



Marvin W. Karr

May 21, 1930 - October 24, 2019

Marvin W. Karr, 89, of Rudd, died Thursday, October 24, 2019, at MercyOne North Iowa - Hospice in Mason City.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 am on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1921 317th St., Osage, with the Rev. Clarke E. Frederick officiating. Burial will follow in Sunnyside Memory Gardens, Charles City.

Visitation with public viewing will be held Monday evening, October 28, 2019, at Sheckler Colonial Chapel from 4pm until 6pm and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

The son of Cleone and Thelma (Cone) Karr, Marvin was born May 21, 1930 in Dysart, Iowa. The oldest of nine children, at the age of 16 his parents divorced and the children were separated and raised by different family members on both sides of the family, with the two oldest being left on their own. Marvin always stayed in touch with all his siblings, even as they became separated.

He was married January 6, 1952 to Dolores Gosse at First Lutheran Church, Waterloo. After Marvin's return from the US Navy he and Dolores started planning family picnics and dinners to bring the family together again. At first it felt strange but gradually a bond began to appear. Then in 1976 a sister in law started a weekend family reunion known as the Karr Kampout which is still going strong and has resulted in turning an estranged family into 4 generations and 60 plus members with close bonds.

In this life he also made strong bonds with his friends, still keeping close with Navy buddies, a card club group formed in 1957 with six surviving members still meeting regularly - even if it is more of an "eat and fellowship" club now! But the bond is still strong.

Through his travels on bus tours with Dolores the passengers became more like family and close friends than just customer and passenger.

He was born on the farm and followed his passion for farming until a back injury forced him to change careers; following his God given talents for mechanics he pursued auto and farm machinery repair. He was still able to follow his passion helping area farmers in spring and fall field work. The last few years consisted of drives through the county to check on area farmers and the crop planting and harvest. Almost daily trips were made to check on Terry's crops!

His four years in the Navy, during the Korean Conflict, provided him many new experiences and countless travel. He served aboard the USS Juneau based in California and then with cruises to Hawaii and Korea on duty. He would later travel to the east coast, passing through the Panama Canal and then port in Norfolk, Va. From there were duty cruises to Cuba and the Mediterranean. During his Navy career Dolores would join him while stateside and make their home in Valley and Long Beach, CA and later Virginia Beach before settling in Philadelphia.

After his discharge they farmed north of Waterloo and in 1957 moved to Charles City to pursue mechanics. Then, in 1963 they settled in Rudd as he was employed by Larson and Collet Implement. Later he would open his own shop until his retirement in 1995. After retirement he enjoyed delivering chicks for Hoover's Hatchery for several years and felt a close friendship with all the customers. He then truly retired and joined Dolores on her bus trips and tours, including 2 day casino and sight seeing tours to extended tours of national park sights all across the United States. They also took groups on two tours of Austria and surrounding countries. Together he and Dolores traveled to all 50 states and different foreign countries. When personal trips were made it was always back roads and not interstate. He and Dolores still wanted to get out of the house and took local road trips almost daily.

Their theory was "God created all of this for us to enjoy." If we were not to enjoy all He would have only created an area the size of Iowa.

In 2003 after his bypass surgery he bought an older motor home to take to the lake or river and enjoy fishing and resting. After his health improved they enjoyed short trips and many weekends with Vickie and John camping in different area parks. Later, when the Rudd park evolved into a camping ground, Marv and Dolores volunteered their summers as camp hosts. He enjoyed camping and all the people. He liked to furnish fishing poles and bait to any kids who wanted to fish. He also lined up old bicycles and started a tradition of having bikes at the park for children to ride while camping. He finally had to "retire" from camping and sell the motor home, but still always wanted to do a daily drive

through the campground on his road trips.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dolores Karr; daughters, Vickie (John) Douglas, and Janice Hedrick; grandchildren, John (Chris) Douglas, Jr., Amy Kramer, Tony Kramer, and Krissy Kramer; great grandchildren, Brianna, Kauri, and Gavin Douglas, Jason Tiedermann, Taylor Kramer, and Maverick and Marshall Schmitt; siblings, Roger Karr and Phyllis Thoren; sisters in law, Norma Karr and Joyce Wilson; and a special Godson, Todd Karr.

Marvin is preceded in death by his parents, sons, Jeff, Greg, and Christopher Karr; brothers, Dwain, Robert, Paul, and Gaylord; and sisters, Beverly Dreessen and Bernadine Liverman.

Cemetery

**Sunnyside Memory
Gardens**

Charles City, IA,

Events

OCT 28 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM

Sheckler Colonial Chapel

114 N. Hawkeye Avenue, Nora Springs, IA, US,
50458

OCT 29 Funeral Service 10:30AM

St. John Lutheran Church

1921 317th Street, Osage, IA, US, 50401

Comments



“ I happened to catch this obituary because Marvin’s last name was familiar from my hometown, Dysart. He would likely have attended school with my father. I knew there were a couple of children from this family raised by relatives, but not the story explained here which is hard to fathom. Just want to extend my sincere condolences to Marvin’s family. He obviously was a wonderful father, grandfather, and especially brother who worked through extraordinary circumstances to pull his siblings together again. May you each be comforted by faith, family, friends and fond memories as you grieve.



joan krafka meany - November 06 at 01:09 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marvin W. Karr.



October 28 at 08:22 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Marvin's passing. Everyone that rode Mel's bus with Dolores and Marvin, enjoyed the way he was such a gracious host and accepted the occasional teasing. He was such a special man. Deepest sympathy to the family.

Judy Adelmund

Judy Adelmund - October 27 at 11:50 AM



“ i HAVE MANY FOND MEMORIES OF SPENDING TIME AT THE KARR HOME,
LOVE AND LAUGHTER. DOROTHY LEAVENS

Dorothy Leavens - October 26 at 02:57 PM