



Ray Savaloja

October 19, 1932 - March 19, 2018

The memorial service and celebration of life for Raymond Savaloja of Wadena, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 27, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wadena, with Pastor Jim Stoneman presiding. Visitation will be held on Monday at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m., and will resume at the church on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Ray, age 85, passed away with family at his side on March 19, 2018, at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples, MN.

Raymond Clifford Savaloja was born to John and Selma (Wirkkala) Savaloja on October 19, 1932 in Sebeka, MN. Ray attended school in Sebeka through the 10th grade then finished high school and graduated from Wadena High School in 1951. Even after graduating from Wadena, he continued to be a part of his senior class in Sebeka and received an honorary diploma.

Ray was united in marriage with the love of his life and his best friend, Beverly Lorraine Wohlert, on June 26, 1954 at the Evangelical and Reform Church in Wadena. Ray enlisted in the United States Navy in 1952 where proudly served his country during the Korean War aboard the USS Yellowstone. Ray and Bev were stationed in San Diego and Long Beach, CA. On his deployments, Ray traveled to both Asia and Europe. Ray was honorably

discharged from the Navy in 1960. Ray and Bev made their home in Wadena where they raised their three sons, Mike, Steve and Dan. Ray made his career as a truck driver, first with Northern Coop, then with Cenex and finally with Lund Boats. Ray drove more than 3 million miles accident free and was selected as Truck Driver of the Year while driving at Lund.

In addition to enjoying time with his family and friends, Ray was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fishing, hunting, trapping and floating on the Crow Wing River. Ray was also an accomplished chef and prepared delicious recipes for all to enjoy, especially his famous spaghetti recipe.

Ray was a member the First Congregational United Church of Christ where he served in many capacities including on the Worship Ministry and singing in the choir. Ray had a strong faith in God. Ray was also a member of the VFW in Wadena.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, John and Selma; brothers Art, George, Reuben, Harold, Ken and Ben; and his two sisters, Ruth and Bernice.

Ray will be lovingly remembered and missed by his wife of nearly 64 years; sons Mike of Boise, ID, Steve (Sheila) of Verndale, MN and Dan (Maggie) of Blaine, MN; grandchildren Bryan (Rhonda), Rachel, Trevor, Tyler (Karli), Wesley, Mason and Jesse; two great-grandchildren, Alexis and Kaitlyn (Bryan and Rhonda); sisters-in-law Shirley Savaloja of Deerwood, MN and Pat Savaloja of Sacramento, CA; brother-in-law; LaVern (Delores) Wohlert of Motley, MN; and many nephews, nieces, friends and relatives.

Honorary urn bearers are Ray's seven grandchildren, Bryan, Rachel, Trevor, Tyler, Wesley, Mason and Jesse, along with Jim Hepokoski, John Savaloja, Jeremy Daniels, Dr. Duane Ness, Mike Snyder and Archie Coson.

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

Burial will be held at a later date in the Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

MAR 27. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Colfax Ave. & 1st St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Colfax Ave. & 1st St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 26, 2018 at 11:05 AM

LN

“ *Bev, So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Praying that God covers you with extra comfort at this time. Friend from the past, Laurie Ness*

Laurie Ness - April 18, 2018 at 08:27 AM

HA

“ *Bev. Was so sorry to hear about Ray. I always looked forward to seeing you at the Uptown on Fri. for your hot turkey sandwiches. I know you both really loved them. It was a pleasure to wait on both of you and I missed you when I retired from there. You made such a great couple Will be praying for you and your loss.*



Helen Allee - March 28, 2018 at 02:12 PM

VW

“ *Bev and family: So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. It was such a treat to see you guys at the Boondock's every now and then and visit for a bit. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Vern and Ginger Wiederich*



Vern & Ginger Wiederich - March 27, 2018 at 11:52 AM

DS

“ *Donna & Dan Sartell lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Donna & Dan Sartell - March 27, 2018 at 08:14 AM

MC

“ *My heart hurts for your family! May God cradle all of you in his loving hands! Ray and Bev were the best neighbors ever!*

Mike & Nancy Cunningham - March 27, 2018 at 07:58 AM

PK

“ *Polly Anderson (Kern) lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Polly Anderson (Kern) - March 27, 2018 at 01:23 AM

PK

My heart and prayers go out to you all at this time of great loss what a wonderful man Ray was ,he will be so missed.

Polly Anderson (Kern) - March 27, 2018 at 01:24 AM

SL

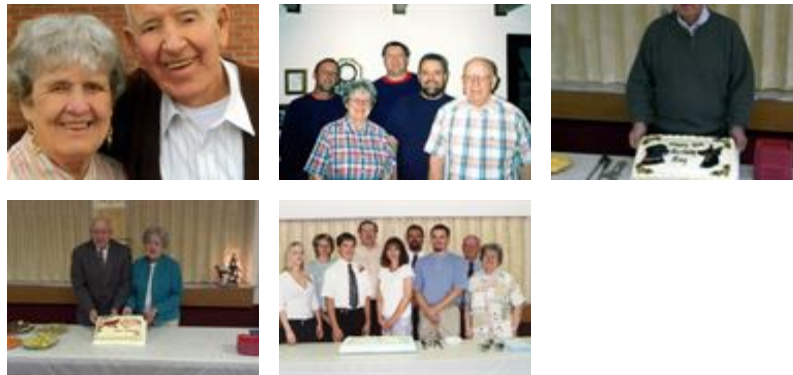
“*Heaven gained an angel will deserved, or deepest sympathies to you all. The best neighbors we have ever had, none will ever beat that. Some of my best smiles and sincere love came by so easily with Ray and Bev..... God blessed, us all with Ray in our lives..... Memories and love to you all during this time.*



Sher & Lance Linnes - March 26, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“*43 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 26, 2018 at 09:49 AM

ML

“*Mary And Terry Lynk lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Mary And Terry Lynk - March 25, 2018 at 03:14 PM

LS

“ So very sorry to hear of Ray's passing! You are all in my thoughts and prayers!

Lowell & Vonnie Stewart - March 25, 2018 at 11:12 AM

NJ

“ Dear Bev and Family,
You are in my thoughts and prayers. Even though I was young when we moved away from 2nd St. I have such fond memories of Ray. I always enjoyed running into you both in Wadena when I'm home. Heaven has gained a great guy!
Nancy Johnson



Nancy Johnson - March 24, 2018 at 03:36 PM

MW

“ Myron And Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Myron and Karen Winkelman - March 24, 2018 at 07:44 AM

KL

“ I worked through Ray and his sweet, dear wife few years ago. They were two of the sweetest / nicest people I ever met. It was a pleasure to help them, a joy to get to know them! I will miss him, but know God needed him,so he brought him home, to Heaven.

Keith Lis - March 23, 2018 at 07:20 PM

TF

“ *The Owen, Tschida and Spencer Families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



The Owen, Tschida and Spencer Families - March 23, 2018 at 04:08 PM

JJ

“ *Justin Jetenberg lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Justin Jetenberg - March 23, 2018 at 01:33 PM

YW

“ *Your Friends at Truck Writers purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



Your Friends at Truck Writers - March 23, 2018 at 11:02 AM

DA

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



Dan - March 23, 2018 at 09:15 AM

JT

“ *Judy Trethewey lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Judy Trethewey - March 22, 2018 at 10:42 PM

PF

“ *Peggy & Dale Rosier & Family lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Peggy & Dale Rosier & family - March 22, 2018 at 10:27 PM

GA

“ *Greg Hughes, Yuma, AZ purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



Greg Hughes, Yuma, AZ - March 22, 2018 at 10:20 PM



“ *Jane Erckenbrack lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Jane Erckenbrack - March 22, 2018 at 09:18 PM

MO

“ *Mark & Gloria Hughes ~ Aloha, Oregon purchased the Amazing Arboricola for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



Mark & Gloria Hughes ~ Aloha, Oregon - March 22, 2018 at 08:26 PM

BH

“ *Brian Hughes purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



Brian Hughes - March 22, 2018 at 07:15 PM

DG

“ *Our prayer are with Bev and family Jan and Duane Guck*



Duane and Jan Guck - March 22, 2018 at 06:18 PM

TS

“ *Timothy Savaloja lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Timothy Savaloja - March 22, 2018 at 05:13 PM

AD

“ *Andy & Stella Daniels lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Andy & Stella Daniels - March 22, 2018 at 04:42 PM

JP

“ *Jerry And Kathy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - March 22, 2018 at 03:26 PM

RJ

“ *Bev and family: so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. We have so many good memories of our kids growing up together there on second street. Ray was such a great guy with a great sense of humor. We will all miss him. Bob and all his deceased classmates will welcome him in his "new life". You are all in our prayers.*

Rose Johnson - March 22, 2018 at 11:10 AM

BF

“ *Bruce Savaloja Family lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Bruce Savaloja family - March 22, 2018 at 11:06 AM

RB

“ Ray And Dorothy Beyer lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Ray and Dorothy Beyer - March 22, 2018 at 10:55 AM

SS

“ We used to ride the senior bus with Ray and his wife. Such a nice couple! We send our sympathy to the whole family.



Sally Siegler - March 22, 2018 at 10:46 AM

LS

“ Linda Schallock lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Linda Schallock - March 22, 2018 at 12:08 AM

LS

Bev & boys,
So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. So many memories of him over the years. Deepest sympathies to the whole family.

Linda Schallock - March 22, 2018 at 12:10 AM



So very sorry to hear about Ray. He was a good guy and a fine neighbor.

Bruce Johnson - March 22, 2018 at 11:06 AM

CN

“ *Cindy Ness lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Cindy Ness - March 21, 2018 at 11:31 PM

RL

“ *Ruby Lynk lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Ruby Lynk - March 21, 2018 at 10:53 PM

CW

“ *Children of Roy & Marlys Wendorf purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ray Savaloja.*



Children of Roy & Marlys Wendorf - March 21, 2018 at 10:45 PM

CS

“ *Charlotte Stemson lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Charlotte Stemson - March 21, 2018 at 05:46 PM

JK

“ Jason, Stacie & Sophie Kern lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Jason, Stacie & Sophie Kern - March 21, 2018 at 05:27 PM

RA

“ Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Rita Anderson - March 21, 2018 at 05:21 PM

PE

“ Peter & Margaret Van Erp lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Peter & Margaret Van Erp - March 21, 2018 at 05:01 PM

JB

“ Joni Birch lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Joni Birch - March 21, 2018 at 11:32 AM

JU

“ *John Uselman lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



john uselman - March 21, 2018 at 10:59 AM

CW

“ *Carol Wirkkala lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Carol Wirkkala - March 21, 2018 at 10:02 AM

JA

“ *Jackie sent a virtual gift in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Jackie - March 21, 2018 at 09:36 AM

JA

Bev and family; so sorry for such a great loss. He is at peace with our Savior and we will be together again. God bless you with comfort and peace. Hang on to the memories!

Jackie - March 21, 2018 at 09:37 AM

LS

“ *Laura Spilman lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Laura Spilman - March 21, 2018 at 09:08 AM

DM

“ *Diane And Mike lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Diane and Mike - March 21, 2018 at 12:55 AM

BS

“ *Bill Schorsch lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Bill Schorsch - March 21, 2018 at 12:39 AM

AK

“ *Allan And Karen lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Allan and Karen - March 20, 2018 at 10:47 PM

JV

“ *John And Cathy Vidmar lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



John and Cathy Vidmar - March 20, 2018 at 09:09 PM

MS

“ *Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Mike and Lea Snyder - March 20, 2018 at 05:48 PM

NR

“ *Nancy Reed lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Nancy Reed - March 20, 2018 at 05:42 PM

JS

“ *Jill Stevens-Becker lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja*



Jill Stevens-Becker - March 20, 2018 at 05:04 PM

PJ

“ Pam Jenson lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Pam Jenson - March 20, 2018 at 04:31 PM

BW

“ Bob & Phyllis Wilkening lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Bob & Phyllis Wilkening - March 20, 2018 at 04:19 PM

ST

“ Sue Theisen lit a candle in memory of Ray Savaloja



Sue Theisen - March 20, 2018 at 04:09 PM