



Paul Andrew Neppel

November 24, 1929 - December 29, 2023

Paul Andrew Neppel, age 94 years, died peacefully at his home in Spirit Lake, Iowa on Friday, December 29, 2023. He is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, Alice Caroline (Simon) Neppel, as well as children Paula (Herman) Richter of Milford, Iowa, Christine (Ron) Olney of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; Mark Neppel (Ann) of Dolliver, Iowa; Mary Alice McClelland (John) of McHenry, Illinois; and John Paul Neppel (Becky Morgan) of Oak Park, Illinois. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Irma and Irene, as well as brother Leo, and second daughter, Peggy (Neppel) Darrah. He leaves behind grandchildren Matt, Mia and Mark Richter, Hannah Olney (Jason) Schoneman and Beth Olney (Joe) Muggli, Michael Neppel and Julie Neppel (David) Lovell, Grace Vaziri (Christopher Sullivan), Grant Vaziri, Olivia, Ryan, Lucas, and Charlotte Neppel, as well as great-grandchildren Indigo and Aloria Schoneman, River and Rowan Muggli, and Ryder, Hazel and Graham Lovell. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Phyllis Neppel of Chatfield, Minnesota, Faith Simon of Sacramento, California, and numerous nieces, nephews.

Paul was known for his faith, his bold farming philosophy, his civic involvement, his athleticism and his love for his family and friends. Born November 24, 1929, on the farm near Estherville, Iowa, to Engelbert and Apollonia (Thelen) Neppel, Paul attended country grade school and graduated from Dolliver High School. After high school, Paul farmed in partnership with his father, attended community college in Estherville and dated Alice Simon.

He joined the United States Air Force in September 1950, then, returning on leave, Paul and Alice married on April 19, 1951, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Armstrong, Iowa. The newlyweds were stationed in Ogden Utah, and then San Antonio, Texas, where they started their family. After his discharge as a Staff Sergeant in 1953, they returned to Northwest Iowa to farm on rented land near Estherville.

In 1965 Paul and Alice moved their family to their newly purchased farm west of Armstrong. Over the next 20 years, Paul built successful farming and livestock/cow-calf operations, served on numerous state and local boards, worked closely with state and national politicians, and was active in Rotary International particularly in support of the foreign exchange program. Through the years Paul received numerous acknowledgments for his leadership in embracing innovative agribusiness technologies including Farm Manager of the Year from Iowa State University Ag Business Club in 1973 and a Distinguished Service Award from Iowa Lake Community College Farm Foundation in 1988 for his support of the farming and wind turbine programs.

In 1982, Paul and Alice moved to the Iowa Great Lakes Area, ceding most day-to-day farm operations to their elder son, Mark. With farming deep in his veins, Paul played a supportive role working with Mark on crop production, cattle, and hog operations. He also orchestrated the construction of the first farmer-owned wind turbine in Iowa. Paul then became a farm and residential Realtor with the Stockdale agency in Okoboji, and to fill out any spare time, he and Alice traveled, played bridge, tennis, snow skied, and biked.

Paul loved Alice fiercely with all his heart through their 72 years of marriage, along with loving his six children, his 13 grandchildren, six great grandchildren and his horse Dolly, who was with him for more than 30 years. Always proud to call himself a cowboy, he was also proud of having served his country in the military.

Paul enjoyed being involved in his church community, first at St. Mary's parish in Armstrong, then St. Mary's parish in Spirit Lake, where he was involved with many ministries. He was most proud of his involvement with Father Albert Grendler and church leadership in the construction of the present church on Hill Avenue.

Vigil Service is scheduled from 5:00 - 5:15pm and Visitation from 5:15-7:00pm, January 1, 2024, at the Robinson Funeral Home, 2317 32nd St, Spirit Lake. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am, January 2, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1005 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa with Fr. Brian Hughes, and Fr. Paul Kelly officiating. The Rite of Committal, burial and luncheon will follow. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

The Neppel family would like to express their appreciation to the Veterans Affairs Health Care Team and the broader community for their love and support during this time of loss.

Previous Events

Rosary

JAN 1. 5:00 PM - 5:15 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

JAN 1. 5:15 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 2. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1005 Hill Ave.
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Graveside Service

JAN 2. 11:45 AM (CT)

St. Margaret's Cemetery
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *My deepest sympathy to Paul's family I always enjoyed visiting with Paul and I admired his enthusiasm for athletics. Rest in peace Paul*

Mary K Donovan - February 28, 2024 at 12:45 PM

PG

“ *My sympathies to Paul's family. It was in the late 80's when I called on Stockdale Banc for advertising for the Okoboijan and met Paul. He was such a nice man. Over the years, we would always greet one another on the chance we'd see each other at a community event.*

Peggy J Gustafson - January 07, 2024 at 02:19 PM

BF

“ *Barry Forbes lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel*



barry forbes - January 03, 2024 at 02:01 PM

CB

“ *I was lucky enough to have Paul come into my life about five years ago when his daughter Mary married my uncle. While our meetings were few, he was always a joy to talk to and I'm so glad I was able to know him even a little.*

Sending love to Alice and his children, grandchildren and extended family.

Courtney Bullen - January 02, 2024 at 12:15 PM

KY

“ Thinking of the family, in my prayers during the holidays. I am very sorry for your loss.

Kelly Yun - January 02, 2024 at 11:51 AM

GB

“ Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel



Greg & Dee Baloun - January 02, 2024 at 10:37 AM

DG

“ Jonna and I were so fortunate to have Paul and Alice as our neighbors. I learned so much from Paul, both from his words and his ways. We will truly miss our talks together. I'll miss him coming up the driveway on his John Deere.

A quick story about Paul. We left town while our French drain was being installed. When we returned we found that additional work had been performed and the bill was a bit higher. When we asked the contractor we were told, "that was approved by Paul". We had a chuckle and gladly paid the bill. We knew that Paul knew what needed to be done and had our best interest in mind. Now that's a true neighbor.

Rest well my friend. I'm better for have know you.

Dale and Jonna Garrett - January 01, 2024 at 08:40 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



January 01, 2024 at 05:53 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



January 01, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ *The Klug Family* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Andrew Neppel.

The Klug Family - January 01, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ *VICKI WILLISON* lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel



VICKI WILLISON - January 01, 2024 at 03:28 PM

AS

“ Hi Alice, I am saddened to hear of Paul's death. With Paul's death, the earth grew colder. I will be with you in spirit as you celebrate his life tomorrow in the building which he loved and built, his Church. I'll write you a private note and share some memories. Love you. Al and Mary Ann Solmonson

alan solmonson - January 01, 2024 at 11:45 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



January 01, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



January 01, 2024 at 12:26 AM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



January 01, 2024 at 12:01 AM

CF

“ *Christiane and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Andrew Neppel.*

Christiane and family - January 01, 2024 at 12:01 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.*



December 31, 2023 at 08:09 PM

JF

“ *Judy Forbes lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel*



Judy Forbes - December 31, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.*



December 31, 2023 at 04:16 PM

KK

“ *Kathyjo and Greg Kuric planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Andrew Neppel.*

Kathyjo and Greg Kuric - December 31, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.*



December 31, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.*



December 31, 2023 at 03:07 PM

CJ

“ *My condolences to the family.*



Cathy Johnson - December 31, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



December 31, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ Holly and Steve Weed planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Andrew Neppel.

Holly and Steve Weed - December 31, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



December 31, 2023 at 12:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paul Andrew Neppel.



December 31, 2023 at 11:53 AM

SK

“ Susan and Jeff Gitt/Kevin Kalwerisky planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul Andrew Neppel.

Susan and Jeff Gitt/Kevin Kalwerisky - December 31, 2023 at 11:53 AM

BE

“ Bob And Mary Emgarten lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel



Bob and Mary Emgarten - December 31, 2023 at 09:53 AM

CM

“ So very sorry for your loss. We did not have the privilege of knowing Paul, but their son Mark is a kind and generous man, a reflection of his parents guidance and love.

Cheryl Moss - December 30, 2023 at 08:38 PM

JW

“ Jerry, Kathy & Michael Welter lit a candle in memory of Paul Andrew Neppel



Jerry, Kathy & Michael Welter - December 30, 2023 at 02:24 PM

MH

“ *We will always remember & appreciate Paul's presence in our lives and our extended family. Adjusting to his absence will be a challenge for Alice, the family & the whole community. Sending positive thoughts & prayers*

MK Hyde-Bohn - December 30, 2023 at 01:38 PM