



Elmer Arndt

September 4, 1914 - June 1, 2009

Elmer Gustav Arndt of Staples, formerly of Hewitt, passed away at his home on June 1, 2009 at the age of 94 years. He succumbed to congestive heart failure after defeating esophageal cancer two years ago. Elmer was born on September 4, 1914 to Gustav and Ida (Frank) Arndt at their home in Bartlett Township, rural Verndale. Ida passed away when he was just 15 months old and he was raised by his father and siblings. As a young man, he worked for many farmers in the region. He entered the US Army on January 2, 1942, attained the rank of sergeant in the 30th Infantry Division during World War II in Europe, receiving a Purple Heart, and was honorably discharged on October 26, 1945. Upon returning home after the war, he joined the VFW and was always very proud of the time spent serving his country. Elmer married Marcella Meinhardt on June 10, 1948 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bartlett Township. They raised their five children together in Hewitt. He drove milk truck for the Aldrich Creamery and co-owned and operated the Deep Rock gas station in Hewitt for 40 years. He enjoyed meeting and visiting with people and was known for his booming jovial voice that could be heard all over town. Elmer served his community as mayor and council member of the city of Hewitt. He was a member of the Hewitt Commercial Club, Hewitt Volunteer Fire Department, the Hewitt Senior Citizens and the VFW Club. He served the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hewitt as an active member, Elder, Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, coaching and playing softball, horseshoes, bowling league, cooking and a good game of

cards. He also enjoyed gardening and was known for having a weed-free garden. He was especially proud of his family and was happiest spending time with his children and grandchildren. Elmer was preceded in death by his parents Gustav and Ida; great-grandchild Ava Klokstad; brothers Otto (Alma) Arndt, Carl Arndt and William (Agnes) Arndt; sisters Bertha (Hugo) Baumhardt, Annie (William) Sellnow and Martha (Herman) Rosevink; and in-laws Ernest (Eunice) Meinhardt and Ray Rooney. He is survived by Marcella, his wife of 61 years; sons Lester (Patricia) of Lake City, Gene of Fergus Falls and Roger (Laura) of Franktown, CO; daughters Linda Arndt of Denver, CO and Lori (Brian) Bates of Staples; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; in-laws Ruth (Alan) Smith of Aurora, CO, Alice Rooney of Osseo, Roy (Devona) Meinhardt of Columbia Heights and Arthur (Myrna) Meinhardt of Farmington; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Elmer were held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples with Reverend Robin Collins presiding. Military Honors were provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Wadena, MN. Honorary pallbearers were grandchildren Amy Arndt, Jami Arndt, Amber Klokstad, Erik Arndt, Cory Arndt, Andrew Bates, Luke Bates and great-grandchildren Muira Arndt, Sawyer Arndt, Coen Arndt, Lyla Arndt and Daisy Klokstad. Pallbearers were Lester Arndt, Gene Arndt, Roger Arndt, Brian Bates, Aaron Arndt and Kenneth Arndt. Interment was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Bartlett Township. Memorials are preferred to the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *Marcella and Family--
Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. Elmer was a wonderful man and will be missed by many. He was such an asset to the community of Hewitt with all his involvement. May God Bless you all. ~~~Marie & Mike*

Marie & Michael Fraune - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Elmer.
What a great guy he was. I remember going to the gas station in Hewitt with my Dad (Leo Walker) to fill up the car. Elmer had a pop machine in the station, I would beg dad to buy me a pop. Elmer always had some little thing he gave to me. He had a voice all his own and we knew that Elmer was close by. He was such a friendly guy, alway had time to talk to you no matter who you were. God Bless him!!!
I used to go to the Deep Rock gas station to get gas for the lawn mowers my dad (Stan South) would fix. We will miss him so very much.
Marcella you are in our prayers, just think, Elmer is with Jesus now. What a comforting thought.*

Sandy (Walker) South - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ Lori,

My sympathies on the loss of your father. I am sure you and your family have many happy memories. You were fortunate to have him for so many years - not many make it to be 94! Take care you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Nancy & Andy Schmidt

Nancy Schmidt - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Hi Marcella,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Elmer always made me smile when I stopped in at the gas station. I just wanted to let you know that I am thinking of all of you at this time. Please give each other a hug for me.

Carla Stokes Nelson

Carla (Stokes) Nelson - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I'll never forget the time your dad and mom were out picking blueberries at the Central Lakes College Ag Center one afternoon when I happen to drive up to do the same. We had the best time chatting and picking blueberries when he finally told me his daughter worked at the college. Come to find out it was you Lori!! We laughed, told stories and more stories. In fact, your dad could talk until he was blue in the face, took a deep breath and told more stories. Everytime I saw your dad, he always had a smile on his face, a firm grip to his handshake and was the best at striking up a conversation. He will be missed, but what a blessing to have him for 94 years. Must have been those blueberries he ate that gave him longevity? :) Your friend and proxy family member, Kay.

Kay Mueller - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

IK

“ Elmer was my favrote uncle. I will miss him.

Idamarie (Arndt) Kolpack - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ Marcella & family, please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your husband, father & grandfather. Elmer was an awesome man ... I will never forget living next door to you - I must have been around 4 years old - so that is a LONG time ago. He always made me and my family feel special - he had that way about him. He was so kind, caring and giving. I will never forget when he brought the fire truck to our house as Santa to bring us our bags of treats! He was my "hero" (next to my dad!) and he always had time to visit. Actually he and my dad are probably have great conversations right now! May God bless your family and surround you in His peace. Susan & Dennis Thiel

Dennis & Susan Thiel - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Marcella, What a Blessing to have such a wonderful Husband and Father to your Children.

I will never forget him singing to you at your Anniversary Party. He was such a trooper, always looking on the bright side of life. What an inspiration he was to all who knew him.

He was the only man to ever sing a song to me, what a surprise and treat.

And to each of you children, you were such a Blessing to him, and each of you surrounded him with your loving embrace.

As Elmer rests in God's loving arms, may you all be Blessed with God's Peace.

Donna Resch and Children - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PZ

“ You were a friend when a kid needed a friend.

Pat Zutter - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ We miss you and love you, grandpa!

Amber and Daisy Klokstad - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ Just wanted to let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Elmer could always make us smile. He was a very special person and will be missed by all.

Lloyd and Jolayne Elgin - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VT

“ *My deepest sympathy to Marcella and the family. I met them both a couple of years ago at a Baumhardt family reunion near Springfield Illinois. May God bless you all and bring you comfort.*

Vickie (Knox) Taylor - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Marcella & Family -- our deepest sympathies to you and your family on Elmer's passing. He was truly a wonderful man and an icon of the Hewitt days of old. I will never forget as a small kid going to the Deep Rock station to get a tire fixed and being greeted by Elmer with his friendly and jovial voice.*

*You are in our thoughts and prayers.
Brian & Lindsey Budahn*

Brian Budahn - June 01, 2009 at 12:00 AM