **30**. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Good News Community Church
1010 Julia Street
Okoboji, IA 51360

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Your beautiful celebration of life cause me to think about Joe's spiritual path. No one can know another persons journey but I doubt it was a lovely walk in a manicured garden of flowers and butterflies. Rather, I think it was more like a cage match where nobody was quitting and nobody was getting out. Like Job and Jonah and others he probably argued and struggled with God. However, they never lost sight of each other and over time came to peace. The gaze of God is terrifying but from what I heard at the celebration and read in your posts, Joe got comfortable with that gaze and he can now truly rest in peace. Joe was my supervisor at AGP for about 10 years. He mentored and supported me and we achieved much together. Thank you Joe! John Campbell

john campbell - August 01, 2022 at 04:26 PM

JU

John, This is a beautiful truth about the wrestling we do with God over our lives. It is no way a walk in the park. Joe did a lot of talking to God about Job. It's funny you would call him a supervisor. Based on how he ever spoke of you, I would never would have thought of you him as anything but your peer. You two did remarkable things together as a team. I'm so thankful to have seen you and your beautiful wife. Thank you for sharing. Julie

julie - August 02, 2022 at 12:17 AM

HS

“ In the short time years ago my wife and I had the privilege of meeting Joe at our son's wedding , Joe was so easy to talk to , and had a very friendly and kind soul , he will be deeply missed by many family and friends . Sincerely Howard and Kathy Schultze



Howard Schultze - July 30, 2022 at 04:59 AM

JU

Howard, Joe would say the same about you. You have an amazing son and we are so thankful for the beautiful family God has blessed them with. Thank you. Julie

julie - August 02, 2022 at 12:20 AM

HS

Thank You Julie , I am looking forward to watching our little ones getting older , your daughter takes very good care of them and of my son , also she is a very beautiful person both inside and out , in the future if you ever need anything , don't hesitate to ask Thank you , Howard

Howard Schultze - August 02, 2022 at 01:53 AM

KC

“ I will never forget the first time I met Joe! My sister, Julie, had called me wanting me to meet the new man she was dating. She was so excited! As we sat at a busy Panera waiting, in walked Joe, who immediately spotted Julie. The first thing I saw was this great smile! He sat down, and started talking as if I was already important to him, simply because I was Julie’s sister. Joe didn’t have to work hard to make a first impression, but he always did! He had a way of making you feel like you were a very important person in his life. I always referred to Joe as “JOE MEYER” because every time you called the house or his cell, it was always Joe saying, “ JOE MEYER”, in his own Joe Meyer voice. When you talked to Joe, you always had his undivided attention. He was there if you needed him, and he was happy to do so. Anytime my family and I would visit, he made us feel welcome, and always greeted us with a big smile and a warm hug. And when it would come time to leave, he made you feel like he was sad to say goodbye. I have always told Julie, there’s only one JOE MEYER! And it’s true! He was truly one of a kind! I will miss him so much! I know heaven is having a party, and listening to all of Joe’s stories. He was the ultimate storyteller! No one could tell a story like Joe! I look forward to the day when I can see his smile again, get a Joe Meyer hug, and listen to another Joe story! Joe Meyer...I was blessed and honored to know you!!

Kim Monaghan Czaplewski - July 19, 2022 at 07:25 PM

JU

Kimby, Such a man he was. God was kind and gracious that he was able to stay put on earth for the years we had. He loved you all very much. What joy knowing we will all be reunited one day and never have any more sorrow. Thank you for your beautiful words. I love you.

julie - July 22, 2022 at 11:42 PM

JF

“ *Judy Forbes lit a candle in memory of Joseph Leo Meyer*



Judy Forbes - July 14, 2022 at 08:30 PM

TB

“ *Joe: when he came from the Hand that formed him, I say it with the profoundest reverence, God breathed into him, in larger measure than into other men, the Spirit of that Love which constitutes His own essence, and made him more than other men.*

We take the many expressions of Joe's love, leadership, and wisdom to our hearts, and fold them into our memory forever.



Trent Boldra - July 13, 2022 at 04:47 PM

JU

Trent, I wholly agree with you. God knew the measure of love Joe would need for the calling upon his life. I thank God for every moment we were given with him this side of heaven.

julie - July 13, 2022 at 05:08 PM

HB

“ I love you papa and I miss you so so much 👍😎❤️



Holland Boldra - July 13, 2022 at 01:42 PM

JU

Hollabee, Your papa thought you were pure sunshine. And you are!

julie - July 13, 2022 at 02:04 PM

AL

Hold up.. how old are you Holland?

Amanda Lindsay - July 13, 2022 at 10:06 PM

HB

“ *Joseph Leo Meyer,*

Thank you for being our person, one of the greats in all of our lives. Thanks for loving us and giving us all the free advice we needed.

You are one of a kind. You left us better for having know you. You will always be one of my favorite human beings.

I love this photo of you and this memory. This moment is stored in my heart, along with all of the beautiful memories we made with you.

You lived a beautiful life, Joe Dad. You will be incredibly missed, because you were incredibly loved. Thank you for being you.

We know where your donkeys tied and we will meet you at heaven's gates one day. Until then, this old planet won't be the same without you.

Heather



Heather Boldra - July 13, 2022 at 01:18 PM

JU

Heather, this is a beautiful memory. You're right, more than enough memories stored in our hearts and minds until we meet him again in that glorious place God has prepared for us.

julie - July 13, 2022 at 01:19 PM

JU

This picture is breathtaking!!

julie - July 13, 2022 at 01:19 PM

EE

“ *Sorry to hear about Joe. I was going to get in touch with him about our class reunion. He will be missed. God Bless. Elmer Ehlert*

Elmer Ehlert - July 13, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *We were blessed to meet Joe, through his wife Julie, when we moved to Okoboji four years ago. Joe always had the best home-cooked meals and really made sure that Okoboji felt like home to us. Joe had no shortage of stories to share or love to give. He had a special kind of love for Julie and always made sure she was taken care of in the best way possible. Whenever Julie would come visit us Joe would always have a treat for the kids that he'd pack into baggies for Julie to share. Our kids will always remember Papa Joe's treats and beanie babies. Heaven sure scored big with Joe, he'll be missed here but we know he's with his maker.*



Jordyn Kok - July 12, 2022 at 12:56 PM

JU

Jordyn, Joe loved the two little sweeties and then when the twin babies came, he expanded his love to them too. He was so blessed to have you all close by enjoy. I wish we would have had our last planned pizza party. We'll have to wait a while until the day we're united with Papa Joe.

julie - July 12, 2022 at 01:31 PM

CA

“ Joe was a special man who loved his family fiercely. I enjoyed visiting with him in church. May God send strength and peace to you in the coming days



Cheryl Aumer - July 12, 2022 at 09:14 AM

“Nineteen years ago, Joseph Meyer married my mom and took in her eight broken children. Every day since he has showed up in every possible way. He loved us unconditionally, especially when we didn't deserve it. Most importantly, he adored my mom. “You look like a million bucks hun” he'd always say to her. He believed she was just the funniest, smartest, wittiest, most beautiful woman in the world. The way he clung to her in his final days was the most tender, loving thing I've ever had the honor of witnessing.

He was the greatest man I've ever known, and I am so blessed to call him my dad. The kids got to have him as a papa. He fought so, so hard to stick around for his 10 kids & 22 grandchildren. I'm at peace knowing his body is renewed and his lungs can breathe freely now.

I always said he was our real life Big Fish because his stories were wild and larger than life, but always true. In his final months, his oxygen couldn't keep up with anything more than just sitting and talking, so my mom would sit with him and type his life story down just as he told it. What a gift to have, to be able to learn about him.

I truly would not be who I am without him. I'm not sure how to do life without his famous “free advice”. Which he would give on any topic, no problem too small to bring to papa. He has seen so much but he would never scoff at what we were going through and needed to vent about. Heck, even if it was an outfit choice, “okay but what shoes??” he'd ask.

I can't believe the pain I feel at not having him here. That I won't be able to share with him our new adventures and hear more of his stories and eat more of his delicious food that always tasted like home. However, his love is tangible in all of the people he loved here on this earth. It feels like we still have him through each other.

He trusted the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” & loved Jesus like no one else. And he knew that Jesus loved him, no matter what hard

thing he was walking through, he never questioned it. Jesus is pleased to have you with Him, papa. I can't wait for our first heavenly hug. ❤️



Faith Lorraine - July 11, 2022 at 10:12 PM

JU

Faith Lorraine, "What shoes?" My favorite line from the man who didn't know a thing about girls until you 5 got hold of him. What a beautiful testimony to who he was. I see him all around me in his people. What a magical life we had with him!❤️

julie - July 11, 2022 at 10:15 PM

AL

Beautiful tribute Faith! I bet he and my dad are having a great time again. ❤️

Amanda Lindsay - July 12, 2022 at 09:04 AM

JU

Amanda, I bet they are too!! What joy!!!

julie - July 12, 2022 at 09:09 AM

GR

What a beautiful tribute. Joe had so much to give, he will always be with you all.

Ginny and Marty Reagan - July 12, 2022 at 09:39 AM

JM

So beautifully written. My hope is that you, mom and the family are filled with fond memories to help ease the pain of loss. That unconditional love that you mentioned is such a wonderful gift. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jon & Jodi Miller - July 12, 2022 at 03:01 PM

FM

“ Joe Meyer had a generous spirit.

If you came across him and felt like chatting, he was eager to stop what he was doing and hear you out. He could often chip in an anecdote from his past adventures that was germane to the topic and would leave you with a laugh or something to think about. If you had a project in mind and needed a tool or advice, Joe was the man to see. He'd rummage around in his vast collection to find the right tool, give you some pointers on how to proceed, and offer to help if you needed another hand. He'd say that if you ever needed something else and could find it yourself, then there was no need to knock, just take it from his garage and return it whenever. That's the sort of trusting soul he was.

Joe would invite you into his home to play one of his many card or board games on his revolving table, and give you sound advice on the best strategy on how to win (you would need it). While you played, he would feed you like royalty on the many little delicacies he whipped up in his kitchen. From his sunroom you could also marvel at the wide variety of birds that visited his many feeders. When you left you were full, at ease, and thinking that the world's a pretty nice place after all.

A few hours after hearing of Joe's passing we took a short bicycle trip along one of the paths we occasionally ride near our home. In a grove of trees near a creek we spotted an unusual tree we had never noticed before, an old Locust with a pattern of markings as if someone had wound a garland around it. We doubled back to give it a closer look. For us this will become "Joe's Tree", a reminder to think fondly of Joe and the ways he made the world more enjoyable by his presence.

We will miss Joe Meyer.

Frank Margetan and Deb Reed-Margetan

Frank Margetan - July 11, 2022 at 05:20 PM

CO

Joseph L. Meyer was a life-long friend and a wonderful person by any definition of the term. He was generous to a fault and was always a great friend. May he Rest In Peace and May his family and many friends take solace in the knowledge that they had the good fortune of being a part of Joe's life and he a part of theirs!

My sincere condolences to all,

*Cash & Mary Jane O'Rourke
Severna Park, Md*

Cassian O'Rourke - July 11, 2022 at 09:44 PM

JU

Frank & Deb, Your words they fall onto a heart missing a beautiful husband and best friend. You two really saw the essence of Joe Meyer. I also marveled at his God given abilities at showing love in his own, unique ways. I love the sound of "Joe's tree!" Please take a picture someday if you can. I always look forward to the next time you are here in town. Much love.

julie - July 11, 2022 at 09:51 PM

JD

“*Julie and family: We are sorry for your loss. Joe was an awesome man and a wonderful pillar in your family. I think of him on his bike showing us how much he enjoyed it and so happy Tom purchased one. We will treasure our memories of Joe.*

Many Loves

Tom and Julie Davies

Julie Davies - July 11, 2022 at 02:16 PM