



## Joseph Gruntorad

December 12, 1950 - December 17, 2023

Joseph Gruntorad, age 73, of Fonda, Iowa died Sunday, December 17, 2023 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Funeral Mass will take place Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Sebastian, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Fonda, Iowa. Burial will follow in the Mount Zion Catholic Cemetery in Fonda. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service at the CHURCH. The Fratzke & Jensen/Mahaney Funeral Home in Fonda is in charge of the arrangements.

After a three-year courageous fight, Joe entered into eternal life. For a moment we felt like we lost the battle, but we know that Joe trusted his Lord and Saviour and was carried home to heaven. He has, without a doubt, won the ultimate prize.

Joe Gruntorad was a devoted husband and father of five beautiful daughters and grandfather to twelve, beloved farmer, avid outdoorsman and a friend to many. Joe's life, which was dedicated to nurturing both his family he cherished and the land he tilled, came to a peaceful end on December 17th.

Born on December 12, 1950 to Bill and Lee (Bartunek) Gruntorad, he was baptized and confirmed in his Catholic faith at St. Columbkille's Church in Varina, Iowa. After graduating from Fonda High School, he earned his agricultural degree from Iowa State University. He married Deborah Kelly at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Aug 9, 1975.

He excelled at everything he did and brought a zest and vibrancy that only Joe could. He was a renowned pool player and slow pitcher. Word has it the pitching height was lowered because of his lethal high pitch. A legendary trapper, many of you may even know him as "Trapper Joe." He was a collector of all things; everything had potential value in Joe's eyes, and he would proudly boast that he had the same truck and wife for over 30 years. Thankfully, Deb has aged better than "Ole Gray".

Joe was a son of the soil from the very beginning, which molded him into an extraordinary farmer, farming both his family land with Bob as well as his father-in-law's. His tireless work ethic proved true to the very end, completing his last harvest this fall with the help of his brother Bob and faithful friends.

While Joe's connection to the land was profound, his most treasured legacy was his family. He was a loving and dedicated father who reveled in the joy and laughter of his five daughters and grandchildren, on and off the court. Whether taking his grandkids on their first combine ride, cheering on his favorite Mustangs, sharing his outdoor adventures or imparting his wisdom, Joe was a source of inspiration and strength to his girls.

The benefit of having 5 daughters is the bonus sons-in-law. Joe was able to find a reprieve from the women in his life, spending countless hours playing cards, riding around the countryside, hunting, golfing, watching Iowa State or tending to the smoker. In the end he got his sons, and he loved them deeply.

Joe Gruntorad leaves behind a legacy of stewardship, love and devotion that will forever be etched in the hearts of his family and those who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will live on through the fertile fields he tended, the wildlife he respected and the daughters he raised to be strong, caring, faithful and compassionate individuals.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Deb; daughters Courtney Walker (Cory,) Kelly Simpson (Jesse) Kristen Peterson (Brett,) Erin Pertzborn (Tony) and Ellen Gruntorad (Brian Gomez); his grandchildren, Maggie, Mia, Mary and Maeve Walker; Olivia, Abe, Leah, and Emma Simpson; Mara, Joseph and Eddie Peterson, and Reggie Pertzborn. He is survived by his sisters Audrey Milfs, Linda Kuker and Laurie Sieben and his brother Bob. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and sister Janet.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Zion Catholic Cemetery

Fonda, IA 50540

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 21. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda  
513 North Main Street  
Fonda, IA 50540

## Funeral Mass

DEC 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church -- Fonda  
513 North Main Street  
Fonda, IA 50540

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ Joe, Jim Nagengast and myself, Mike Walsh, all had the same birthday, December 12, but Joe was a year older than Jim and I. One day when we were kids we raided an old broken down farm house. While in the attic we found some baby raccoons. Each of us took one to make them a pet. Jim and Joe’s disappeared but I had mine for over a year. She was a great pet and ran the paper route with me every morning. The call of the wild finally came and she was gone. We talked about those coons for many years. Gods speed Joe.

Mike Walsh, son of Jack and Ruth Walsh - March 06, 2024 at 03:51 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 21, 2023 at 12:15 PM

GW

“ Gretchen Waltzman lit a candle in memory of Joseph Gruntorad



Gretchen Waltzman - December 20, 2023 at 11:54 PM

KP

“ Sending condolences to the Gruntorad family. With love, your Okoboji friends / neighbors- Kayla & Quincie Peterson



Kayla Mastbergen - Peterson - December 20, 2023 at 08:44 PM

CA

“ *Caroline lit a candle in memory of Joseph Gruntorad*



**Caroline** - December 20, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.*



December 20, 2023 at 02:22 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.*



December 20, 2023 at 12:54 PM

JK

“ *Deb & Family, Joe was not only a proud Dad & Grandfather, he was a good friend to any & all that met him. I enjoyed the days playing softball with him back in the late 70's, early 80's. He certainly will be missed. #RIP Joe*



*God Bless - Jim & Julie Kapsch*

**Jim and Julie Kapsch** - December 20, 2023 at 12:03 PM

WT

“ *Sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was so friendly to everyone. He will be missed.*



**Wilbur/Karen Triplett** - December 20, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 20, 2023 at 07:25 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish* was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 19, 2023 at 11:28 PM

IB

“ *In sympathy, Debora Blume planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Gruntorad.*

**In sympathy, Debora Blume** - December 19, 2023 at 10:09 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 19, 2023 at 10:09 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 19, 2023 at 07:44 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.*



December 19, 2023 at 04:03 PM

DH

“ *Duane Eldona Hornor lit a candle in memory of Joseph Gruntorad*



**Duane and Eldona Hornor** - December 19, 2023 at 03:58 PM

MF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Joe. Joe was a wonderful person and friend.*



**Mary and Craig Farrell** - December 19, 2023 at 01:39 PM

PT

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

**Pam Tidemann** - December 19, 2023 at 12:48 PM

DS

“ *Deb and girls, what a great man Joe was!! I always enjoyed visiting with him when we crossed paths! Talked Cyclones or Mustangs a lot. He was super proud of each and everyone of his girls and grands!! Sending many thoughts and prayers your way!*

**Dana Seivert** - December 19, 2023 at 12:43 PM

DS

“ *Dana Seivert lit a candle in memory of Joseph Gruntorad*



Dana Seivert - December 19, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.*



December 19, 2023 at 12:28 PM

DJ

“ *Deb and girls,  
What a great guy! It takes a special man to be a girl-dad!  
He could always tell me a false story with such a serious face, I always believed him, then he would laugh. He loved asparagus picking, Deb would occasionally share some with me. When I would run into him somewhere, he would always say, "You didn't see me". He will be missed by many.  
May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and mind through this difficult time. May all the wonderful memories of Joe flood your thoughts.  
Love always,  
Rodney, Diane and girls*

Diane Johnson - December 19, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.*



December 19, 2023 at 10:35 AM

VU

“ Vicki Ulven lit a candle in memory of Joseph Gruntorad



Vicki Ulven - December 19, 2023 at 09:34 AM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 19, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph Gruntorad.



December 18, 2023 at 11:10 PM

BR

“ My sympathy to Joes family...He was a great friend of Dale & myself when we lived in Fonda...He always showed up when we were cleaning chickens.A great guy!!! 🤔❤️💜💜



Bev Reis - December 18, 2023 at 06:37 PM