



Earl Edgar Jorgensen

May 31, 1924 - March 22, 2023

Earl Edgar Jorgensen of Storm Lake, Iowa, passed away March 22, 2023 at Methodist Manor Retirement Center in Storm Lake. He was 98 years old.

Funeral services will take place Monday, March 27, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery. Visitation will be held Sunday, March 26, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Fratzke and Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorials may be directed to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake.

Earl was born May 31, 1924, in Newell, Iowa. He was the youngest of seven children born to his parents, Martin and Anna Marie, who emigrated from Denmark in 1911. Earl was baptized at Nain Lutheran Church in Newell. Earl was fluent in Danish and proud of his Danish heritage. Within his family, he adopted the Danish traditions he so loved as a child. His favorites included pebbernoder, aebelskiver and dancing around the Christmas tree singing, "Nu Har Vi Jul Igen." Earl loved that his grandchildren carry on the same traditions.

Earl graduated from Newell in 1942. Like many 18-year-olds from the Greatest Generation, he was drafted into the US Army early in 1943. He was assigned to the 149th Combat Engineers. Early in 1944, while stationed in England, Earl was asked to become a medic in the 149th Combat Engineers, medical division. He landed on Omaha Beach ten days after D-Day and was stationed in Europe during WWII.

Upon returning to Iowa, Earl was united in marriage with Vivian Gustafson on July 9, 1946. Earl and Vivian's marriage was filled with love and laughter. They enjoyed being together, often golfing, dancing, and going out for a "bite to eat." Earl and Vivian were lifelong and active members of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Earl and Vivian were blessed with four children: Kathy, Jim, Rita and Linda. Earl was a kind and loving father. He

established unique and special bonds with each one of his children.

Earl worked for Iowa Electric Light and Power Company for 37 years and retired in 1984. Staying active in retirement, Earl then drove bus for the Storm Lake Schools. He was remembered by many students as the best school bus driver ever. During retirement Earl and Vivian enjoyed many family gatherings, ball games, golf events, and just having fun times with family and friends. Earl and Vivian visited Europe three times with their daughter, Rita and family, who lived in Germany. During their European trips, Earl and Vivian visited relatives in Denmark and Sweden. They also visited Normandy and returned to locations where Earl served during WWII.

Earl grew up with a love of sports. In high school he played basketball and baseball. His baseball team went to the state tournament his senior year. After high school, Earl played baseball for Buena Vista College and the Storm Lake Whitecaps. Earl loved to pheasant hunt with his family. Earl also loved to golf. He was a charter member of Lake Creek Country Club and had two hole-in-ones. Earl was a lifelong fan of the Storm Lake Tornadoes, Iowa Hawkeyes, and St. Louis Cardinals.

Earl was an avid reader, curious about the world and always up to date regarding current events. He loved reading and learning facts about sports, history, nature, and more. He had a love of nature and for the beauty of the world God created. He particularly loved seeing a cardinal at his birdfeeder, his green beans thriving in the garden, and his four o'clocks in full bloom.

Earl found satisfaction in everyday activities and in helping others. He kept his yard mowed, his leaves raked, and the sidewalk shoveled. He kept his bird feeder full, and the garden weeded. He not only mowed his yard, but the neighbor's yard too. He didn't just snow-blow his walk, but also his neighbor's. He was always willing to help family and friends. He made his neighborhood, on Otsego Street, a better place.

Earl led a full life, living every day to the fullest. He was an early riser and the last one to bed. Earl and Vivian were down-to-earth, wholesome, and decent people. They met the gold standard in regard to being quality parents, grandparents and neighbors. Earl applied these neighborly gestures wherever he was; with his family, his grandchildren, at church, at Lake Creek, when he visited his relatives in Denmark, at the manor, wherever he was at the time. Earl was personable, always enjoying the company of others. He established close ties with family and friends and was always happy to join them in a coffee party, happy hour, or evening meal.

Looking back at Earl's life reveals a pattern of attributes he embodied throughout his life. Earl was caring, generous and devoted to his family and compassionate with everyone. When Vivian became ill later in her life, Earl lovingly cared for her and displayed an unwavering commitment to her. He lived by the Golden Rule. Earl didn't have to work at this - it was natural for him. He carried with him an innate sense of decency - it was part of him, part of who he was. Earl lived a long, enjoyable and meaningful life. He will be remembered and missed greatly.

Earl was preceded in death by his wife, Vivian, his parents, Martin and Anna Marie Jorgensen, and Earl's siblings; Harry Jorgensen, Gunner Jorgensen, Oda Haahr, Ingeborg McKenna, Margot Mack, and Paul Jorgensen, and grandson, Trevor Anderson.

Left to cherish his memory are his children and their spouses: Kathy and her husband, David Cass; Jim and his wife, Barbara; Rita and her husband, Doug Kern; and Linda and her husband, Scott Anderson.

Earl's eleven grandchildren include: Todd (Nicole) Cass, Jason (Barb) Cass, Emily (David) Wegley, Mandie Cass, Jeff (Jordan) Jorgensen, Chris (Stephanie) Jorgensen, Jessica (Kevin) Denton, Travis (Molly) Kern, Erika (Andrew) Boyer-Kern, Chelsea (Randy) Bissen, and Luke (Sarah) Anderson.

Earl's 22 great-grandchildren include: Olivia, Sophie, Bella, and Gianna (Todd); Peyton and husband Ben, Grace (Jason); Ian, Liam (Emily); Londyn (Mandie); Vivian, June, Rosemary (Jeff); Jenna, Chloe (Chris); Dylan, Lucas, Wesley (Travis); Charlie, Rita (Erika); and Ben, Evy, Jaelea (Chelsea).

Cemetery Details

Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery

875 IA-7
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **26.** 5:30 PM - 7:30 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>

Funeral Service

MAR **27.** 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church -- Storm Lake
1614 West 5th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588
<http://www.stmarkstormlake.com/>

Tribute Wall

RW

“ *Ruth Westergaard lit a candle in memory of Earl Jorgensen*



Ruth Westergaard - April 09, 2023 at 08:42 AM

PT

“ *I just learned of Earl's passing. My sincere sympathy to all the family. I cleaned house for Earl and Vivian many years ago. I always enjoyed being around them, such nice people. I remember they always had the OJ Simpson trial on when I was there. That always made me chuckle...i thought it was kind of like watching paint dry!! It was an honor to know them. I was visiting someone at the nursing home when Earl was there to see Viv. He was so loving and patient! I'm grateful to have known them both. My prayers are with you.*

Pamela Tidemann - April 04, 2023 at 12:19 AM

MB

“ *My thoughts are with the entire family. Earl was my first, and best, baseball coach. In the minor leagues! I know I speak for others in saying that I count myself fortunate to have been coached by the best. I will always remember his patience and good humor on and off the baseball field. to a life well lived.*

Michael Bodaken - March 28, 2023 at 11:55 AM

EM

“ *It was an honor to do business with Earl. He may well be the kindest person I have met in my nearly 66 years on God's Earth. As God so loved the World that He gave His only Son to die for all that believe in Him, God commanded us to Love one another. This embodies who Earl was. He embodied God's Love*

Erik "Hondo" and Mariellen Mosbo - March 27, 2023 at 02:08 PM

BS

“ *Earl, Må du hvile i fred.*

Brad Strader - March 26, 2023 at 06:17 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 26, 2023 at 01:09 PM

MJ

“ Earl was a favorite uncle, especially after we moved to Storm Lake. Fond memories playing catch with Jim & Earl, our summer vacation of our families to Delaware together, all the golfing trips to Newell, and the pheasant hunting with all of Earl's brothers many years ago (tailgating had a whole different meaning then). More recently we always stopped in to see Margaret Gregersen's next door neighbor at Otsego Place, Earl, whenever we came to Storm Lake. And later at Methodist Manor. I'm sure Jim will remember he & I bringing home stringers of 50 or so fish for our dads to clean after a hard summer's day of work.

Vicki & I have your whole Jorgensen family in our thoughts.

(There must have been a glorious Jorgensen reunion in heaven.)

Martin Jorgensen - March 25, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ Sonia Haahr lit a candle in memory of Earl Jorgensen



Sonia Haahr - March 25, 2023 at 12:12 PM



“ My condolences to your family. I had the privilege of meeting/caring for Earl while he was at Otsego Place. Such a kind & friendly man! I also knew his sister Oda Haahr. Such great people, & they did love their Danish traditions. I'm so glad Earl passed them on to his kids!

Sonia Haahr

Sonia Haahr - March 25, 2023 at 12:12 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 25, 2023 at 10:45 AM

AH

“ *So sorry to hear of Earl's passing. When I think back to the people that made a profound impact in my life, I am always thankful that I was lucky enough to have him as my bus driver. And for Vivian to wait for us with popsicles on the last day of school, was really sweet. Earl always went out of his way to make sure my siblings and I were taken care of. For example, he allowed us to "jump off" the bus to run home to get something we forgot while he picked up other Lakeside kids and to make a loop back to pick us up again. It was those small gestures that helped us get through some tough times as kids. Thank you will never be enough for the kindness he so genuinely shared.*

Amanda Heilman - March 24, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 24, 2023 at 06:40 PM

TG

“ *I am sorry to hear of Uncle Earl's passing. He was a great person and a real joy to be around (even when he carried on about the Cardinals!). I consider myself very fortunate to have been his nephew.*
Tom Gustafson
(Cubs fan)

Thomas E. Gustafson - March 24, 2023 at 02:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.



March 24, 2023 at 01:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.



March 24, 2023 at 01:14 PM

VR

“ Earl was always genial and welcoming. He and Viv were a gracious couple. A gift to all who had the pleasure of their company. Earl's grin, chuckle and handsome face were warming and assuring. He made you feel good. I found his exuberance for life to be inspirational. He found great joy in his family, friends and strong faith. He lead by his actions. It was a blessing to be his friend and enjoy his presence. The entire Jorgensen family is testament to the guidance and high quality values taught by Viv and Earl.

Rest peacefully dear friend.
Virgil & Lori Robinson

Virg Robinson - March 24, 2023 at 12:46 PM

JN

“ So sorry for your loss. Another member of the greatest generation has passed. My dad, Bob Nelsen also was in the class of '42 from Newell. He talked very fondly of playing basketball with Earl in high school and then on the 'town team' for several years after high school. According to dad Earl was the high scorer in many of the games. Dad passed away 2 1/2 years ago and now Earl has gone to Heaven as the last surviving member of the class of '42 from Newell High as far as I know. Jim Nelsen

Jim Nelsen - March 24, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 24, 2023 at 11:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 24, 2023 at 11:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 24, 2023 at 09:44 AM

PF

“ *Peggy Flynn lit a candle in memory of Earl Jorgensen*



Peggy Flynn - March 24, 2023 at 09:32 AM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Earl Jorgensen*



John/Connie Demers - March 24, 2023 at 08:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Earl Edgar Jorgensen.*



March 23, 2023 at 11:12 PM

JM

“ *Earl was a great man and a better neighbor! Many awesome memories of Earl and the Jorgensen family growing up in the 60s and 70s!!!*

Jeff Myers - March 23, 2023 at 10:05 PM

JW

“ *Joan Whitney lit a candle in memory of Earl Jorgensen*



Joan Whitney - March 23, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Video Tribute*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 23, 2023 at 06:24 PM

SS

Very nice Tribute.....Special Man....Special Family....❤️

Steven Snyder - March 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

VM

An amazing tribute to an extraordinary life and his

Vicki Mitchell - March 25, 2023 at 03:30 PM