



Philip Lietz

June 7, 1943 - October 18, 2025

Philip “Phil” Loren Lietz, 82, of Storm Lake, Iowa, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2025, from natural causes related to Parkinson’s disease.

Funeral services will take place Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in rural Alta. Visitation will be held Friday, October 24, 2025 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Phil was born on June 7, 1943, in Alta, Iowa, to Lorenz and Wiona (Rieman) Lietz. After graduating from Buena Vista College, he proudly served his country in the United States Army, spending time overseas in Germany.

A lifelong resident of the Alta and Storm Lake area, Phil was passionate about farming the land he grew up on, tending it with care and dedication. He took great pride in the family farm and found special joy each spring when the baby calves arrived.

Faith was a cornerstone of Phil’s life. He was a devoted member of St. John’s Lutheran Church of Hanover, where he faithfully served in many roles on the church council for several years. A man of few words but a giant heart, Phil’s quiet strength, humility, and kindness left a lasting impression on everyone

who knew him.

Phil is survived by his sisters, Maes Sandine of Storm Lake, Iowa, and Ruth Smit of Sturgis, South Dakota; his nephew, Craig Smit and family of Big Sky, Montana; and his niece, Renae Schumacher and family of Big Sky, Montana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lorenz Lietz and Wiona (Rieman) Lietz.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Phil's honor may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church of Hanover

Phil's legacy of faith, hard work, and love of the land will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24.** 5:30 PM - 6:30 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

OCT **25.** 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church -- Hanover
169 630th St.
Alta, IA 51002

Tribute Wall

“ *In Honor of Phil Lietz—My Very Good Friend at Buena Vista College*
I was so very saddened today to learn from my niece that Phil had passed away. My sister (Marlene Massop) lives on the second floor at Methodist Manor as Phil was. Her daughter (Karen Keenan) had told me a few months ago that Phil was on this floor. I was shocked to find this out. I had assumed he was still on the farm.

I called Phil about two (perhaps three?) months ago and we had a nice conversation. I asked him why he was there. He said that a garage door had hit him on head from a high wind on the farm. I later found out that he had Parkinson's as my sister does. I don't know if the garage door story is true but I vividly remembered Phil as the very good friend that he was. I tried to call him about a month ago but only got an answering service.

We both entered BVC in the Fall of 1961 and took general chemistry together. We met early in our sophomore year in Organic Chemistry (two semesters). By this time we had both decided to get our bachelor's degree in chemistry. So, we took Quantitative Chemistry (two semesters) our junior year. We then finished our chemistry degree by taking Physical Chemistry (two semesters) our senior year. When BVC had its 1965 graduation there were only six chemistry majors. Phil and I were two of them. During our junior year Phil said I should pledge his social fraternity (Delta Phi Rho) and that would help me get a social life. I did so and we did enjoy that together. But our times together in the chemistry classes was part of our glue. Another glue was the fact that my father and mother had met in Alta when my dad moved off the farm (west of Alta) and became a janitor in the Alta High School. Later my dad did a four year blacksmith internship with Chris Olson in Alta and learned the blacksmithing/welding business. Dad (Richard) and mom (Mildred Iverson) then moved to Newell and he started up his own business (Carlson Welding and Iron Works). My mom always knew families and she knew quite a lot about the families in and around Alta. My grandma and grandpa Carlson (Frank and Beda) are buried in the Scandinavian Cemetery north of Alta. My grandma Iverson went to school in a small school house north of Alta. That building is now standing near downtown Storm Lake (not far from

my niece's (and her husband-John) business which is the Grand Central Station Coffee Shop.

The real glue between Phil and me was the simple fact that I liked Phil because of his kindness, quality and integrity. He was just a great guy and I was lucky to be his good friend.

During our phone conversation I reminded him of a joke he (too often) played on me. The Organic Chemistry lab was on the east side of the science building and occasionally I would be walking across the grassy middle of the campus toward my car. Phil and I both commuted to BVC. Phil would open the Organic Chemistry window and yell out "Hey Galen!". I would turn my head and he would yell out "see ya". He did that practical joke several times during our sophomore year and I (somehow) fell for it--each time he did it, I would shake my head that I fell for that again. I reminded him of that when we talked about two (three?) months ago.

The last time we were together was when we had dinner together at The Embers. We, of course, had many great memories together (double blind dates while in Delta Phi Rho) and chemistry stories. I am so happy to tell you what you already know. Phil was just a great guy. So kind and so genuine. Nothing but goodness resided in Phil. I am so grateful for our friendship and I feel deeply for your loss. I played a little golf today and when I got about 40 yards from the hole I said to myself "Phil-this shot is for you". I am not a great golfer but the golf ended up about 1 ½ feet from the hole. I smiled. I will carry good thoughts and memories of Phil for the rest of my life.

Sincerely,

*Gaylen (Galen) Carlson
76304 Honeysuckle Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92211*

Gaylen Carlson - October 26, 2025 at 05:00 PM

DH

“ Our sincere sympathy to Phil’s family.



Duane & Eldona Hornor - October 24, 2025 at 08:30 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - October 24, 2025 at 04:04 PM

TF

“ The Big Sky Conoco family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip Lietz.

The Big Sky Conoco family - October 24, 2025 at 03:30 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Philip Lietz.



October 24, 2025 at 03:30 PM

JK

“ Joel Kragt sent a virtual gift in memory of Philip Lietz



Joel Kragt - October 21, 2025 at 07:04 PM

SF

“ Sympathy to the Lietz family! Had lots of dealings with Phil. Many good memories!



Steve Frank - October 21, 2025 at 02:36 PM

JD

“ John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Philip Lietz



John/Connie Demers - October 21, 2025 at 08:00 AM

AM

“ Andrew, Suzanne, Ginny, Harrison, Mazie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Philip Lietz.

Andrew, Suzanne, Ginny, Harrison, Mazie - October 20, 2025 at 11:30 PM

AM

“ *Andrew, Suzanne, Ginny, Harrison, Mazie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Philip Lietz.*



Andrew, Suzanne, Ginny, Harrison, Mazie - October 20, 2025
at 11:30 PM