



Willis H. Ripke

January 29, 1943 - November 10, 2020

Willis H. Ripke, age 77, of Newell, Iowa died on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at the Paula J. Baber Hospice House in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Private Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell. To watch the live stream of the service, please click the link-<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87523488766?pwd=NnJmVHNKRvhiNmVTRmZVS2RrL0VBZz09> and enter the password: funeral. A recording of the service will also be uploaded under Willis' tribute page after the service. Burial will be in the Newell Cemetery. Public visitation will take place on Friday, November 13, 2020 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. Guests who are at an increased risk of COVID-19 are welcomed at the visitation from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Masks are required for anyone in attendance at the services. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be given in Willis' name. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Willis was born January 29, 1943 in Storm Lake, Iowa, the son of Walter and Marie (Hogrefe) Ripke. He was baptized as an infant and confirmed in 1956 at the Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, Iowa.

In his youth, Willis attended Zion Lutheran Parochial School for his first

through eighth grade education. He attended high school and graduated with the last class from Providence Consolidated School, Sulphur Springs, Iowa in 1960.

On December 3, 1961, Willis was united in marriage to Darnell Pedersen at the Nain Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa. The couple was blessed with five children; Barbara, Bradley, David, Curtis and Karla.

Willis was an active and dedicated member of the Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, Iowa and St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa, where he held various offices.

Throughout his life, Willis was well known in the carpentry and construction business. He owned and operated Ripke Construction Company since 1977. He had such a passion for his business that he simply never retired. He built many beautiful homes and cherished the friends he made along the way.

Willis enjoyed his card club family, playing horseshoe, slow-pitch softball, dartball, polka dancing, and attending and hosting barn dances. He also enjoyed spending time at Cutty's in Okoboji and traveling to Branson, Missouri, Colorado and Texas. Willis was well known for his BBQ pork loin and his sense of humor that always had people laughing.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of nearly 59 years, Darnell, and his children; Brad (Beth) Ripke of Newell, Iowa, David Ripke of Kenosha, Wisconsin, Curt (Sandy) Ripke of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin and Karla (Jack) Vanderhoff of Newell, Iowa; grandchildren; BJ (Rachel) Nieland, Belinda Smith, Jason (Heather) Ripke, Derek (Shawna) Ripke, Sara (Jeremy) Croghan, Courtney Whitmore, Andrea Whitmore, Cara (Brian) Rehm, Rachel Ripke, Nick Ripke, Austin (Andrea) Vanderhoff, Alex (Kayla) Vanderhoff and Paige (Andrew) Pickhinke, great-grandchildren; Ethan, Emmi, and Brookelyn

Johnson, Madelyn, Macy and Evelyn Vanderhoff, Tyson, Weston and Decker Ripke, Hayden Fry and Ellie Ripke, Benson, Vivian and Willis Nieland, Cody and Brody Rehm, Hazel and Oakley Vanderhoff, and Brynlee Pickhinke, brothers; Wayne Ripke of Storm Lake, Iowa, Loren (Sue) Ripke of Mount Vernon, Iowa, Clifford (Shirley) Ripke of Hartley, Iowa, sisters; Elaine (Len) Brechler of McAllen, Texas and Marlys (Jim) Martin of Glenwood, Iowa.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Marie Ripke; father and mother-in-law, Herluf and Vivian Pedersen, daughter; Barbara Nieland, maternal grandparents, Charles and Anna Hogrefe, paternal grandparents; Henry and Martha Ripke, brother-in-law, Art McWilliams.

Cemetery Details

Newell Cemetery

E. Jensen St.
Newell, IA 50568

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **13**. 6:00 PM - 7:00 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>

PRIVATE SERVICE

NOV **14**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter Lutheran Church -- Newell
314 South Clark
Newell, IA 50568

Tribute Wall



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



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 13, 2020 at 12:05 PM

JA

RIP you were a wonderful man

Jayme - November 16, 2020 at 02:08 AM

RJ

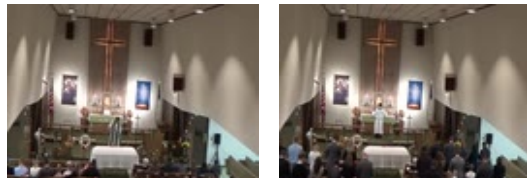
“ *Ronald Jensen lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke*



Ronald Jensen - December 14, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Live Stream*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 16, 2020 at 04:52 PM

VS

“ Vicki Sorbe lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Vicki Sorbe - November 14, 2020 at 07:57 PM

BR

“ Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Bev Reis - November 14, 2020 at 02:28 PM

DB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family of Willy's! He was a wonderful sibling, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to everyone! Den and I are glad of our friendship with the Ripke's! Our visits with Willis and Darnell, Karla in Iowa City at the hospital and when Elaine and Len were here with you! Very fond memories of Willy! So very sorry for your loss of Willy and Barbie!
Den and Kathy Brechler

Den and Kathy Brechler - November 14, 2020 at 01:24 PM

ST

“ So sorry for your loss. Wonderful person, and family. So remember the barn dances, with two bands, at a time, rock and polka, along with a Willis pig roast. Wonderful times, and memories. The photos are imprinted in my mind. Thanks for all your sharing.
Steve and Rachel Rosenboom

Steve - November 13, 2020 at 06:59 PM



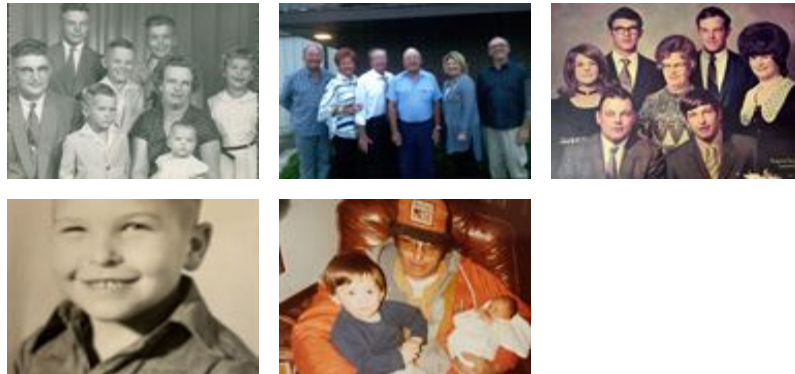
“ Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Sandy Robinson - November 13, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ 138 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 13, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Willis H. Ripke.*



November 13, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Willis H. Ripke.*



November 13, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ *Ben/Judy Malcom lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke*



Ben/Judy Malcom - November 13, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ *David Jansen lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke*



David Jansen - November 13, 2020 at 07:47 AM

KJ

“ Kari Jansen lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Kari Jansen - November 13, 2020 at 07:46 AM

MJ

“ Mike & Shelly Jensen lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Mike & Shelly Jensen - November 12, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - November 12, 2020 at 06:07 PM

RH

“ Randy & Sandy Hogrefe sent a virtual gift in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Randy & Sandy Hogrefe - November 12, 2020 at 03:58 PM

RH

“ Randy & Sandy Hogrefe lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Randy & Sandy Hogrefe - November 12, 2020 at 03:56 PM

DS

“ Damon & Jessica Staton lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Damon & Jessica Staton - November 12, 2020 at 03:55 PM



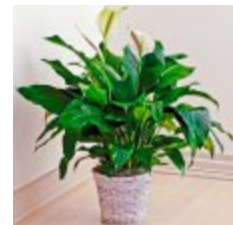
“ Red & White Standing Wreath was purchased for the family of Willis H. Ripke.



November 12, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Willis H. Ripke.



November 12, 2020 at 07:49 AM

RP

“ So sorry to see that Willie had passed. He was a great mentor and friend. My thoughts and prayers are with Darnell and the family. Loved the smoked pork.

Rick Petzoldt - November 12, 2020 at 04:51 AM

BE

“ Brandi Ernst lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Brandi Ernst - November 11, 2020 at 09:12 PM

DH

“ Duane & Eldona Hornor lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Duane & Eldona Hornor - November 11, 2020 at 08:58 PM

MY

“ Mark Young / Chris Young lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Mark Young / Chris Young - November 11, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ Steven Smith lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Steven Smith - November 11, 2020 at 06:50 PM

PG

“ OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO DARNELL & ALL YOUR FAMILY. HAD NO IDEA WILLIS WAS ILL. MAY PEACE & STRENGTH HOLD YOU TOGETHER. IF THE VIRUS EVER GOES AWAY I WILL COME VISIT. MAY WILLIS RIP.

PRAYERS, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE
325 SENECA ST. STORM LAKE

PATTY GUNVILLE - November 11, 2020 at 06:31 PM

CY

“ Our sympathy to Darnell and all of Willis' family. We both have a lot of wonderful memories of your family.

Mark & Chris Young

Chris Young - November 11, 2020 at 06:28 PM

RP

“ So sorry to see Willie has passed. My sympathies to Darnell and kids. Willie was a great mentor and friend. Loved the smoked pork.

Rick Petzoldt - November 11, 2020 at 06:06 PM

AH

“ Prayers to the whole family..I will truly miss Willie...RIP.



Arlo Hogrefe - November 11, 2020 at 05:39 PM

Leigh Schultz

“ Leigh Schultz lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Leigh Schultz - November 11, 2020 at 05:34 PM

KP

“ Karla & Gary Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



Karla & Gary Pickhinke - November 11, 2020 at 05:25 PM

JH

“ Jason Holtgrewe lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke



jason holtgrewe - November 11, 2020 at 04:48 PM

TC

“ *Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke*



Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - November 11, 2020 at 02:46 PM

JC

“ *Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Willis H. Ripke*



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - November 11, 2020 at 01:41 PM