



Robert Wilder

September 23, 1926 - May 10, 2021

Northwood - Robert "Rob" Wilder, 94, of Northwood passed peacefully away Monday, May 10, 2021 at Thorne Crest Senior Living Community in Albert Lea, MN.

A funeral service to honor his life will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at First Lutheran Church, 309 9th Street North, Northwood, IA 50459 with Rev. Becky Sogge officiating. Following the service, Rob will be laid to rest at Sunset Rest Cemetery, Northwood. A funeral luncheon will be served immediately after interment at First Lutheran Church in the lower level Fellowship Area. Elevator access is available.

A livestream of the service will be available.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 17, 2021 at Conner Colonial Chapel, 1008 1st Avenue South, Northwood, IA. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service at the church.

Masks are required and Social Distancing guidelines will be followed.

Memorials may be directed to the family to be given in Rob's honor in the future.

Robert John Wilder was born on September 23, 1926 at the family home in Manly. He was the son of Albert A. and Mabel (Holmgren) Wilder. Rob was born and raised in Manly, baptized on April 8, 1928 and confirmed in 1940 at the Manly English Lutheran Church, Manly, IA. Rob graduated from Manly High School with top honors in 1944. Rob participated in both baseball and basketball, and played first chair clarinet in the band. The day after graduation, Rob signed on to proudly serve his country in the United States Air Corp. He spent the next year at Coe College, Cedar Rapids in preparation as a member of the air crew. Within the Air Corps, he was given an opportunity to attend Officer Training at Amherst, Massachusetts. The end goal was to qualify for a treasured position at West Point. Officer Training was a privilege and entailed, "A year of college work in three months in order to qualify". Qualifying for the Air Corps West Point appointment had a

stringent physical component in addition to advanced academics. Ironically, Rob did not pass the physical due to a Junior High football injury to his front teeth. Rob finished his service time as a Crew Chief for B25's and C45's. He was chosen specifically for this honor. When it was time to re-enlist, his superiors actually urged him to continue his education by pursuing college. Soon after Rob was honorably discharged, he attended State Teachers College (UNI) in Cedar Falls. He earned a triple major in Math, Physics, and Industrial Arts. Later, he attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley to earn a Master's degree in Industrial Arts.

Rob started what would be a long and distinguished career, teaching High School physics, general science, and physical education; later teaching Industrial Arts (automotive, carpentry, welding, foundry, and drafting). He taught one year at Roland, IA and then five years at Kensett. In the 1956-57 school year, Rob started at Northwood (consolidated to Northwood-Kensett in 1958-59) where he taught until his retirement in May 1988. Rob loved everything about teaching and coaching. His philosophy for coaching, as well as teaching, was to progress forward from basic fundamentals, and instill discipline, loyalty, teamwork, how to win and lose, and help them grow into well rounded young adults. He coached baseball, and led his baseball teams to conference championships in 1969, 1970 and 1971. He was head coach for freshman-sophomore "JV" boys basketball and assistant coach for Senior High basketball. Rob retired from coaching basketball in 1991. Rob was an integral part of the creation and development of the Northwood-Kensett Industrial Arts Program. He "built" three shops during his tenure as a teacher. His desire was to instill a "pursuit of excellence" in his students, while helping them learn and discover at their own pace.

On June 12, 1955, Rob married Janet LaMae Candee, of Maynard, IA, who was a teacher in the Manly School system. They were the first couple to marry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Manly, IA. They lived in Manly for five years before moving to Northwood, where they have resided for 61 years. After a honeymoon in Niagara Falls, later years found them traveling to Alaska, the Boundary Waters, Europe, Hawaii, Florida, Disney World, two trips to Washington DC and Rob's Honor Flight trip in 2011.

They were blessed with three daughters, JoAnn, Marcie, and Amy. Rob was a dedicated father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He generously shared his love of all things nature and the outdoors. Rob especially enjoyed fishing and hunting, while frequenting local woods, lakes and streams with his daughters and later his grandchildren. Many a fish story and hunting escapade was told in the duck boat. There was sure to be plenty of good-natured competition and probably a slight exaggeration or two with the telling of tales. Camping every summer was a fun family activity, and we all loved the upgrade from a green canvas tent to a popup camper! Rob will be sorely missed from these adventures, but never forgotten.

As the family grew, Rob became excited to attend the numerous activities of his eight

grandchildren. He never like to miss an event and with Jan, traveled all over to be with them. He was a proud grandpa, supporting each of the kids at their athletic, school, community and church events. An obvious figure in the crowd, with such loving grandfatherly support, many of the grandchildren's friends continue to call him Grandpa! Summers found the family in the garden, marking the seasons with planting, harvesting and canning. Prize produce and flowers were exhibited at the Worth County fair for 50 years. As the family expanded, the green thumb was passed to two generations. Good natured competition over a first supper of "Peas and new potatoes" was a yearly event. As a member of First Lutheran Church in Northwood since 1962, Rob designed and built several kidney-shaped Sunday School tables, free standing bulletin boards/class dividers, holiday wall and cross decorations for the Pastors, and the beautiful, hard maple Unity Candle Stand used for weddings. As a shop teacher he was often asked by students to assist in creating homecoming floats or help make decorations for the Prom themes. He helped students fix their cars, welded many items, and used the shop foundry to pour the track starting blocks. In addition, he spent many hours keeping the baseball diamond dragged, mowed and limed to perfection. At home, he was the 'Master' ice-cream maker and family looked forward to birthdays and family get togethers to enjoy this special treat. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Janet of 65 years; beloved children, JoAnn Wilder (Boyd Manges) of Petoskey, MI; Marcie (Todd) Missman of Thompson, IA; and Amy (Tim) Parcher of Charles City. He has eight grandchildren, Dr. Kirstin Manges, Rob Manges(Jillian Hoppe), Michael (Stacy) Cole, Jason (Jocelyn) Cole, Chelsea (Greg) Hanson, Samantha (Nicholas) Gulick, Tom (Paige) Parcher and Leah Parcher(Ryan Russell); He is also survived by 18 great-grandchildren: Matthew, Corey, Demetrious, Keith and Rielle Cole; Rogan, Marleigh, Greyson and Hudson Cole; Levi, Riley, Brooke, Isabel, and Indiana Hanson; Emery Gulick; Lane Parcher; and Jordynn and Bennett Russell; as well as numerous friends and extended family members.

Greeting him in Heaven are his daughter, Karen; his parents, Albert and Mabel; his sister Betty Lou; mothers and father-in-laws, Lee Candee, Ethel (Johnson) Candee and Margaret (Snodgrass) Candee; well as extended family members and friends.

May Rob be at peace in his final sleep.

The family would like to sincerely thank the kind, compassionate staff of Thorne Crest Senior Living Community and Mayo Hospice Care. We are eternally grateful for your dedication and service to Rob and our family.

Conner Colonial Chapel. 1008 1st Ave S. Northwood, IA 50459. (641) 324-1543.

ColonialChapels.com

Cemetery

Sunset Rest Cemetery

3rd Avenue North
Northwood, IA, 50459

Events

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

17

Conner Colonial Chapel
1008 1st Avenue South, Northwood, IA, US, 50459

MAY **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

18

First Lutheran Church
309 9th St N, Northwood, IA, US, 50459-1129

Comments



“ Very sorry to hear of Coach Wilder’s passing. He was a wonderful life teacher on the court, in the classroom and outside of school. I still have memories of quips from practice and hunting trips. He taught me many important lessons. He will be missed.

Dr Frank Orth

Frank Orth - May 18 at 05:29 PM



“ 72 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels - May 17 at 02:53 PM



“ I will always cherish the times I spent under the watchful eye of Mr Wilder as he instructed me for those years in shop class. The skills he taught me have been the foundation of a fruitful life of doing and teaching. Thank you.

Steven Smith Jr. - May 17 at 02:16 PM



“ Mr. Wilder was a really great person and teacher. He will be missed by so many.

Karen Erickson - May 17 at 11:32 AM



“ I knew “Mr Wilder” as a teacher , coach and, later in life, a good friend! He loved coming out to our farm to watch the wildlife. In fact, I got a picture of him hiking around our farm on one of my trail cams when he was 86 years old! I used it to tease him about “trespassing” and “terrorizing Hartland township”! Great times and many good discussions with Bob over the years. I’ll miss him!

Lynn Tenold - May 16 at 11:25 PM



“ I almost could not bear it when my sister told me Mr. Wilder had died. The best neighbor ever along with his wife Jan. Always friendly, joyful really. So glad he lived nearby. He and his wife, the spirit of small-town America. You two are loved.
Susanne Olson White
Across the street

Susanne Olson White - May 16 at 07:32 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Childhood pictures with some cousins



Kristin Frish - May 16 at 02:22 PM



“ Coach Wilder played a huge role in my life. Still today after 55 years I think of him and thank him for the skills he taught me in shop class when I'm working on a project. I have fond memories of basketball practice and games where he coached the importance of fundamentals. He was a great man that was an example for all men. Fair winds and following seas Coach Wilder. David Carlson Class of 68

David Carlson - May 16 at 01:27 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Wilder.



May 15 at 08:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Wilder.



May 15 at 12:02 PM



“ "What was once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us." Helen Keller.
The Wilder/Manges family.



JoAnn Wilder - May 15 at 11:52 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Wilder.



May 14 at 09:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Wilder.



May 14 at 05:44 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Amy Parcher - May 14 at 04:02 PM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Parcher - May 13 at 12:49 PM



“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Parcher - May 13 at 12:44 PM



“ Amy and Family: So sorry for your loss. I got to know your dad working at a bank in Northwood. Plus years ago thur duck unlimited banquets. Joyce(Lines Hanna) Hauge

Joyce Hauge - May 19 at 10:11 AM