



## Wayne H. Stark

March 29, 1943 - May 24, 2025

Wayne Harold Stark, age 82, died May 24, 2025 peacefully at home surrounded by his family after a long struggle with lung cancer.

Memorial services will take place Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Storm Lake Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Wayne Harold Stark was born March 29, 1943 in Faribault, Minnesota to Harold Stark and Lucile (Pike) Stark at Rice County District One Hospital. He was baptized on May 3, 1943 at the First English Lutheran Church of Faribault, Minnesota and confirmed there May 5, 1957. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Storm Lake until his death. Wayne attended elementary school and graduated from Faribault Senior High in 1961 with his future wife at his side. Their first date was Friday the 13th, 1959. Industrial Arts classes were to serve him well later in life.

Wayne was the oldest of four children. His three sisters were Michelle, Barbra, and Debra.

Wayne enlisted in the United States Army Reserves and left for basic training

at Ft Leonard Wood Missouri, the 328th Ordinance Company. After completion there he was united in marriage with Ruth Hamann on August 18, 1961 at the United Methodist Church in Nerstrand, Minnesota.

The newlyweds traveled by train to Monterey, California where Wayne reported for Army Duty. When he reported in he was transferred to camp Roberts at San Luis Obispo, California. Later Wayne and Ruth went to Minnesota for Christmas. Wayne joined his 328th Ordinance Unit in Louisiana Missile crisis and during the Vietnam War. He was Honorably Discharged after fulfilling his Military Reserve duty September 10, 1968.

After his service Wayne worked several places in Minnesota, including Schjeldahl Company in Northfield, supervising printed circuit area and the manufacturing of large balloons for the U.S. Government.

While in Faribault, Minnesota, son, Michael Wayne Stark was born April 24, 1964 followed by Kimberly Stark born March 18, 1968.

In 1970 Wayne and Ruth moved to Albert Lea, MN where Wayne worked at Circuit Labs, and later Fountain Industries, maker of Liquid (coffee, etc.) dispensing machines. Wayne partnered with Jim Hanson of Clark's Grove Minnesota and began a company called Mach IV installing security systems.

In 1974 Wayne became Project Engineer at Wilson Foods in Albert Lea. It was the beginning of a long career in the meat processing industry. While there he oversaw the multi-million dollar addition to a huge hot dog line.

In 1989 Wayne and family moved to Cedar Rapids and Wayne supervised the closing of the 3rd largest meat processing plant in the world at the time. Ruth had completed her R.N. and worked at Mercy Hospital. In 1990 they moved to Storm Lake, Iowa and Wayne commuted to the Cherokee Wilson meat plant.

At the same desk he was Plant Engineer for Wilson Foods, Continental Deli, IBP and Tyson Foods.

After retiring in 2010 he was involved in Kiwanis, American Veterans Iowa Post 66 and The American Legion IA Post 0115. He was past President of the SERPACI car club and Golfed with the NW Senior Gold league, enjoying three times a "hole in one". Wayne hunted and fished with a passion all his life, enjoying 30 straight years in Ontario and trout fishing in Montana.

Wayne owned over 50 cars over the years, and he said his favorite was the 1964 "409".

Wayne had a very alert mind and could keep a room full of people enjoying stories for hours.

He loved God and family.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Lorraine Stark; brother-in-law Ted (Michelle) Ernste; cousin Sheri Pike Klampe; brother-in-law Paul (Lorraine) Chandler; brother-in-law Harold (Mary) Hamann; sister-in-law Phyllis (Ray) Plut; niece Beverly (James) Anderson; and nephew Steve Plut.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 63 years, Ruth Elaine; son Michael Stark of Storm Lake, Iowa; daughter Kimberly Stark of Warrensburg, Missouri; eleven grandchildren: Sally (Bruce) Robbins, Stacey Stark, Julie Stark, Waylon Stark, Nathan Stark, Benjamin Stark, Amelia Stark, Rachel Stark-Wroblewski, and Daniel Stark-Wroblewski; step-grandson Peyton Robbins, step-granddaughter; Sadie (Blake) Stratton; great-grandchildren: Bryson Robbins, Bode Stark, Casey Stark, Lena Stratton and Otto Stratton; many nieces and special nephews that he fished with, Travis Ernste, Chris Ernste, Tim Ernste (who Wayne was deeply grateful for kindness while treatments at the Mayo Clinic).



# Cemetery Details

## Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 21. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## Memorial Service

JUN 21. 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Storm Lake  
211 East 3rd Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Wayne H. Stark*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - June 23, 2025 at 10:57 AM

HW

“ *Dear Ruth, sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. We were in some classes; together, Industrial Arts etc. You have much to be thankful for with your large family to comfort each other. Knowing Christ as your Lord and Saviour will bring you the greatest comfort. Call me sometime. I would like to visit with you. Harold Piepho 218-663-7540*

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**Harold Piepho(classmate of Wayne)** - July 01, 2025 at 09:03 PM

RW

“ *Roger and I met Wayne and Ruth while Roger was receiving treatment for cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Roger and Marla Woodsmall*

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**Roger and Marla Woodsmall** - June 21, 2025 at 07:23 PM

BB

“ *Bob and Mary Beal lit a candle in memory of Wayne Stark*



**Bob and Mary Beal** - June 20, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ *127 files added to the album LifeTributes*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - June 20, 2025 at 05:03 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - June 19, 2025 at 06:53 PM

VU

“ Vicki ulven lit a candle in memory of Wayne Stark



Vicki ulven - June 17, 2025 at 07:22 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne H. Stark.



June 13, 2025 at 02:53 PM

MF

“ Michele and Larry Sorgatz and family, Denny and Barbara Green and family, Mark and Deb Warmington and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Wayne H. Stark.



Michele and Larry Sorgatz and family, Denny and Barbara Green and family, Mark and Deb Warmington and family - June 09, 2025 at 04:30 PM

DR

“ Wayne and Ruth have been great friends to Elmer and I and we had a lot of fun with them over the years. We will miss you Wayne.  
Elmer & Donna Rath



Donna Rath - June 07, 2025 at 06:11 PM

TF

“ *The Ray and Phyllis Plut Family. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Wayne H. Stark.*



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**The Ray and Phyllis Plut Family.** - June 05, 2025 at 10:10 AM

TF

“ *The Ray and Phyllis Plut Family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne H. Stark.*

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**The Ray and Phyllis Plut Family.** - June 05, 2025 at 10:10 AM

PB

“ *Pat and Gene Barnett sent a virtual gift in memory of Wayne Stark*



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**Pat and Gene Barnett** - May 31, 2025 at 08:02 PM

CS

“ *Wayne was a friend when I needed one and Ruth was patient and put up with me. I remember when Wayne turned Michael's bedroom into a train layout. My condolences to you, Ruth and your family.*

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**Charles Skjeveland** - May 31, 2025 at 11:29 AM

LE

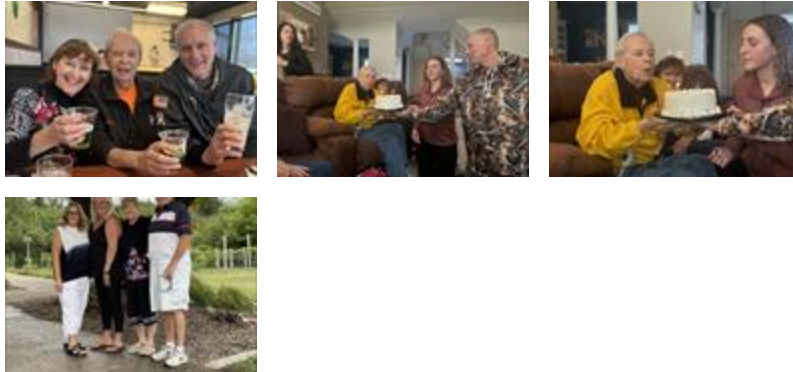
“ Love, Tim, Floranne, Colton, Tori Ernste purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Wayne H. Stark.



Love, Tim, Floranne, Colton, Tori Ernste - May 31, 2025 at 08:57 AM

FE

“ Wayne will always hold a special place in our hearts.



Floranne Ernste - May 31, 2025 at 08:46 AM

JT

“ Jon and Wanda Thurston purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Wayne H. Stark.



Jon and Wanda Thurston - May 29, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ Wayne's Loved Ones. I'm so sorry for your loss, I graduated with Michele. Thoughts and prayers... 🙏🙏🙏

Jeanne Langeslag - May 29, 2025 at 01:41 PM

MD

“ Wayne will be missed. He was always so friendly when we met. He once gave me a verbal kick for being afraid of girls. May the Universe bless Wayne long into the future. Marty Duncan

Marty Duncan - May 29, 2025 at 12:43 PM

MS

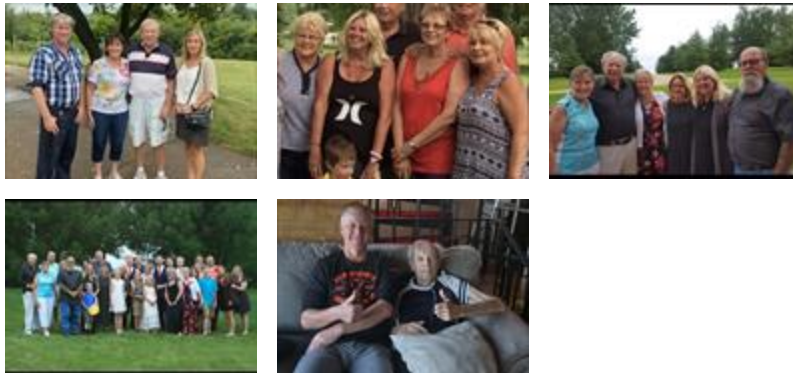
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mike Stark - May 29, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DW

“ 6 files added to the album Family



Deb Warmington - May 28, 2025 at 10:38 PM

DW

“ 1 file added to the album *Siblings*



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**Deb Warmington** - May 28, 2025 at 03:52 PM

DW

“ 3 files added to the album *Family*



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**Deb Warmington** - May 28, 2025 at 03:52 PM

DW

“ 1 file added to the album *Siblings*



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**Deb Warmington** - May 28, 2025 at 01:46 PM

DW

“ 3 files added to the album *Family*



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**Deb Warmington** - May 28, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Siblings*



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**Barbara Green** - May 27, 2025 at 06:48 PM

JW

“ *Rest in peace wayne. great knowing you at the senior center. better known as diner date. Jeff Watson*

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**Jeff Watson** - May 27, 2025 at 03:39 PM