



## Harold V. "J.R." Stewart

December 29, 1929 - January 17, 2019

Harold Vernon Stewart, Jr. ("J.R.") was born on December 29, 1929 to Harold Vernon Stewart, Sr., and Phoebe Elizabeth (Pruden) Stewart in Arapahoe, Nebraska, and passed away on January 17, 2019, at his home in Geneva at the age of 89 years and 19 days.

J.R. and his brother-in-law, Joseph Turek, owned and operated the Phillips 66 Gas Station in Geneva. J.R. had a few other jobs prior to working for Kamler Implement. He then worked for Shaner Chevrolet and Oldsmobile as their top salesman for many, many years. After retiring from Shaner's, he worked for Nick's Farm Store, Green Country, Geneva Implement and Bill Jacobsen Car Sales as a salesman. J.R. was very honest with much integrity and a man of great faith.

In January of 1952, J.R. entered the Army and served in the Korean War until December of 1953 when he was honorably discharged.

J.R. was a very musical man of many talents. He played the banjo and spoons and sang in several bands including 'The Country Boys,' 'The Country Has Beens,' and 'The 29ers.' He loved people and enjoyed making them smile. His motto was "If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours."

J.R. was a member of the Geneva Masonic Lodge AF & AM No. 79, Geneva VFW Post 7102, Geneva Loins Club, Geneva Fire Department, Geneva First Congregational United Church Of Christ, and he served on the Geneva City Council for many years. He played Santa Claus in the town of Geneva throughout the Christmas holidays for many years and enjoyed the love and laughter of all the children that sat on his lap wishing for their special gift for Christmas. On many Christmas Eves, he would drive around Geneva to friends and families homes and visit the small children. His sparkling blue eyes reflecting with the white beard he put on and his special “Ho, Ho, Ho” brought smiles to everyone’s face and made their holiday a little brighter.

J.R. attended Arapahoe High School and lived on a farm near Arapahoe during the depression. His mother passed away when his baby sister, Sharon, was born and J.R. then moved to Neosho, Missouri to live with his older sister, Ada Jean and Harry Hadley. He later moved to Geneva where he lived with Esther and Joseph Turek. He met Judith Ann Schupbach at a carnival and always said that he fell in love at first sight with her. After courtship, they were married on December 13, 1949. To this union was born a son, Bradford Scott, and a daughter, Mary Katherine.

J.R. was preceded in death by his wife Judy; great grandson Harlow Leu; parents Harold & Phoebe Stewart; and siblings Esther Turek, Mary Lou Kuhlman, Ada Jean Hadley, Robert Stewart, and Sharon Barbur.

J.R. is survived by his children Bradford & Sandy Stewart of Doniphan, Nebraska and Mary & Jonathan Bradley of Waterloo, Nebraska; grandchildren Dustin & Amanda Stewart, Alyssa & Justin Leu, Dylan Stewart, Kaitlynn Bradley, Courtney Bradley; and brother-in-law Jerry “Jake” Tesar; 8 great grandchildren; and other close relatives and a host of friends.

A Memorial Service for J.R. was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 1:00

p.m. at the First Congregational United Church Of Christ in Geneva. Pastor Stuart Davis officiated the service. Nancy Craddock provided the prelude and postlude music. The recorded selections, "You Raise Me Up," "Where We'll Never Grow Old," and "What A Wonderful World" were played during the service.

Honorary pallbearers for the service included Dustin Stewart, Dylan Stewart, Justin Leu, Lucas Schlote, Charles Barbur, Jr., and Robert Barbur. Inurnment with Military Rites was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery with Geneva VFW Post 7102 performing the Rites.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com)

Memorials are suggested to the York Adopt-A-Pet.

# Tribute Wall

LC

“ I was so sorry to hear about JR., I first met him while working at Sargent drilling and was lucky to have fun endearing conversations with him everyday. I was always so excited to run into him up town on his daily excursions and he continued to have jokes and stories every time. He was a gem and will be dearly missed.

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**Lisa Carroll** - January 25, 2019 at 04:08 AM

BF

“ Brad, Mary and families,  
So sorry to hear of JR passing, he was a wonderful individual. My family still talks about when your family lived next door and we had a family Christmas at our house with a house full of kids. He stopped by on his way home from his Santa duties around town just to wish all of the kids a Merry Christmas. The funny part was no one knew who it was including the adults! What a great guy, our prayers are with you.

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**Brad Krause and family** - January 23, 2019 at 04:16 PM

MS

“ Sorry to hear about JR, he was a great guy ❤️

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**Mark & Sarah** - January 22, 2019 at 07:35 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Flower Pics



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - January 22, 2019 at 02:43 PM

GL

“ I remember one winter Jr and my dad Morry Lovegrove decided make Potato Beer in JR's basement, Finally the big day came to test it. So we all go to have a meal and the 2 of them disappear to the basement, After a short period of time both were up stairs and finally admitted that it was the worst tasting crap they had ever tasted. I remember my dad talking about that for years.  
Greg Lovegrove

Greg Lovegrove - January 21, 2019 at 11:15 PM

RJ

“ Simply put I loved my uncle.. A life well lived.. From one veteran to another I salute you sir..RIP

Randy Jirkovsky - January 21, 2019 at 08:20 PM

DP

“ JR was **HOWLINGLY** funny (ask dad/Ken Prater about the 'cat on the grill' story sometime) and simply phenomenal on the banjo. A (bigger-than) life well-lived and I am honored to have known him (and Ms Judy & the whole family). Don Prater

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**Don Prater** - January 21, 2019 at 01:38 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Don Prater** - January 21, 2019 at 12:26 PM

LB

“ Brad and Mary: I am sending you my love and prayers with the passing of your dad. He was an amazing uncle and I can't begin to list all my memories of him and what fun we always had! Sitting on your folks back patio every summer with all the aunts, uncles and cousins singing at the top of our lungs with your dad on the banjo and my dad on the spoons makes my heavy heart just a little lighter! Just imagine what fun they are all having together in heaven. 🙏 Keep your happy memories close during this time. With all my love...Lorri Barbur Burns

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**Lorri Burns** - January 20, 2019 at 01:17 PM

MM

“ Brad & family,  
Sorry to learn of your loss. Keeping you in our prayers.  
Marcy [Hintz] Meyer

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**Marcy Meyer** - January 18, 2019 at 08:56 PM

SL

“ I have a lot of memories of JR through the years. My family, the Bumgarner's had a lot of fun with him and his wife, Joe Turek and Esther. He was always so much fun. But we will always remember him as our Santa. He last played Santa to my sister's grandkids. He had the greatest personality and laugh. When Judy passed away, he lost the love of his life and that was tough. He was definitely one of a kind and I will always remember my Santa. I wish sincere condolences to the family.  
Sharon Lauber

Sharon Lauber - January 18, 2019 at 08:37 PM

SS

“ Never will I forget JR and his banjo and spoons. Heaven gained a great musician. Sandra Schafer-Nagy

Sandra Schafer-Nagy - January 18, 2019 at 01:00 PM

MS

“ Sorry to hear about JR 😞 He was a great guy and we'll miss him alot. Our deepest sympathy,

Mark & Sarah - January 18, 2019 at 10:35 AM

CK

“ Uncle "J.R."  
In your loving memory and honor we light this candle.



Craig & Kathy Kuhlman - January 18, 2019 at 10:29 AM

BW

“ JR, “the salesman”. The world was a better place, due to JR’s presence. So sorry to his family for his loss. My prayers are with you all. Bob Webb

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**Bob Webb** - January 18, 2019 at 09:09 AM

VJ

“ Thoughts and Prayers!



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**Virginia Johnson** - January 18, 2019 at 08:26 AM