



Melvin H. Smith

January 8, 1919 - June 17, 2016

The funeral service for Melvin H. Smith, age 97, of Wadena will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, at the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Dave Seaton presiding. Visitation will be held on Friday at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. with the Masonic service at 6:00. Visitation will resume at the church on Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service. With family at his side, Melvin, age 97, passed away on Friday, June 17, 2016 at the Fair Oaks Lodge, Wadena, MN.

Melvin was born to Vincent and Selma (May) Smith on January 8, 1919 in Bartlett Township, Todd County, MN. He attended District 4 school outside of Aldrich. Melvin was united in marriage with Margaret Martin on July 18, 1940 at the First Congregational Church in Staples. He joined the U.S. Army on December 5, 1944 and served in WW II. He was honorably discharged on January 25, 1946.

Melvin and Margaret made their home in many states; Wisconsin, California, Nevada, and spent winters in Arizona; but ultimately settled back in Minnesota. He worked many jobs throughout his life; he farmed, played banjo for community dances, worked for Wadena County, and was a salesman for Jewel Tea. He made butter for Wadena Coop Creamery, and worked for Federal Ammunition Depot in Babbit, NV. He and Margaret ran the Wadena Dairy Queen, while working at the Air Base in Wadena. He was Chief Boiler-

man Engineer at Sebeka Cheese Plant. Melvin also drove school bus for District 819 in Wadena, he drove regular routes, sports teams, band trips, and girl scout trips. He drove bus for both kindergarten and handicap students.

After retiring he was a volunteer grandpa at the Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary School, eating breakfast with kindergarteners and 1st graders. He was an avid golfer, golfing since 1975. One summer he golfed over 500 rounds! He had a hole-in-one while golfing with his granddaughter Carol. He was a lifetime member of the VFW and Masons. He was a member at Whitetail Run Golf Course, and was a Honorary Deacon at the Wadena Congregational Church.

Melvin loved spending time with his family and attending as many grandchildren events as possible. He enjoyed watching the Twins play baseball and a good hand of cards. You could almost always find him sitting at Boondocks enjoying a good meal.

Melvin was preceded in death by his parents Vincent and Selma; son Wayne in 2008; brother, Warren; and sisters, Dorothy, Beatrice, Phyllis, and Evelyn.

He will be lovingly missed by his devoted wife of nearly 76 years, Margaret; daughters Linda Macklanburg of Wadena and Patricia (Richard) Larson of Lake Itasca; grandchildren, Paul (Brenda) Kuznik, Tanjya (Randal) Tibbetts, Kelly(George) Reindl, Steve (Patty) Smith, Allen (Nancy) Smith, David (Robbie) Smith, Carol (Jeff) Gross, Julie (Stan) Grossman, and Eric (Kim) Macklanburg; great-grandchildren, Julia and Jack Tibbetts, Leasha, Kayla, and Conor Reindl, Nikki (Tyler) Otten, Lucas, Nathan, and Kylie Smith, Syndey, Carter, and Reagan Smith, Samantha and Rebecca Gross, Zachary (Denia) and Emma Polzin, and William Mackanburg; sisters, Helen (Archie) Coson of Wadena, Rosella Rudy of Las Vegas, NV, Deloris Quick of St. Paul, and Lillian Messer of Brooklyn Center.

Honorary pallbearers will be Richard Larson, all golfing buddies from Whitetail Run Golf Course, all Aldrich Church friends, and all of Melvin's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers will be Paul Kuznik, Steve Smith, Allen Smith, David Smith, Eric Macklanburg, and Joe Peluso.

Military honors will be provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

Burial will be in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

The family suggests memorials go to the First Congregational Church, 262 Central Ave N, Aldrich, MN 56434.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Visitation

JUN 24. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Service

JUN 25. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall

DM

“ Dear Margaret & family,
Melvin was a very special patient at Wadena Medical Center. He made a point of greeting everyone he knew or didn't know. His many acts of volunteerism speak volumes of his concern and love for people of all ages. May you find comfort in God's care.
Sincerely,
Donna Moenck (retired nurse WMC)

Donna Moenck - June 23, 2016 at 09:12 PM

JE

“ I will miss seeing my "boyfriend" at the clinic. Melvin was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. Deepest sympathy to Margaret, Linda and families.
Bruce & Judy Erdahl

Judy & Bruce Erdahl - June 23, 2016 at 07:23 PM

JE

“ Judy & Bruce Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Judy & Bruce Erdahl - June 23, 2016 at 07:14 PM

RP

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Roger Pundt - June 23, 2016 at 04:52 PM

JE

I will miss seeing my "boyfriend" at the clinic. Melvin was a wonderful man who will be missed by many! Our deepest to Margaret, Linda and families.

Judy & Bruce

Judy & Bruce Erdahl - June 23, 2016 at 07:17 PM

DS

“ Dan And Donna Sartell lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Dan and Donna Sartell - June 23, 2016 at 02:41 PM

GD

“ George&Julie Deiss lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



George&Julie Deiss - June 22, 2016 at 07:02 PM

HA

“ Linda, sorry to hear about your dad. I remember both of your folks from when they used to come into *The Uptown* for dinner. Also, I remember them from the *Dairy Queen*.
Helen



Helen Allee - June 22, 2016 at 10:56 AM

DS

“ Dave & Cindy Seaton lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Dave & Cindy Seaton - June 22, 2016 at 06:30 AM

RS

“ Sincere sympathies to the Smith family. A memory? - 45 cents for a malt at the *Dairy Queen* in early 1960's.

Randy Stofer - June 21, 2016 at 05:36 PM

HA

Yea Randy, I remember getting banana splits, etc. for like 59 cents!

Helen Allee - June 22, 2016 at 10:53 AM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Glen Donna Wood - June 20, 2016 at 06:00 PM

RP

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Roger Pundt - June 20, 2016 at 05:03 PM

RP

*Front row L to R is Melvin, Vincent, Rosella(Rosie), Selma and Warren(Bud)
Back row L to R is Beatrice, Phyllis, Delores, Lillian, Helen, Evelyn and Dorothy*

Roger Pundt - June 22, 2016 at 03:20 PM

TS

“ *I always loved when Melvin would come in the office, such a great guy....*

Tami Schwartz - June 20, 2016 at 11:58 AM

GK

“ *Gary & Barbara Kane lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



Gary & Barbara Kane - June 20, 2016 at 08:59 AM

PA

“ *Polly Anderson lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



polly anderson - June 20, 2016 at 03:32 AM

PA

we love you all so much , our hearts and prayers are with you all at this time of Great loss

polly anderson - June 20, 2016 at 03:34 AM

TS

“ *We were so very blessed to have been a part of this special man's life.Melvin will truly be missed by the many lives he touched, including ours.
"Goodbyes are not forever,goodbyes are not the end.They simply mean we'll miss you,Melvin,until we meet again.~We'll see you later,our dear friend!"*



Trish and Bruce Steinkopf - June 19, 2016 at 11:26 PM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



Barry & Sandi Pratt - June 19, 2016 at 10:39 PM

IB

“ Irene And Jerry Baron lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Irene and Jerry Baron - June 19, 2016 at 07:53 PM

EF

“ Esther And Alan Freitag lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Esther and Alan Freitag - June 19, 2016 at 12:45 PM

TO

“ Tiffany Orsello lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Tiffany Orsello - June 19, 2016 at 08:56 AM

DH

“ Darrell & Peggy Haman lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith



Darrell & Peggy Haman - June 18, 2016 at 01:16 PM

MW

“ *Myron & Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



Myron & Karen Winkelman - June 18, 2016 at 11:53 AM

LD

“ *Lane And Donna sent a virtual gift in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



Lane and Donna - June 18, 2016 at 09:13 AM

TH

“ *Theresa lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



Theresa - June 18, 2016 at 08:44 AM

SK

“ *SCOTT KERN lit a candle in memory of Melvin H. Smith*



SCOTT KERN - June 17, 2016 at 10:22 PM

SK

Melvin I always remembered who he was every time I seen him. He was also a great bus driver. Very friendly. He let me come over and see his cap collection also.

I remember him the most lately from boondocks café.

sad to hear him leave us but has had a good time here I believe. awesome guy!!

SCOTT KERN - June 17, 2016 at 10:28 PM

SS

“ *To all Mel's family and friends, sorry for your loss.*

Len and Sally Siegler of Verndale,



Sally Siegler - June 17, 2016 at 06:22 PM

DH

Our love and sympathy to all of you, but we rejoice he is now with Jesus whom he loved. Melvin was very special and we loved him. Ardis, Denise, Shannon, Connie and John

Denise Hogenson - June 17, 2016 at 07:31 PM