



## Vernon Becker

May 18, 1929 - January 6, 2011

Vernon Karl Becker, a very loving husband, father, and grandfather, was born on May 18, 1929, to William Karl and Marie Margurita (Wolter) Becker in Hull, IA. He attended school in Pipestone and graduated from Hewitt High School in 1947. Vernon served honorably in the United States Marine Corp from 1951 to 1952. He returned home to his farm in 1953 due to his father's death. Soon after, he married the love of his life, Betty Elaine Freitag on July 23, 1955, at Bartlett Township, MN. They started 55½ years together. They farmed before Vernon started driving trucks for Northern Co-op and Cenex for 31 years. He proudly accepted an award from Cenex for driving over 1 million miles, accident-free. During that time, he enjoyed competing in the Minnesota truck rodeo for three years. After Cenex closed, he drove Holiday Gas transport for two years, as well as taught truck driving at the Wadena Technical Institute and Northern Professional Driving School for two years. He finished his career driving school bus in Wadena for five years, getting to know the young children in the community. He was a member of the Knob Hill Sportsman's Club and the American Legion. His hobbies and interests included wood working, fishing, hunting, and time spent with his family. An important part of Vernon's life was his service at St. John Lutheran Church, serving as an Elder, Trustee, and Sunday collection counter. Once he retired, Vernon spent the majority of his time catching up with old friends over coffee. Although he was passionate about his work, on the farm and on the road, his greatest accomplishment was his family. He enjoyed spending as much time

as possible with his wife, children, and grandsons. He valued the simple joys in life, sitting on his back porch, enjoying his world around him with the people he cherished most. Vernon passed away, unexpectedly, at St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, MN, with family at his side, on January 6, 2011, at the age of 81 years. Vernon was preceded in death by his parents William and Marie; son Tim; grandson Nathan Johnson; and brother Harold. He is survived by his wife Betty of Wadena; daughter Colleen (Butch) Johnson of Wadena; grandson Matt; brothers Erwin (Peg) of Livingston, MT; Lawrence (Irene) of Hot Springs, SD, and Lloyd (Carole) of Lake Isabella, CA; and sister Loretta Peterson of Verndale. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on January 11, 2011 at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer officiating. Military honors were provided by the United States Marine Honor Guard. Pallbearers were Bruce Becker, Gary Peterson, Don Benrud, David Tuil, Joe Steflug, Ron Piepkorn, Don Stemson, Lloyd Schwartz, Lloyd Kallevig, and John Herr. Interment was in Wadena Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

VI

“ Dear Betty, Colleen, & family:

*I am so sorry for your loss. I was shocked to see Vern's obit. He was a very kind & caring man; so special. I am so glad we had the chance this summer to visit with Betty & Vern. I shall keep you all in my prayers. My heartfelt sympathies. Here is a virtual hug until I see you soon. God Bless*

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**Vicki** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of your loss. Our thoughts are with you.

*'To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die'. Lean on your friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about. Vernon was a very special sweet man.*

*With deepest sympathy,  
Dan and Judy*

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**Judy and Dan Cooney** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Betty and family you all are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God hold you all in the palm of his hands as he gives you strength.....

*Loads of Love,  
Sharyl (Umland) and Paul Olson*

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**sharyl olson** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ I'm sooo sorry for your your loss. Vern was a wonderful person and I always received a smile form him as he greeted me. I first meet him when I worked nights at Holiday and he delivered gas there. Then when I married and joined St John Lutheran church I saw him more often. Betty and Collen, Im thinking of you and the rest of your family. My thoughts and prayers extended to you all. God has special plans for your loved one and he is at peace. Once again I'm sorry for your loss.

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**Vicki Jahnke** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Betty and Colleen, I thought the world of Vernon. He was a lot like his Mother. I am so sorry to hear of his death. You guys are in my prayers. Just know that we are all In God's Hands, Jani

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**Jani Heins** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of a great Husband, Father, and Grandfather. It is never an easy thing when someone so special is taken from you so quickly and unexpectedly. I have heard many great stories that my Father had told me about Vern & Betty through the years. Vernon was very proud of all of his family. My sympathy and prayers go out to all of you. May God give you strength and peace through this trying time.

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**Amanda Kimber** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Izzy will miss seeing Vern in the back yard with Diego. She use to ask her grandma Gail "where's Vern"? "I wanna go say hi to Vern and Diego." Rest in peace, you're in a better place. Michelle and Izzy Johnson

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**Michelle Johnson** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ Betty, Colleen, Matt & Butch,

*We are so sorry to hear of Vern's passing. Words cannot describe the loss of someone so special as Vern. We are here for you. We will be praying for peace and strength for you & your family to help you through.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,*

*Vince & Michelle*

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**Vince & Michelle Hinojos** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ We are so sorry to hear the news. We are thinking of you, and our prayers go out to you.

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**David and Inez Haase** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

D(

“ Aunt Betty, Colleen and Butch,  
*We are sad to hear of Uncle Vernon's passing. Know that you are all in our prayers for strength and courage. I'm sorry we cannot be there in person but will be thinking of you all as you go through this difficult time.*

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**Donna Charron (Becker)** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ So sorry to hear about Uncle Vernon's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Phil (Linda) Becker** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Colleen and Betty, I was so sad to hear the news about Vernon and so sorry your family is going through this. I have some pretty fond memories of time spent at your house Colleen! Your Mom and Dad were the best putting up with us and our teenage girl dramas; and were always so welcoming and kind. I can imagine how hard things are for you right now and want you to know you are in my prayers and my thoughts.

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**Jean Helander** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of your husband and father. My sympathy is with you, as well as prayers to help you through this difficult time.

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**Jackie Hokanson** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Betty,  
We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Vernon.. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers... May God Bless You all..  
Jerry and Janice

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**Jerry and Janice Denny** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ So sorry Betty about Vernons passing.  
We have so many good memories of all the things we did in our younger years.  
Gods blessing to you and your family.  
Good people and we miss being neighbors.

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**Fritz and Shirley Heinen** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ So sorry for your loss! The past months have been very challenging for all of you. Vern no longer has to face the challenges. God bless you all! May the happier days bring you the strength for this difficult time.

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**Marie / Howard J.** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Betty and family*  
So sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our prayers. We love you!! WE pray that the Lord gives you the strength and peace you need during this difficult time. Love you lots.

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**Jim and Vickie Thompson** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *Betty there are no words I can think of to soften your pain.. YOU are a very, VERY strong and amazing woman--and you WILL get through this..You have a wonderful daughter and lots of family and friends. If you need anything, please call me. We are there for you.*

*Your friends,  
Rosemary, Michael, & Richard Dailey  
Brenda & Rico Lang*

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**Rosemary Dailey** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. We have many happy childhood memories of time spent at your house and with your family. Vernon is remembered with great fondness. Please know we're thinking of you all.

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**Lecia Heinen Edquist** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Betty and Family So Sorry My thoughts and prayers are with you. Betty be strong and know that I am thinking of you at this very hard time. Big Hugs to you.*

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**Stacy Smagacz** - January 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM