



Earl Damm

January 29, 1945 - November 26, 2008

Earl James Damm, age 63, of Wadena, passed away on November 26th, 2008 at 9:20 PM surrounded by his family. Earl battled dementia, ALS, and cancer with immense strength and courage. Earl was born in Sauk Rapids, MN on January 29, 1945 to Eugene and Catherine (Lang) Damm. When Earl was 3 years old, his family moved to Bluegrass where he was raised. He then resided in Wadena all his life. Earl attended School District 14 of Bluegrass and graduated from Wadena High School in 1964. After school, he enlisted in the US Navy to serve his country during the Vietnam War from 1964-1969 aboard the USS Oriskany. After the service, Earl met Paula Jane Knuttila from Perham. After 3 short weeks of dating, the couple was married on April 10, 1971. Earl and Paula were happily married for 37 years. For almost 40 years, Earl worked as a heavy equipment operator/road construction worker with Kern and Tabery Construction of Wadena. After retiring from road construction, Earl worked part time for the Wadena Post Office until fully retiring in January 2008. Earl enjoyed hunting with his friends and children, muscle cars (especially GTO's), road work, fishing, family, outdoors, western movies, and car restoration. He prided himself in hard work. Earl's laughter, memories, and stories were never-ending. He was a great man who loved his life, family and friends. Earl's strength, humor, positive attitude, kindness and faith touched the hearts of all who knew him. He will always be loved and greatly missed. Earl was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Catherine; and brother-in-law Franklin Kern. Earl is survived by his wife Paula;

sons, Erik Damm of Britt, and Dana Damm of Wadena; daughters, Hally Damm of Wadena, Amy (Chris) Lillquist of Sebeka, and Laurie (Travis) Christianson of Sydney, MT; 5 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, all of whom he was very proud; special friends, Chad, Alexa, and Colby Graphenteen, and Andrea Westby; and six sisters, Elaine (John) Nyberg of Spring Lake Park, Joanne (Lloyd) Schwartz of Wadena, Irene (Rich) Politiske of Roseville, Marge Kern, Delores (Dave) Stigman, and Deb (Doug) Wright, all of Wadena. The Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, with Father Donald Wagner as celebrant. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery in Wadena. Honorary pallbearers were all of his grandchildren. Active pallbearers were Brad Loween, Dwight Kern, David Nyberg, Brian Politiske, Gerald Schwartz, Brad Kern, John Stigman, Scott Wright, Tim Popowski, Steve Kern.

Tribute Wall

WM

“ Served with in Navy and a very special shipmate and Friend.

Wayne Meggs - July 13, 2025 at 03:40 PM

LT

“ Was deeply saddened to see the news in the Sebeka paper.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

God Bless Earl and God Bless his memory.

Leonard Thompson - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Hally & family...
Just wanted to let you know that I am so sorry to hear of your dad's
passing. I am wishing you strength and peace during this really hard
time.
Jessie

Jessie (Olson) Damm - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ You all have been through alot in the last few years. May it make
you strong in your faith and as a family. Paula you have been a
tower of strength! Now its time to take care of YOU!!!!!!

mike and Pam Mertens - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in these trying days.
God be with you.

Wayne & Carol Aspengren - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Earl has been a friend that we shared many many great and fun times together. We will miss him greatly. We are so thankful to have had Earl as a friend to share with and laugh with. We are so sorry. Paula, Erik, Hally, Amy, Lori and Dana you all can stand proud today to know you had a Dad and Husband that Lived and loved was proud of one of the best families I know!*

Love

Jimmy Sarah & Lola

jimmy Hansen - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Dear Paula and Family,
We are sorry for your loss. Earl will live on in the wonderful memories you all hold tightly in your hearts. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Sincerely,

Dave and Lynda Wosmek

Dave and Lynda Wosmek - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Words cannot do justice to say how deeply saddened my family and I are to hear of Earls' passing. We can only chalk it up to God losing his patience in getting Earl to join him. God must have been overly excited to bring Earl to him and he will not be disappointed in his decision.

I always enjoyed Earls infectious smile and his quick wit. He would always get a look of excitement when he was opening a gift or going out to one of his winter outdoor activities.

We will surely miss Earl immensely and our hearts go out to all of the Damm's and numerous other family members that loved Earl so much.

I am so sorry! Love, Scott

Scott Gruber - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Friend from the Bluegrass days, and fellow Navy veteran. Earl and I both served on the USS Oriksany CVA-34 but not at the same time. Earl served from 1966-1969 and I served from 1970-1972.*

Dennis Frank - November 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM