



Walter Gronlund

August 24, 1925 - March 8, 2010

Walter Raymond Gronlund was born the first of nine children, on August 24, 1925, to William and Hilda (Komppa) Gronlund in Sebeka, MN. He passed away on March 8, 2010, at age 84, at the Lakewood Health Care System in Staples. Walter served in the United States Army, 78th Division, F Co.309 Infantry during WWII. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal, for Good Courage in the Battle of the Bulge Conflict, and for Good Conduct. He was honorably discharged in 1945. On June 4, 1954, Walt was united in marriage with Ruth Elizabeth Berg at the First Baptist Church in Park Rapids. They made their home in Verndale and raised two children, Nancy and David. Walt will be remembered as the owner and operator of the G & L gas station in Verndale. He purchased it on his birthday in 1952, serving Verndale and area customers until his death. He was a member of the VFW, the American Legion, and St. John Lutheran Church. Walt was preceded in death by his parents, William and Hilda; brother Elmer; sister-in-law Edna; and brother-in-law Donald. He is survived by his loving wife Ruth; daughter Nancy Gronlund of Grayslake, IL; son David (Mary) Gronlund of Verndale; grandchildren Corey and Ryan; brothers Arne of Rock Falls, IL, Clifford (Rose) of Phoenix, AZ, Leslie (Alice Jean) of Sebeka; sisters Elma Stavros of Ashland, OR, Lila (Roger) Ristine of Roseville, Irene (Marc) Burns of Santa Cruz, CA, and Mary (David) Rising of Shoreview; sister-in-law Beverly Gronlund of Roseville, CA; the Harry and Elfriede Rebigier family of Milwaukee, WI, and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held

at 11:00 a.m. on March 12, 2010, at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer officiating. Interment was in the Greenlawn Cemetery in Verndale. Honorary pallbearers were Corey Gronlund, Richard Gronlund, Jim Waldahl, Lane Waldahl, Jack Carr, Mike Carr, Sr., Ken Mudek, Joe Gorackowski, George Geray, and Calvin Koth. Active pallbearers were Ryan Gronlund, Steven Gronlund, Daniel Schmitz, David Wiese, Galen Hieb, and Daniel DeYonge.

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *A hero in more than one way. A faithful husband and dedicated father and family member. We'll meet again in God's great space.*

Beverly Gronlund - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KY

“ *Dearest Nancy--*

It seems strange to call you Nancy as you have always been "Nooner" to me. I am so sorry to hear of your tremendous loss. In all the years we have known one another, I do not believe I ever met your dad, but in reading his accomplishments and comments from others, I see he was one in a million. I am so glad you had him and trust me, your dad will always be with you as the love you and your dad shared never dies.

Love you!! "Kooner"

Konni Sargent Yingst - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *I'm sending my heartfelt condolences to the whole Gronlund family with prayers for you in this time of grief.*

Though I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Gronlund, I am sure he was a wonderful person indeed. I say this with confidence because I have experienced the legacy of decency, warmth and kindness given to Nancy by her beloved father. His dignity and goodness will continue in Nancy's life through her own faithful and graceful living. Of that I'm also sure.

May memories of love and laughter cheer each of you. May God's own Presence sustain your spirits.

Ruth Woodruff - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Gronlund. I always enjoyed visiting with him both at his station and at your home.

Candace Hiebert Thompson - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ My condolences to Walter's family. I know how much my late mother (Lila Lindstrom Keskinen, Walter's cousin) enjoyed his company and visiting with him when she was in Verndale. I always enjoyed stopping at his gas station when I passed through Verndale. I know his family and the community will miss him dearly.

Susie

Susan Keskinen - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Walter was the cousin of my mother Lila (Lindstrom) Keskinen of New York Mills. I last saw Walter at my mother's memorial service in 2007. We'd often stop at the G & L station when driving through Verndale on the way to and from Mills. If I have the connection correctly, my maternal grandmother Selma Manninen and her older sister Hilda Manninen (Walter's mother) came from Finland to the US arriving in Boston in 1907. I have fond memories of Walter and his terrific smile. My condolences to his family on his passing.

Kay Keskinen - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Walter was always there to help us when we came to G and L Service Station. We will forever remember his smiling face and warm conversations.*

May Angels lift you home Walter.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and the rest of G and L. It just won't be the same without him.

Pamela Chick - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Ruth, our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Walter will be remembered as a kind, gentle man with a big heart. He will be missed by many. May God comfort you and surround you with wonderful memories.*

Christie and Phil Meier - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *We are most grateful to Wally for his service to our country. We will be seeing and talking to Wally again, he is waiting for us just around the corner.*

Sally and Len - March 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM