



Oliver Putikka

December 19, 1917 - February 15, 2012

Oliver's Last Dispatch and Run Oliver passed away February 15, 2012 at the age of 94 and 57 days with his loving family around him at his home in Wadena, MN. He was born on the farm in Blowers Township, Otter Tail County to Matt & Lydia Kamunen Putikka December 19, 1917. His mother passed away October 1920 and his grandparents took him in, as his father left him. His grandparents passed away in 1929 and Oliver stayed with his uncle Victor & Hilma Putikka until he went into the service. He graduated from 8th grade in 1933 at Hay Creek School District #219 in Blowers Township, Otter Tail County. He was drafted into the U.S. Army October 1941 and landed in North West Africa on November 8th, 1942, the first Amphibian landing of the war and from there to Italy, then up southern France and to Germany. He has an African and European Service Ribbon with 4 Bronze Stars and an Arrow Head for Amphibian landing, also Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, American Defense Medal, Victory Service Medal, 6 Overseas Service Bars and a Plaque from the French Government and a Unit Citation. He received his Honorable Discharge at Camp McCoy, WI on October 9, 1945 and had four years without leaves. He started driving for Northern Coop in the fall of 1945, which lasted for 37 years and almost 3,000,000 miles and has a 2,000,000 mile safety plaque from National Safety Council of Chicago, IL. Oliver was married first time to Mildred Vik September 1950. She passed away in 1977 with two boys being born to them. Stephen Arthur passed away within 2 days and William Oliver is a Physics Professor at Ohio State

University. Oliver married a second time to Gladys Pitcher on August 14th, 1982 the year he also retired. They did a lot of traveling, Hawaii, Scandinavian tour, 7 day Caribbean Cruise, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Alaskan Tour, Nova Scotia Tour, Florida and Bahama Tour, Washington DC, South West and Mexico Tour, Branson, New Jersey, Utah, State of Washington, plus many trips to Jamestown and Superior. Oliver also made 6 trips to Finland to visit relatives. Oliver was a member of St John Lutheran Church, American Legion in Sebeka, was 20 years on the Credit Union Board, Life member of VFW Post 3922. Was commander 3 times and made all State Commander 3 times. Was active in the VFW, was on the Color Guard for 40 years for parades and funerals. His hobbies were traveling, fishing, hunting, taking care of alot of flowers, yard work and volunteering for Meals on Wheels and help at the club. Survivors include his wife Gladys, son William, wife Kimberly and granddaughter Elizabeth Putikka of Columbus, OH; brother John Putikka of Grand Rapids, MN; Onni Putikka of Grand Rapids, MN; sister Edith Swenson, Lebanon, New Jersey; step son Ken and Marge Pitcher of Glenwood, MN; step daughter Edna and Vern Van Orsdel of Wadena, MN; step daughter Diane and Jerry Crabb of Sebeka, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents, foster parents, wife, 1 son, 5 sisters and 2 brothers. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on February 18, 2012, St John Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastor Stephen Meltzer presiding. Burial will be at the Wadena Cemetery. Military Honors will be provided by the VFW Post 3922 Honor Guard of Wadena and the MN Army National Guard Honor Guard.

Tribute Wall



“ Gladys and families of Oliver. Please accept our deepest sympathy's at your loss. He suffers no more and God will ease your pain with the knowing that one day we will all be together again as he promised in that wonderful place in Heaven prepared for us. Keep the many happy memories alive and may God grant you peace. Deepest sympathy's. Jackie (blom) Perius, Jay and family.

February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Gladys and Bill and family,
Please accept our prayers and condolence on the passing of Oliver. Having just watched his memorial tribute, I have nothing but love and respect for him... what a guy! My memories are distant yet vivid. Oliver and his brother-in-law, Harvey, took me partridge and duck hunting as a kid; they took my sisters and me to the MN State Fair with a thorough inspection of the equipment on "Machinery Hill"; later, he gave me a 'taste' of over-the-road trucking. May GOD comfort you in the coming months and years; may all your fond memories be written in your hearts forever.

- Bill & Mary Kittelson

Bill Kittelson - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Hi Gladys,
sorry to hear this late of the passing of Oliver. Jackie & I enjoyed the many times that we enjoyed visiting with you both, which was not enough. You both were very much in our thoughts during the past years. Jackie really enjoyed visiting with you as a Gal with a Gal. We will keep you in our prayers. Are you living where you always have for a number of years? Would you mind if we stopped over to see you sometime? We sure wished we had known when the funeral was, Diane sent the funeral listing & ect. but I didn't check my computer until tonite.
We will keep you in our prayers that God will give you the peace that only he can give, but we can also pray & ask him to do that for you, and we trust you will see his LOVE FOR YOU IN THE DAYS AHEAD.
much prayer & love,
Russ & Jackie Schimpp

Russ & Jackie Schimpp - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Oliver was such a fun person to visit with. We are so sorry that there was so much distance between where we both lived. Our last visit he took my Mom (Mary Van Winkle) and my self around town to show us all the tornado damage that had happened 2 weeks before we arrived. The Christmas letters were always so special since both Gladys and Oliver each added their own notes to the greetings. There are not many people on my Christmas list, where the men also wrote in the letter. See he was pretty outstanding. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family. All our sympathy, Janice & Jim Tate

Janice and Jim Tate - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *My grandmother, Gladys Richter, was a step-sister to Oliver's first wife... So my whole life, he has always been referred to as Uncle Oliver.*

Oliver and Gladie have always been great friends to my grandparents, Dudes and Gladys Richter. I know my Grandpa Dudes will miss having coffee with Oliver at the Boondocks in Wadena.

Aimee Lynch - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Bill,*

Deepest condolences for your loss. Oliver sounds like quite a person.

*Best,
Lee*

Lee McEwan - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Hi Bill and Kim. It was a joy to re-meet you today and visit briefly with you. Oliver was a great guy. I remember the days with he and Millie (cousin). they were all good visits at their home and at our Holman-Benson-Schimpp reunions. I will never-ever forget Oliver's voice and his good ways. He was a great guy. Bill, you can be proud of your "pa-pa"! Gladys, Thanks for being a part of Oliver's life for nearly 30 years. I'm so glad you have YOUR family to help fill the void of Oliver's void now. God Bless you All! Diane and Larry Hahn*

Diane & Larry Hahn - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *My deepest Sympathy and prayers to the family and loved ones. It has been many, many years since I've seen any of my cousin's or very few of my relatives, since my husband was military (Now retired) we have made our home in NC. since 1951. But to our family, God Bless you all and may Oliver rest in peace, with the other family members who have passed on to be with God. Love & Prayers, Jeanette & Hubby of nearly 44 years, Jim.*

Jeanette (Holman) Clark - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ *Bill, Kim and Elizabeth,*

Please know of my sincere sympathy at the death of Oliver. Reading his obituary leads me to believe that he lived a very full life and was someone who overcame whatever challenges befell him. I know that you will cherish your memories of him and I hope that they will sustain you through your time of grieving.

Shelley Palmer - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Dear Billy,

Sorry to hear that you are saying your final good-bye to your father. I remember your mother so dearly and how she supported your backyard golf course, magic shows and kool-aid business and how it all connected me with Scott.

Your family home was a fun-filled haven for me and you were destined to be the proud personage that you've become. I've always looked up to you.

-Gary Bolt

Gary Bolt - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Gladys and family--

The world is a little bit emptier without Oliver in it. Without question, Oliver and Gladys were the best neighbors we have ever had. Our memories of our time living next to you in Wadena are some of the happiest memories we have. Unfortunately, we will not be able to come to the service, but we are definitely with you in spirit. I'm glad that we were able to see Oliver at Christmas. He was a very special man who will be missed by many, many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. When I think of Oliver, I will smile. That's the kind of man he was.

Mike Peterson - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ From my whole family to yours, our deepest sympathy for your loss.
He was a great guy.
Just know that he is with God now.
God Bless You.

Karen Holman-Foy - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Gladys and family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I will forever remember Oliver and his leaf vacuum. In our 20 years of marriage, you and Oliver have been our favorite neighbors. We still talk and remember our 6 years next door to you and all of our fond memories. Our first memory of Oliver is when he presented Mike a catalog of lawn mowers that would be the best "for this neighborhood". We scoffed at first and thought, boy, he's being picky. But we learned to respect and admire and appreciate Oliver's ways. We can't think of Oliver without a HUGE smile on our faces.

We are SO glad that we stopped in for a visit at Christmas time. It was important to us that our children meet you and Oliver and find out who you two wonderful people are.

Oliver was a wonderful, wonderful man who we are grateful to have had in our lives. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you mourn your loss and celebrate his amazing life.

Molly, Mike, Maggie and Matthew Peterson

Molly & Mike Peterson - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Mayme (Holman)Schimpp, my mother, was sister to Hulda (Holman) Vik, mother to Oliver's first wife, Mildred (Vik) Putika. We enjoyed visits from Oliver and Mildred (my cousin) at Mayme (Holman) and Buck Schimpp's home... Oliver was always juch a gentleman! When he married Gladys, they would come and visit mom (Mayme Holman Schimpp). She absolutely LOVED their visits. Mom was very fond of both of them!*

Joyce Schimpp Anderson - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Gladys and family,*

I am sorry to hear that Oliver has passed away. He will be missed by many here in the community. He always had a comment or two when I would have a chat with him.

I will never forget our VFW State meetings and sharing a room with you and Oliver the "buzz saw" They were great times.

Rocky

Rocky Reese - February 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM