



Dean M. Molinsky

July 4, 1936 - August 28, 2019

Dean M. Molinsky, 83, passed away Wednesday August 28, 2019, at MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, Mason City, surrounded by family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 7, 2019, at Zion Lutheran Church, 112 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, with Rev. Dr. Pat Hall officiating. Military honors will be provided by the Clear Lake VFW Post 4868 Honor Guard. Per Dean's wishes, his body has been cremated and an inurnment will be at Clear Lake Cemetery at a later date.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, September 6, 2019, at Ward-Van Slyke Colonial Chapel, 101 N. 4th St., Clear Lake.

Family suggests memorial contributions to MercyOne North Iowa Hospice or Alzheimer's Association-Greater Iowa Chapter.

Dean was born July 4, 1936, in Oelwein, IA to parents Elmer C. and Hester (Smith) Molinsky. His brother Dan was born nine years later. Oelwein was a railroad town and several family members worked for the Chicago Great Western Railroad, which helped Dean develop his life-long love of trains.

Dean attended Oelwein schools where he was very active in tennis, football and basketball. His parents rarely missed an event. In 1950, after cheering at Dean's freshmen basketball game, his father had a heart attack in the bleachers and died. It affected Dean and his brother greatly, and he always remembered how hard his mother worked as a single parent. Dean excelled in basketball and was a proud member of the 1953 Oelwein Huskies team that played at the state tournament, thanks to 6'7" Ray Nissen.

Dean was a talented vocalist and performed in many high school contests and shows. In 1954, he and partner, Red Loben, won the Delaware County Fair Talent Show, sponsored by talent scout, Venita Rich. They earned a trip to New York City to perform on the Ted

Mack Amateur Hour. Unfortunately, his partner couldn't go, and Dean always wondered if he'd missed his "big break" in music.

After graduating from high school in 1954, Dean attended Upper Iowa University in Fayette for one semester, then transferred to the University of Iowa. Deciding the school was too big, he transferred to Iowa State Teachers College (UNI) majoring in education. He was very active in theater and made life-long friends as a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity. He also played singles and doubles for the men's tennis team.

In the fall of 1959, Dean was drafted into the United States Army, and served in Fort Bragg, NC for two years. As part of his duties, he wrote the company newsletter, and enjoyed telling stories about his Army life as his Commander demanded he "get his name in the newsletter" on a regular basis. After release from the army in 1960 (SP4), he accepted a job as a teacher and assistant coach in La Porte City, IA.

In the fall of 1961, Dean met his future wife, Jan Leach, after a college football game between Drake and then State College of Iowa. They were introduced by mutual friends while gathered at Babe's restaurant in Des Moines. In March of 1962, they became engaged and married on August 17th at Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake.

Their first child, Kristi, was born in December of 1963. She was the apple of her daddy's eye and he was very proud of her. The family then moved to Clear Lake, Jan's hometown, where Dean accepted a position at Investors Diversified Services. In August of 1968, they had a son, Bradley Dean. Shortly after, Dean accepted a position at Stuart Realty company. In 1974, he became a partner and co-owner of Triad Realty, which later became Why-USA Main Street Realty. Dean loved his profession and for more than 40 years enjoyed the social and professional side of real estate.

Dean and Jan enjoyed everything Iowa Hawkeyes; attending football and basketball games (especially tailgating!) for more than 30 years. They also enjoyed golf, cards, dancing, and traveling with many wonderful friends and family. Special highlights included yearly getaways to Gulf Shores, AL and annual down-hill skiing trips to Minnesota, Wisconsin and Colorado.

Dean was an active member of the Clear Lake community, serving on the school board for nine years, Noon Lions Club for 50 years, receiving the Melvin Jones Award, Zion Lutheran Church executive board member, active member of the North Iowa Realtors' Association, and was a charter member and president of the Clear Lake Area Concert Association. You could usually find him most mornings at the Backyard Deli Coffee Club

and (Half) Moon at Noon on Fridays.

After being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2013, Dean found the love of his life in a little one year old Dachshund that he named Willie. Chances were good, if you drove down South Shore Drive you'd see Dean strolling down the sidewalk with his four-legged best friend.

Dean was very strong in his faith and was a wonderful husband, father, brother, and grandfather. He and Jan were always involved in their children's school activities and were proud of their college graduations. He took great pride in his three grandchildren, Quinn, Evan and Noah.

Dean is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jan; daughter, Kris (Mike) Pedelty, Cincinnati, OH; son, Brad (Jonathan Johnson) Molinsky, Bloomfield, CT; grandsons, Quinn, Evan and Noah Pedelty; brother Dan (Georgie) Molinsky, Denver, CO; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and step-father, Einar Christensen.

Events

SEP **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Ward Van Slyke Colonial Chapel
101 N. 4th Street, Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

SEP **Memorial Service** 10:30AM

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Zion Lutheran Church
112 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA, US, 50428

Comments



“ Footprints Blanket was purchased for the family of Dean M. Molinsky.



September 03 at 04:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dean M. Molinsky.



September 02 at 07:13 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dean M. Molinsky.



September 01 at 11:24 PM



“ Dear Jan,
I'm so sorry to read of Dean's passing. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I lost Gary to cancer three years ago so I feel your pain.
Lovingly,
Joan Doering Baack

Joan Baack - September 01 at 09:50 AM



“ Dean and I were fraternity brothers and friends at Iowa state teachers college, and I have many vivid and wonderful memories of our times together. As often the case we drifted apart after college as we pursued the family/work parts of adult life. My memories of our times together are still vivid. I especially recall being with him one early fall afternoon as we pondered possible dates for the weekend. Dean had already secured a date for Friday so we phoned his date to learn if she had any possibilities and she told us about her roommate Gretchen. I had seen this gal and jumped at the opportunity! (that wonderful date is still "on" as we have been married for 59 years all thanks to Dean!!) Of course there were many times together at fraternity events. dates and just hanging out. we also spent endless rehearsal and show time together in "Kiss me Kate" He was a wonderful, kind, talented, and patient man. I am very sorry for your loss and can only imagine how you feel. marl ramsey, green valley,, az.

marl ramsey - August 30 at 06:34 PM



“ Dear Jan & family,

If there were words to write that would take away your sorrow, I would surely write them. You and Dean have traveled a long road on this Alzheimers journey, and I have admired you both for the way in which you handled it. The two of you - always such a handsome, well-matched couple - easy smiles and friendly personalities - good neighbors. My heart is with you. I've walked this path myself, tho' under different circumstances. If you ever need a listening ear, I'm as close as the phone.

Sally
(Sally Witmer Ehlert)

Sally Witmer Ehlert - August 30 at 04:02 PM