



## Darel Burns

November 5, 1931 - September 12, 2025

Darel Burns, age 93, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away in his home with his family at his side on September 12, 2025.

Memorial Mass will take place Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, September 16, 2025 from 5-7:00 p.m. at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the St. Mary's Catholic School in Storm Lake or St. Croix Hospice. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Darel Dean Burns was born November 5, 1931 on a farm Northeast of Sac City, Iowa. He was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church, Marathon, Iowa. Shortly after his birth his parents moved to rural Marathon, Iowa. He began his education at Lincoln Lee Consolidated School located a few miles East of Rembrandt, Iowa. While in the Second Grade his parents moved to a farm Southeast of Marathon, Iowa. He graduated from Marathon Consolidated High School in 1949. He attended Iowa State College the fall of 1949 and again the fall of 1950. On February 4th, 1952 he entered the United States Army. He attended Basic and Advanced Basic Training at Fort Bliss Texas. After completion of his training he was sent to the 420th Antiaircraft Battalion located on the West side of Puget Sound near Seattle, Washington.

This unit later became the 513th AAA Bn. After two years of active duty he was discharged and returned to his parent's home in Marathon, Iowa. He then purchased a livestock and grain truck and started Burns Trucking in Linn Grove, Iowa. It was here that he met the love of his life Kay Ann Graff. On Easter Sunday of 1955 he joined the Catholic Church. Kay and Darel were married August 15th 1955 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Sioux Rapids, Iowa. They moved to Maxwell, Iowa where Kay taught 5TH grade and he enrolled at Iowa State College in pursuit of a BS Degree in Civil Engineering. In the summer of 1956 they purchased a small house trailer and moved into Pammel Court, a married student housing area at Iowa State College. He received his BS degree in Civil Engineering in June 1958. He served two years as Assistant County Engineer for Hancock County, Garner, Iowa. After receiving his Professional Engineering License in Civil Engineering and Land Surveying he was a Staff Engineer for Kruse Engineering in Spencer, Iowa. He was next employed as County Engineer for Audubon County, Audubon, Iowa. In February 1963 he began employment with the Buena Vista County Secondary Road Department as Drainage Engineer and Assistant County Engineer. He enjoyed the challenge of the design, supervision and construction of Drainage and Highway Projects. He retired from this position on June 30th 1994. Over the next three years he worked for FEMA assessing damage to roads, bridges and government buildings from natural disasters at various locations in the United States.

Preceding him in death were his parents Clifford and Ruth Burns, his parents-in-law Peter and Anna Graff, an older brother James Albert Burns; and a number of brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Surviving Darel are his wife of 70 years, Kay Ann Burns, his children Cindy (Richard) Sippel, Michele (Shannon) Kelly, Patti (Richard) Wolff, Thomas (Barbara) Burns and Paula Burns (Mike Ellis), 12 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren, in addition to numerous

nieces, nephews, and cousins, as well as his sister Shirley Smith and brother Nyle Burns, and one sister-in-law Nan Graff.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **16**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Memorial Mass

SEP **17**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake  
320 Seneca Street  
Storm Lake, IA

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ Condolences to Kay from the Cammack family. Darel's was a life well lived.

Creston and Chris - September 17, 2025 at 06:40 PM

KW

“ Darel was a great fellow county engineer and friend. He was the go to guy on drainage law and questions and no doubt the preeminent drainage expert in the state. My sympathy and prayers for the family.

Keith White - September 17, 2025 at 02:26 PM

NM

“ Thinking of the Burns family during this difficult time. Our families have known each other for many years. Your parents are great people. Keep the good memories in your hearts.

-Nancy (Neuroth) Miller-



Nancy (Neuroth) Miller - September 16, 2025 at 09:02 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - September 16, 2025 at 04:38 PM

CB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Darel’s family. He was a good man.

*Dorothy Gransow Sidles and family*

Cheryl Bruns - September 16, 2025 at 01:35 PM



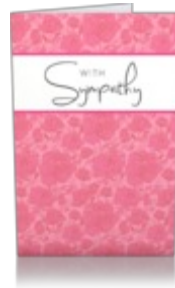
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darel Burns.



September 16, 2025 at 12:30 PM

LT

“ Lorie T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Darel Burns.



Lorie T. - September 16, 2025 at 11:36 AM

SR

“ My prayers for your family..Daryl was one of the nicest people I ever knew!

Sandy Robinson - September 16, 2025 at 09:12 AM

SR

“ *Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**Sandy Robinson** - September 16, 2025 at 09:11 AM

BT

“ *Bob and Connie Taylor lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**Bob and Connie Taylor** - September 15, 2025 at 09:06 PM

KP

“ *Karla & Gary Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**Karla & Gary Pickhinke** - September 14, 2025 at 09:51 PM

LB

“ *Lorie B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Darel Burns.*

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**Lorie B.** - September 14, 2025 at 09:49 PM

LT

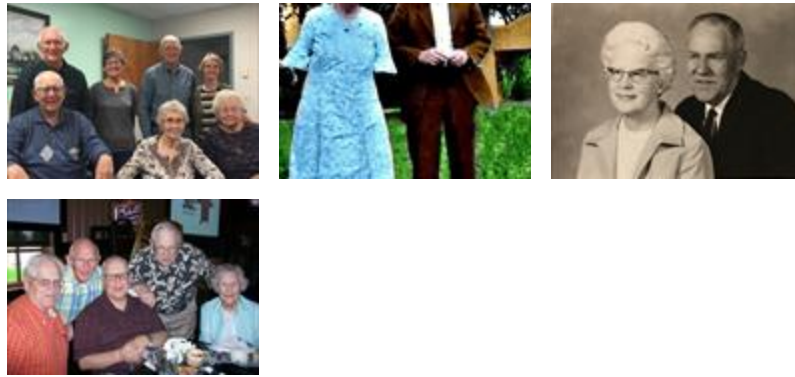
“ Lorie Burns Tuma lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns



Lorie Burns Tuma - September 14, 2025 at 09:44 PM

LT

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Lorie Burns Tuma - September 14, 2025 at 09:42 PM

LT

So many generations of Burns, that loved Darel 🙏

Lorie Burns Tuma - September 16, 2025 at 11:02 AM

SL

“ My deepest sympathy to Kay and family!  
Sue Lloyd



Sue Lloyd - September 14, 2025 at 06:42 PM

KM

“ darrel was like and uncle to me ive known him my whole life he gave the best hugs almost broke your ribs he used to come out to our farm every summer and get sweet corn love him to the max will miss him greatly heaven just got the greatest angel ever love you darrel karla madsen

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**karla madsen** - September 14, 2025 at 03:46 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Darel Burns.



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September 14, 2025 at 01:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Darel Burns.

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September 14, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SB

“ Susan (McCoy) Beckman lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns



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**Susan (McCoy) Beckman** - September 14, 2025 at 10:55 AM

SH

“ I'm so sorry to hear this sad news, Kay. I loved to hear Darrel's stories. Know that I am thinking of you. PLEASE come see me some day. #220 Otsego Place.

Shirley - September 14, 2025 at 10:08 AM

BR

“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns



Bev Reis - September 14, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ Oh my gosh, so many happy, happy memories of Uncle Darel. My favorite is that EVERY time he would see me he would give a big bear hug and a kiss on the cheek. I would just melt into that hug. He made me feel like I was so loved. And the stories! It never ceased to amaze me that he would always have a story that I had never heard before. You will be missed, but the love you shared lives forever.

Joan Maley

Joan Maley - September 14, 2025 at 09:54 AM

JM

“ I worked with Darel for many years at Buena Vista County. He (and Kay) were always so warm and accepting. He was one of the kindest people I've ever met. I'll always remember the sound of his voice, the way his eyes crinkled with his smile, and his ready advice



Joan Reiling Martin - September 14, 2025 at 08:24 AM

PB

“ *PAT BARNETT lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**PAT BARNETT** - September 14, 2025 at 05:54 AM

WL

“ *Wendy Lemke lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**Wendy Lemke** - September 13, 2025 at 03:11 PM

KM

“ *Sympathy to Darel's family. Always remember Darel as such a pleasant person. Always wearing a smile. He will be greatly missed. Prayers to you all.*



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**Kevin & Julie McKinney** - September 13, 2025 at 03:04 PM

MH

“ *The kindest and sweetest soul. A wonderful storyteller ❤️ Darel will be missed by many.*

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**Melissa Halverson** - September 13, 2025 at 12:58 PM

LB

“ I say "Celebrate" that Darel went to heaven. A good friend Darel was to me as we were in the group of drafttes on Feb. 4-'52 went to basic in Ft. Bliss and then to Ft. Lawton to serve in the Western Defense. Good memories of that and also a couple reunions we 've had since. The Lord is Good



Lloyd Boettcher - September 13, 2025 at 10:24 AM

PF

“ Peggy Flynn lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns



Peggy Flynn - September 13, 2025 at 10:11 AM

LH

“ Dear Burns family-I have so many fond memories of our shared time together when I was teaching band at St. Mary's. I will be keeping you close in thought and prayer.



Laura Hahn Hanna - September 13, 2025 at 06:46 AM

DM

“ Dave Merten lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns



Dave Merten - September 12, 2025 at 09:47 PM

GN

“ *My sympathy to the entire Burns family. He will be greatly missed. Prayers & Hugs to all.*  
*Grace Neuroth-Casson.*



Grace Neuroth-Casson - September 12, 2025 at 08:08 PM

VU

“ *Vicki Ulven lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



Vicki Ulven - September 12, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JC

“ *Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - September 12, 2025 at 01:19 PM

WT

“ *Wilbur and Karen Triplett lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



Wilbur and Karen Triplett - September 12, 2025 at 12:00 PM



“ *Tammy Miller lit a candle in memory of Darel Burns*



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**Tammy Miller** - September 12, 2025 at 11:25 AM