



Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes

September 24, 1923 - May 26, 2018

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sylvester John "Vess" Heltemes, age 94 of Wadena, will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena with Fr. Aaron Kuhn as celebrant. Friends may call at the Johnson-Schuller chapel in Wadena on Thursday from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. with a Catholic United Financial Rosary service at 6:00 p.m. and parish prayers at 7:00 p.m.. The visitation will continue on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of Mass at the church. Sylvester John Heltemes, 94, died Saturday, May 26, 2018, at his home in Wadena.

Sylvester "Vess" was born on September 24, 1923, to Joseph and Margaret (Wegscheid) Heltemes and lived in the Bluffton and Wadena area. He grew up with eight brothers and sisters. Sylvester proudly served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

On October 14, 1947, Vess married Cecelia L. Budig at the St. Ann Catholic Church in Wadena, MN. Their marriage was blessed with nine children. He had strong faith, devotion and love for his family. Everyone can agree that his silent mannerisms, patience and gentleness were a gift from God. He was a lifelong farmer enjoying all the seasons. Spring, the joy of planting; Summer, watching those labors grow; Fall, the anticipation of harvest; rest for the Winter to begin again. His carpentry skills and attention to detail produced both strong buildings and friendships.

Dad enjoyed playing cards with the young and old, doing puzzles, bird watching, hunting with the boys (his last successful deer hunt at the young age of 92) and keeping bunnies and blackbirds out of "moms" garden using his sharp-shooter BB gun skills. Oh yah, and watching those Twins!!

His grandchildren loved the visits to the farm, riding with grandpa on the tractor and experiencing his kindness to the barn cats and family dog. Sitting at the table (eating rhubarb, Andes mints or black licorice) he got their attention with a lift of his bushy eyebrows, twinkle in his blue eyes, wiggling of his ears or the movement of the biggest working hands they ever saw. That was Vess' quiet mischief.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Margaret; daughter Laurie Langen, son-in-law Tom Weiss, one sister, Lidwina (Hubert) Buettner, four brothers, Norbert (Pat), Alvis (Marlys, Eileen), Victor (Helen) and Gilbert and brother-in-law Syl Budig.

Vess is survived by his wife of 70 years, his children John (Brenda) Heltemes, Lenore Aarness, Janice Heltemes, Bill (Marilou) Heltemes, Judy Heltemes, Jane (Jim) Merickel, Cindy Weiss, and Curt (Kim) Heltemes, 20 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren; his sisters; Jeanette Budig, Julie (Jack) Josephson, and brother Rich (Coy) Heltemes; sister-in-law JoAnn Heltemes; son-in-law Bill Langen and numerous nieces and nephews.

Serving as pallbearers will be Tyler Aarness, Brian Heltemes, Chad Bernstetter, Jason Merickel, Mitch Heltemes, and Brett Weiss.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Kevin Heltemes, Sara Stone, Selena Aarness, Christi Akolly, Cheri Maboudou-Tchao, Misti Simmonds, Megan Heltemes, Monica Heltemes, Judy Merickel, Nikki Weiss, Treye Heltemes, Corey

Heltemes, Garrett Heltemes, and Brandt Heltemes.

Memorials will go to St. Ann Church, St. Cloud Diocesan TV Mass and Boy's Town.

Thank you for sharing in the celebration of dad's life.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482

Visitation

JUN 1. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church
514 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 30, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JH

“ *Janice Auel Hofer lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Janice Auel Hofer - June 06, 2018 at 10:59 PM

VW

“ *John, Bill & Family--So sorry for your loss. We were unaware of your Dad's passing until we went to deliver Meals on Wheels to their house. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Vern & Ginger Wiederich.*



Vern Wiederich - June 06, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 31, 2018 at 11:52 AM

RT

“ Rich & Marilyn Trout lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Rich & Marilyn trout - May 31, 2018 at 01:05 AM

JF

“ Jason And Monica Merickel & Family lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Jason and Monica Merickel & family - May 30, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 30, 2018 at 02:44 PM



“ Christina Akolly lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Christina Akolly - May 30, 2018 at 12:34 PM



“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Pat Lorentz - May 30, 2018 at 11:00 AM

DL

“ We are so sorry for you loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Denny & Linda Loween



Denny & Linda Loween - May 30, 2018 at 09:39 AM

MH

“ Megan Heltemes lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Megan Heltemes - May 30, 2018 at 03:49 AM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Glen Donna Wood - May 29, 2018 at 10:49 PM

DS

“ Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Dave Schumacher - May 29, 2018 at 10:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes.*



May 29, 2018 at 09:29 PM



“ *Cindy Anderson lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Cindy Anderson - May 29, 2018 at 07:23 PM



“ *Rocky Reese sent a virtual gift in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Rocky Reese - May 29, 2018 at 06:04 PM



“ *Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Mike and Lea Snyder - May 29, 2018 at 01:53 PM

TA

“ *Bill and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Duane always spoke highly of your dad.
You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Theresa (Kern) Allen*

Theresa Allen - May 29, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the
family of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes.*



May 29, 2018 at 12:30 PM

SO

“ *So sorry for your loss. I remember him as
such a sweet and kind man!*



Shannon Schlecht O'Keefe - May 29, 2018 at 10:41 AM

JA

“ *Jayre lit a candle in memory of Sylvester
"Vess" Heltemes*



Jayre - May 29, 2018 at 10:38 AM

BL

“ *Bill Langen lit a candle in memory of
Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Bill Langen - May 29, 2018 at 09:42 AM

LH

“ *Sending prayers , love Larry&kathy Heltemes& family*

larry heltemes - May 28, 2018 at 10:15 PM

JB

“ *Jim And Lorie Baron sent a virtual gift in
memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Jim and Lorie Baron - May 28, 2018 at 09:37 PM

CE

“ *Dean and Cheri Endres*



Cheri Dean Endres - May 28, 2018 at 08:53 PM

BP

“ Bonnie & Ron Price lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Bonnie & Ron Price - May 28, 2018 at 08:37 PM

NV

“ Nestor And Evelyn Vorderbruggen lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Nestor and Evelyn Vorderbruggen - May 28, 2018 at 05:29 PM

MW

“ Marty & Carol Wegscheid lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Marty & Carol Wegscheid - May 28, 2018 at 05:25 PM

SH

“ Susan Heltemes lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Susan Heltemes - May 28, 2018 at 04:51 PM

SH

Uncle Vess, you will be in my heart forever - I shall never forget your gentle nature and wonderful smile.

Susan Heltemes - May 28, 2018 at 04:53 PM

JH

“ Joe and Yvonne Horstmann



Joe and Yvonne Horstmann - May 28, 2018 at 03:54 PM

BH

“ Bob & Donna Haman lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Bob & Donna Haman - May 28, 2018 at 02:45 PM

MF

“ Marie Fraune lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Marie Fraune - May 28, 2018 at 12:14 PM

RY

“ Rick And Linda Youngbauer lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Rick and Linda Youngbauer - May 28, 2018 at 11:17 AM

MJ

“ Melissa (Ament) Johnson lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Melissa (Ament) Johnson - May 28, 2018 at 09:47 AM

PD

“ Peggy DuMont lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Peggy DuMont - May 28, 2018 at 08:29 AM

ST

“ Sue Theisen lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Sue Theisen - May 28, 2018 at 08:23 AM

MW

“ *Uncle Vess was the kindest person. He was very soft spoken with a quiet sense of humor. He had an unique talent of wiggling his ears back and forth. As children, we always begged him to do it again and again.*

Thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Marge and Tom Welle

Marge & Tom Welle - May 28, 2018 at 08:11 AM

DK

“ *Dan And Beth Kern lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Dan and Beth Kern - May 27, 2018 at 10:10 PM

 Chad Bernstetter

“ *Chad Bernstetter lit a candle in memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes*



Chad Bernstetter - May 27, 2018 at 09:53 PM

Judy
Merickel
Rawlings

“ Judy Merickel Rawlings lit a candle in
memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Judy Merickel Rawlings - May 27, 2018 at 09:45 PM

ME

“ Margaret & Peter Van Erp lit a candle in
memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Margaret & Peter Van Erp - May 27, 2018 at 09:29 PM

RS

“ Rick And Debbie Schwartz lit a candle in
memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Rick and Debbie Schwartz - May 27, 2018 at 08:50 PM

DH

“ Darrell & Peggy Haman lit a candle in
memory of Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes



Darrell & Peggy Haman - May 27, 2018 at 07:43 PM