



Ralph E. Watts

May 27, 1940 - July 9, 2020

Ralph E. Watts, age 80, of Aurelia, Iowa died on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at the Cherokee Regional Medical Center in Cherokee, Iowa.

Public graveside services will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Alta. Public visitation will take place on Monday, July 13, 2020 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in ALTA. The family is requesting that masks be worn during the visitation due to COVID-19. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given to later distribute to Ralph's favorite organizations. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Alta is in charge of the arrangements.

Ralph Eugene Watts, the son of Guy and Lavon "Bonnie" (Blake) Watts, was born on May 27, 1940 in Storm Lake, Iowa. As an infant, Ralph was baptized at the Alta United Methodist Church and later confirmed at the same church.

Growing up, Ralph attended grade school and high school in Alta. He graduated from Alta High School in 1958. He then went on to attend Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, South Dakota for two years.

On February 26, 1963, Ralph enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country. During his time in the Army, he served during the Vietnam War and was a specialist. He received an honorable discharge on February 25, 1969.

On April 4, 1965, Ralph united in marriage to Loreen Friedrichsen. They were blessed with three children: Dawn, Charlotte, and Clinton. The couple later divorced. On June 6, 1987, Ralph united in marriage to Diane Braun at the Aurelia United Methodist Church. Ralph gained two children, Misty and Brian.

For most of his working career, Ralph worked at a bank and telephone company. He was a jack of all trades and enjoyed working numerous other jobs throughout his life. Ralph farmed for over 20 years with his dad. He decided to retire from the telephone company in 2002, but continued to farm part-time.

Ralph was very active in his community and was a member of the American Legion Post 390 in Aurelia, SERPACI, Little Sioux Red Power, and Antique Automobile Club of America. He also participated almost every year in the Albert City Threshermen and Collectors Show. Ralph was also a long time member of the Aurelia United Methodist Church and served as treasurer for many years.

In his free time, Ralph enjoyed restoring antiques, working on old motors, going to his kids' and grandkids' activities, and farming. He also liked to travel with his wife, Diane. The couple went on numerous cruises over the years. Above all, family was Ralph's top priority. He served as a rock for all, offering his wise words and support.

He was blessed with a gentle soul and a patient ear. He always took the time to listen to his family and others. His encouraging words were highly regarded by many and he left a grand legacy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Diane Watts of Aurelia,

Iowa; children: Dawn (Clark) Voge of Cherokee, Iowa; Charlotte (Christopher) Quinney of Hickory, North Carolina; Clinton Watts of Readlyn, Iowa; Misty (Joseph) Daum of Cherokee, Iowa; Brian (Jessica) Watts of Riverside, Iowa; brothers, Jim (Connie) Watts of Storm Lake, Iowa and Burdette (Janette) Watts of Spencer, Iowa; grandchildren: Ashley (fiance, Monte Flaugh) Gehrts of Larrabee, Iowa; Adam Gehrts of Aurelia, Iowa; Melanie (Todd) Bauer of Holstein, Iowa; Amber (Tyler) Pearson of Cleghorn, Iowa; Connor Voge of Sioux City, Iowa; Dawson Voge of Cherokee, Iowa; Dale Tibbetts of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Travis Tibbetts of Wilmington, North Carolina; Allison Daum of Cherokee, Iowa; Madison Daum of Cherokee, Iowa; Evan Watts of Riverside, Iowa; great-granddaughter, Lydia Pearson; mother-in-law, Rosemary Braun of Orange City, Iowa; extended family and friends.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, Leo Braun; granddaughter, Tatum Tibbetts; and great-granddaughter, Olivia Bauer.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn

Alta, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Alta
301 Alta Vista Street
Alta, IA 51002
(712) 284-2141
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Graveside Service

JUL 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Woodlawn
Alta, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph E. Watts*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - July 13, 2020 at 12:40 PM

EM

“ *Sorry for your loss. It was a pleasure doing lawnmower business with Ralph as it was always a pleasure to do business with his mother. Just very nice people that left this world better than they found it.*

Erik "Hondo"and Mariellen Mosbo - July 17, 2020 at 11:44 AM

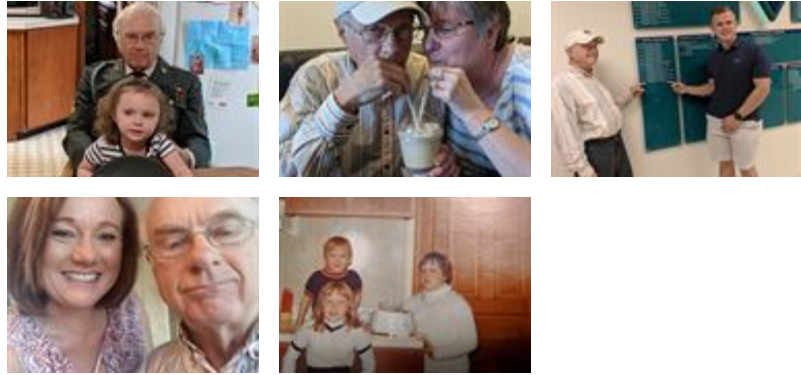
KH

“ *Diane and family, praying for all of you! Sending hugs!!
Karmen Hodgdon*

Karmen Hodgdon - July 15, 2020 at 06:27 PM



“ 243 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - July 13, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - July 13, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket* was purchased for the family of *Ralph E. Watts*.



July 13, 2020 at 09:31 AM

RC

“ *RTC Communications purchased the Healing Tears - Lavender and White for the family of Ralph E. Watts.*



RTC Communications - July 13, 2020 at 08:04 AM

SA

“ *I never met Ralph, but his son Clint often spoke of him and their shared interests. Clint is a great friend to my family and me. He is loved by the entire community of Readlyn. I now see where he got his good looks from. I send my deepest sympathy to the Watts family during this tough time. I look forward to Clint telling me more stories of his Father.*

Steve Aiello - July 13, 2020 at 07:36 AM

TR

“ *The Readlyn First Responders purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Ralph E. Watts.*



The Readlyn First Responders - July 13, 2020 at 07:28 AM

BE

“ *Barb And Dar Evans lit a candle in memory of Ralph E. Watts*



Barb and Dar Evans - July 12, 2020 at 11:13 PM

BE

“ We are so sorry. Ralph was a very nice guy.

Barb and Dar Evans - July 12, 2020 at 11:13 PM

DE

“ Dawn, Charlotte and Clinton: so very sorry for the loss of your father. He was always so kind and friendly. Have memories of gatherings of our families as we grew up north of Aurelia. Sending hugs, Deb Mummert Estes

Deb Estes - July 12, 2020 at 12:35 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



dorothyfriedrich symonsbergen - July 11, 2020 at 11:27 PM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Ralph E. Watts.



July 11, 2020 at 06:09 PM

CV

“ *Chris Voge purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Ralph E. Watts.*



Chris Voge - July 11, 2020 at 04:27 PM

LM

“ *Loreen E. Money penny lit a candle in memory of Ralph E. Watts*



Loreen E. Money penny - July 11, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Ralph E. Watts.*



July 11, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DP

“ *Dawn, Charlotte and Clinton, I am so sorry to hear about the death of your Father. I pray that God will comfort you and give you rest and the peace that surpasses all human understanding. I remember all 3 of you growing up and the joy you had then. I pray that God will grant you times of joy during your grieving process. Hugs and with love, DeAnn (Mummert) Parsons*

DeAnn Parsons - July 11, 2020 at 01:38 PM