



Russell Pepper

April 16, 1925 - October 17, 2020

Russell "Russ" Pepper, age 95, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Saturday, October 17, 2020 at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake.

A Celebration of Life service will take place Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. To watch the live stream of the service, please click the link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653668081?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653668081?pwd=OU9jT3RyZFlYRDF5TEgzVVpNR25zUT09)

[pwd=OU9jT3RyZFlYRDF5TEgzVVpNR25zUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653668081?pwd=OU9jT3RyZFlYRDF5TEgzVVpNR25zUT09) and enter the password: funeral.

Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Russ' name to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in care of Richard Rice, 6418 120th Ave. Storm Lake, Iowa 50588. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Russell Leber Pepper was born April 16, 1925 in rural Arthur, Iowa the son of George and Nettie (Leber) Pepper.

Growing up, Russell attended school in the Galva and Cherokee area. He graduated from Galva High School in 1943.

On September 30, 1944, Russ was united in marriage to Shirley Babcock at her parent's farm home near Galva, Iowa. Together, they were blessed with four children: Pat, Larry, Craig and Bill.

On March 15, 1946, Russell enlisted in the United States Army where he proudly served his country during World War II until he was honorably discharged on December 24, 1946. Prior to his enlistment, he worked in the Boeing Defense Plants in Renton, Washington building B-29's. His fascination with those planes continued his whole life.

Russ was a member of the United Methodist Church in Storm Lake; Storm Lake Jaycees where he served as president; Storm Lake Chamber of Commerce; West Central Iowa

Home Builders where he served as president' Iowa HBA and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Russ was a well-respected general contractor for many years in the Storm Lake community. He often said the mentoring of Art Dahl, Omar Roth, and Frank Baustian helped to make his construction business a success. He built 49 homes in the Storm Lake area.

In his spare time, Russ enjoyed golf, reading, and travelling. Russ never met a stranger. He loved a good conversation and a good dish of ice cream. Family was very important to Russ and he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his children: Patrica (John) Houar of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Craig (Becky) Pepper of West Des Moines, Iowa; William "Bill" (Dee) Pepper of Boone, Iowa; daughter-in-law, Marcia Pepper of West Des Moines, Iowa; grandchildren: Heather (Tom) Halterman; Emilee Pepper; Samuel Pepper; John Pepper; Daniel Pepper; Kent (Lisa Arnold) Houar; Sharon (Kevin) Raines; Susy (Sheldon) Hobson; Nancy (Mark) Fish; great grandchildren: Will, Zach, Matthew, Jesse, Eli, Elizabeth, and Kesi; brother, Vernon (Betty) Pepper of Spencer, Iowa; nieces; nephews; cousins; special friend, Kathryn Dick; extended family and friends.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, George and Nettie Pepper; wife, Shirley Pepper; son, Larry Pepper; brothers: Bud and Melvin Pepper; and sisters: Joyce Reinert; Ethel Harvey; and Margaret "Tootie" Way.

Memorials may be given in Russ' name to: Independent Order of Odd Fellows in care of Richard Rice: 6418 120th Avenue Storm Lake, Iowa 50588.

Events

OCT **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

24

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake

1615 W Milwaukee Ave,, Storm Lake, IA, US, 50588

OCT **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

24

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake

1615 W Milwaukee Ave,, Storm Lake, IA, US, 50588

Comments



“ 3 files added to the album Memorial Service



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 24 at 06:21 PM



“ My memories of Russ go back to my childhood in Cherokee in the early 50's. Our families visited often. It was a wonderful time. Us kids played and the grownups visited.

Of course we saw everyone at the family reunions and gatherings. Russ being in construction was interesting to listen to. Russ's experiences with various projects, the new tools and the new projects always caught my attention.

Russ and Shirley drove to Phoenix from Las Vegas to visit us for the day in 1994. Although he was retired he was interested in the massive building going on in Phoenix. We showed them around the new developments and a couple of my projects. We had more time to talk than most any other time I saw him. He was sharp and interested and exceptionally knowledgeable about construction and business. I was happy to learn a few things from him that day.

I miss seeing all of the family in Iowa. However, hardly a day goes by that I don't think of my Iowa family.

My love and memories to all of Russ's family.

Allan and Leslie Converse
Gilbert, Arizona

Allan Converse - October 24 at 01:59 PM



“ Most memories of my Uncle Russ were always memories of engagement to the task at hand. When I was little I watched in amazement as Russ led his crew in the building of our 4 bedroom addition. I loved to watch him as he did measurements and looked at drawings where he could see something that I couldn't picture at all. There was always much laughter and the sound of saws buzzing and new lumber being set in place.

I would ask questions but it seemed that Russ' hands were faster than my brain at putting things together.

Years later I would set beside Russ and listen to what he spoke of with always kindness

and humility. And when his hearing became more impaired it just seemed like he just drew me even closer in to what he was saying. And what he spoke most of was love.

I guess Russ' love even helped us see love for others even more. I know when he was with my Mom, Tootie I saw the love that flowed between them and was shared by those in the room, as we sat and talked of the freshest strawberries on our ice cream of days gone by.

Some say the carpenter's hand is now silent. I believe the good carpenter just follows the Master Builder to new working sites.

Love you Uncle Russ,

Ron Way

Ron Way - October 24 at 01:11 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Russell Pepper.



October 24 at 09:16 AM



“ 123 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 23 at 02:05 PM



“ I loved seeing the photos of my wonderful uncle, aunt, and extended family. Russ was a gentle, kind, loving man. Like it states in his obituary...Russ never met a stranger. He will be greatly missed! May our memories of him become a blessing to us all. Love ya Uncle Russ!

Jennie Klopfenstein - October 24 at 03:33 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - October 23 at 01:49 PM



“ I can honestly say Russ was one of the nicest guys I've ever known. it was a real shock to see his obituary. We first met Russ in 1964 when we moved here from Mn. We needed housing desperately as we had to get out of our rental house for the owner to move in. Housing was so short in SL we decided we had to build. I was in the E. W. Oates Co Lumber yard looking for something and Russ somehow knew we had to build and he came up and introduced himself and I liked him from that moment on. And he and Gene Babcock started the house in September and had it ready for us to move in by December!

Over the years I did insurance business with Russ and Larry for their construction company and he was always a gentleman. They retired and moved to Vegas. One year we stopped in Vegas on the way to CA. We were going through a casino there and ran on to Russ and Shirley. They kind of showed us around the area. In future years, we had stopped there and spend some time with them.

When they moved back to SL, we also were back and forth a little and played some cards and ate together on occasion. After Shirley died, I stopped in to visit once in a while. It had been quite a while since I had seen Russ and I was going to call him and visit and then I saw the obituary this morning and was shocked and sorry I'd not gotten up there and even had a note on my desk to call him.

I feel guilty about not getting up there and once again realized there are some things that should just not be put off! I'll say it again, Russ was one of the nicest people I've ever known! May God rest his soul!

Howard Hatlelid - October 21 at 10:49 AM



“ Howard, Dad always enjoyed your visits. Your thoughts are a treasure for us all now. We apologize for not calling you personally to let you know of his passing. Best to you. Pat and family.

Pat Houar - October 21 at 02:11 PM



“ Howard, I enjoyed reading your reminiscings . Grandpa Pepper is a quality guy. I'm sure your visits were cherished and, being as he is, would forgive and lost time. He was full, he was ready.

Susy

susy hobson - October 22 at 04:21 PM