

Donald Wayne Elk, 83, a long-time resident and booster of Storm Lake, who was residing at Otsego Place Assisted Living Center, died Tuesday, March 18, 2008, of pulmonary fibrosis at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake. In accordance with his wishes, his body was cremated.

Don was born October 4, 1924, in Galva, the son of Clarence Cleveland and Mildred Whealen Elk. His family moved to Storm Lake in 1933, and he was a 1942 graduate of Storm Lake High School, lettering in football, basketball and track. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and was in flight school when the war ended. Following his discharge in 1945, he enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve, from which he retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He attended Iowa State College in Ames, lettering in track. He received the Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1948.



Don was united in marriage with Elizabeth Anne Watt on December 19, 1947, in Grinnell, Iowa. They resided in Marshalltown, Iowa from 1948 until 1951, when they returned to Storm Lake, where he joined the firm of Whealen and Elk Insurance, which later became Owen, Elk, and Holmes, and is now Colburn and Elk.

He was engaged in the life insurance and real estate business throughout his professional life.

Don was an avid golfer, enjoyed singing in his church's choir and in community musicals, enjoyed playing bridge and other card games. He was known as a jokester, and was particularly fond of The Muppet Show.

He was active in various community groups including Kiwanis International, serving as a past president and long-time song leader. He was on the board of the Methodist Church and Methodist Manor, and a member of the United Methodist Men's group, the Elks Lodge, and the Masonic Temple. He also served as president of the Storm Lake School Board, president of the Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce, Commodore of the annual Star Spangled Spectacular, and most recently served as Co-Chairperson of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).



In 1974 the Elk family hosted A.F.S. exchange student Albert Rivera from Barcelona, Spain. Don and Elizabeth visited Albert and his parents Juan and Angela in 1978. Albert called Don his American Dad, and they kept in touch over the years, exchanging birthday and Christmas greetings, even getting together once in Detroit when Albert was attending the Detroit Auto Show. Another highlight of Don's travels was a trip to the Holy Land in 1999 with a group of Iowa Methodists led by Bishop Jordan.

He is survived by his daughter Sara Jane (Sally) Elk of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; two sons, James Watt Elk and his wife Catherine of Bar Harbor, Maine; and Robert Thomas Elk and girlfriend Ulrika Johansson of Los Angeles, California; five grandchildren: Laurel, Martha, Claire and Kevin Elk of Bar Harbor; Elizabeth Dixon of Philadelphia; and his sister, Marianna Meier of Waterloo. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Elizabeth Watt Elk; an infant daughter; and his son-in-law, Stuart Paul Dixon.



Celebrating the Life of a Storm Laker



Donald Wayne Elk

1924



2008

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to:

The American Lung Association (61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006.)

Hospice of Buena Vista Regional Healthcare Foundation (1525 West 5th Street, Storm Lake),

Save the Lake/The Lake Preservation Association (P.O. Box 1263, Storm Lake),

SCORE Foundation (c/o Darel Burns, Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 584, Storm Lake),

United Methodist Church (211 East 3rd Street), and Witter Gallery (609 Cayuga Street, Storm Lake.)

Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.

I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"

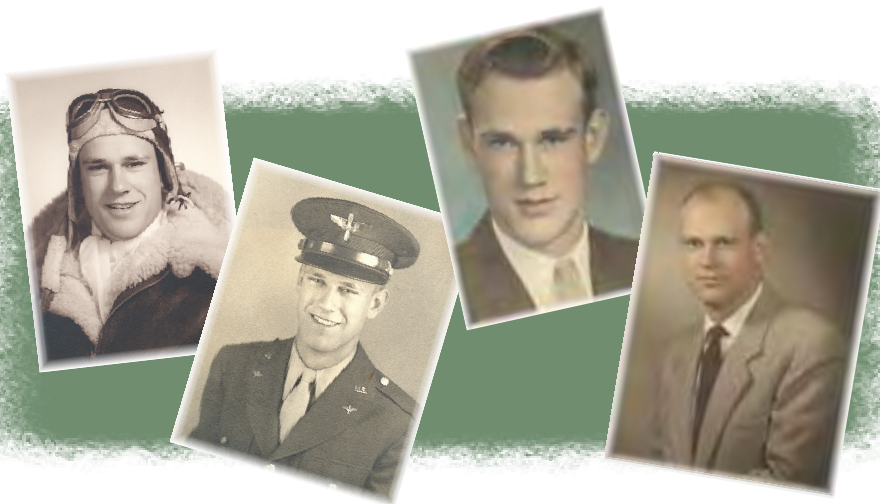
"Gone where?"

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear the load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There she is gone!"—there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

- Henry Van Dyke



We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the kindness evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. You are invited to join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the church following the interment.

Don's Family

IN MEMORY OF

Donald Wayne Elk

October 4, 1924  March 18, 2008

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church — Storm Lake, Iowa

CLERGY

Reverend Jamie Cutler

MUSICIANS

Barb Johnson and Mel Kimblad, Vocalists

Linda Baier on Keyboards

"What a Wonderful World"

By Bob Thiele and George David Weiss and made popular by Louis Armstrong

"Bein' Green"

By Joe Raposo and performed by Kermit the Frog from the Muppet Show

"A Closer Walk with Thee"

"Amazing Grace"

"I Can Only Imagine"

By Bart Millard

"I Will Always Love You"

By Dolly Parton

HONORARY PALL BEARERS

Wayne Andrews, Darel Burns, John Christensen, Chip Colburn, Rod Dickey

Clark Fort, Marge Hunzelman, Dick Kearney, Ray Mittlestadt, Jeff Myers

Brad Sargent, Claude Thompson, Bob Wilson, Wyman Woodke

INTERMENT

Military Honors by Alta V.F.W. Post 6172

Storm Lake Cemetery — Storm Lake, Iowa

Arrangements by

FRATZKE & JENSEN FUNERAL HOMES

www.fratzkejensen.com ■ Newell · Storm Lake · Schaller