



Harold L. Carstens

January 4, 1931 - January 29, 2023

Harold L. Carstens, age 92, of Alta, Iowa died Sunday, January 29, 2023 at Wel Life in Alta.

Funeral services will take place Monday, February 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta. Burial will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Alta. Visitation will be held Sunday, February 12, 2023 from 2-5:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements.

Harold L. Carstens was born on January 4th, 1931 on a farm near Williams, Iowa. He was the sixth of eight children born to William and Gertrude Carstens. Harold graduated from Alden High School in May of 1948. On August 19th, 1951 he married Shirley Thompson in Iowa Falls. In August of 1952, he was drafted into the Army and took his training at Fort Riley, Kansas. He arrived in Korea in February 1953, and served with the 2nd Division that fought battles at Pork Chop Hill and Old Baldy. His tour ended in July of 1954 with an honorable discharge. After his return, he attended Iowa State University and graduated in December of 1956 with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. He completed his Masters degree in Education from Iowa State in the summer of 1965.

Harold moved to Alta in 1959 and taught Vocational Agriculture for 34 years. While in Alta, he served on many Boards – Fair, Park, Country Club, Trinity Church, and Library. He was on the first Country Club Board and helped select all of the trees and bushes first planted on the course. While on the Park Board, he was involved in building the swimming pool, shelter house, and Elementary playground. He was also involved in the relocation of the Library from main street to the Middle School while on the Library Board. He helped build the wooden shelf units used to hold the books and magazines.

During retirement he enjoyed playing golf, visiting his children and grandchildren, going to shows, and driving his convertible.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents and wife Shirley. He is survived by his children Dorene (Clint) Van Fossen of Bettendorf, Iowa; Ken (Vickie) Carstens of Woodbury, Minnesota; Brian (Susan) Carstens of Lino Lakes, Minnesota; six grandchildren: Aaron (Kristin) Van Fossen Clearwater, Florida; Jeff Carstens of Hugo, Minnesota; Nathan Carstens of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Caleb (Lydia) Van Fossen of Dubuque, Iowa; Bethany (Brennen) Newham of Roseville, Minnesota; Amy Van Fossen of Bettendorf, Iowa; and one great grandchild: Casper Van Fossen of Clearwater, Florida.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn

Alta, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 12. 2:00 PM - 5:00 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>

Funeral Service

FEB 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church -- Alta
401 West 2nd Street
Alta, IA 51002

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harold L. Carstens*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 09, 2023 at 01:45 PM

DB

“ *DOREEN, KEN, & BRIAN -- I JUST HEARD OF THE PASSING OF YOUR FATHER TODAY (4/7/23) FROM OUR AUNT VONNIE. HAROLD WAS A GOOD MAN FROM A GREAT FAMILY. THE CARSTENS FAMILY WAS AND IS VERY SPECIAL. YOUR AUNT DOROTHY AND I WERE PROUD TO BE PART OF THE CARSTENS CLAN. CONDOLENCES TO YOU ALL. DON ED BOTELE*

DON BOTELE - April 07, 2023 at 06:12 PM

BA

“ *Thank you for Harold and all he brought to those of us who were his students. So many Saturdays he spent with us going to FFA Regional Public Speaking contests or judging pigs or cattle. Always making sure we knew, by his word and deed, that we had his full support and encouragement to push ourselves and do our best. Plus, it was a real treat to have him join our class reunion - there still supporting his kids 50 years after graduating. Indeed a community pillar.*



Bob Anderson - February 19, 2023 at 05:53 PM

SH

“ Doreen, Ken and Brian -

We are so sorry to hear of Harold's passing. We enjoyed the Christmas card photo each year of your families.

We remember all the fun at grandma's house in Alden when all the Carstens got together. My dad Herman was the oldest brother - and Harold one the youngest. Those were good times.

Sharon and Bernie Hames

Angie Hames

Mona Kohls

Colin and Claire Hames

Sharon Hames - February 11, 2023 at 11:32 AM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - February 10, 2023 at 10:48 AM

JA

“ *Harold was always good about stopping at visiting. Enjoyed having him as a guest to our church many times. He also made sure to come to our chilli cook offs. He also loved to visit about his car. Sorry for your loss Joe Aube*

Joe Aube - February 06, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold L. Carstens.*



February 05, 2023 at 10:11 PM

LT

“ Laurie & Jim Schlossmacher, Mark & Colleen Thompson, Joel & Sue Thompson and Paul & Julie Thompson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Harold L. Carstens.



Laurie & Jim Schlossmacher, Mark & Colleen Thompson, Joel & Sue Thompson and Paul & Julie Thompson - February 04, 2023 at 01:26 PM

JN

“ I was in Harold's Vog Ag class all 4 years and so I didn't take Algebra or typing. Harold was more than just my teacher he was also a second dad. I was on the church board as chairman and had the privilege of working with Shirley. I was gone from Alta for 50 years and when I moved back I rented a house from him and he was a great landlord and friend. I will really miss him. I know the family will miss the best father grandfather and brother. I had him on a pedestal but put him on the highest one knowing he took care of Shirley in his home until she had taken her last breath.

John Nordstrom - February 02, 2023 at 02:23 PM

JD

“ John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Harold Carstens



John/Connie Demers - February 02, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Harold L. Carstens.



February 02, 2023 at 08:42 AM

DB

“ Such a lovely gracious friendly and handsome man. Alta will miss you dearly.

Dewey and Denise Betts - January 31, 2023 at 04:22 PM

TH

“ *Amazing man, friend and neighbor. Kevin and I will surely miss you. Kevin and Toni Hammer*

toni hammer - January 31, 2023 at 12:45 PM

KG

“ *So sorry for your loss!! Such a generous person!! Heaven gained another special angel!!*



Kathy Grienke - January 31, 2023 at 11:24 AM

PH

“ *Pam Henderson lit a candle in memory of Harold Carstens*



Pam Henderson - January 30, 2023 at 10:56 PM