



Herman L. Larsen

January 3, 1922 - August 12, 2016

Memorial services for Herm will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva. Pastor Michelle Gowin will officiate the services.

The public is invited to a family greeting time from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday at the Fussell Fellowship Hall in Geneva.

Memorials are directed to the family for future designation.

On Friday afternoon, August 12, 2016, with his family by his side, Herman Lyle Larsen left this earth to make his journey to Heaven. His story began on January 3, 1922, when he was born to proud parents Lars C. and Anna M. (Sorensen) Larsen on the family homestead near Marquette in Hamilton County, Nebraska. He joined twin sisters, Vera and Vivian, who were born 4 years earlier.

Growing up on the family farm, Herman had several daily chores, including milking the cows, feeding the chickens and pigs, and washing dishes for his beloved Mother who was often ill. After his sisters left home, he was always helping his Mother with anything she needed.

He quite often rode his horse to the small country school he and his sisters

attended from kindergarten through the 8th grade. He then went to high school in the “big city” of Marquette. While in high school, he was active in baseball, basketball, track, and he was the only trumpet player in the 12-person band. He graduated in 1939 and started his studies at the University of Nebraska.

After World War II began, he was drafted in to the Army’s 24th Infantry in October of 1942. He said he was “scared and frightened and we knew Japan, Italy and Germany were trying to take over the world.” He had 6 months of basic training in Hawaii, and then he spent the next 3.5 years in the Pacific Theater where he attained the rank of Sergeant. During this time, his division destroyed countless Japanese airbases and shipping ports, and then Herm also took part in several covert operations where they gathered information on the Japanese. His infantry suffered 7012 fatalities, the fifth most in the Pacific. He would recall, “We had a job to do, and we had to get it done. Shots were fired and lives were taken and it was never fun to say that your friends can vanish in the blink of an eye.” A bright spot was that he was selected to play in his division’s 100-member band.

After returning home from the service, Herm continued his studies at the University of Nebraska where he was a member of the marching band. He received a degree in music education. A few years later he completed his Master’s Degree.

On September 9, 1950 he married the love of his life, Elizabeth (Liz) Margaret Mason of Seward, Nebraska. In May of 1952, their first daughter, Suzanne, was born, and in July of 1956 they were blessed with their second daughter, Patricia (Pat).

In 1951, Herm and Liz moved to Geneva and Herm began teaching instrumental music (grades 5-12) and boys’ glee at Geneva High School. He

loved teaching the kids, and he touched many lives over the years.

After retiring from teaching in 1970, he became an Associate Judge for Fillmore County.

Herm directed choir at the United Methodist Church for 30 years, and he sang in the choir up until about a year ago. After Herm and Liz both retired, they thoroughly enjoyed having more time to see their grandchildren who were the light of their lives, dance to big band music at the Flying V in Utica, golf, get together with friends and travel. Well into their 80's, Herm and Liz also delivered Meals On Wheels to the "old folks."

Herm lost Liz on April 28, 2012, and he valiantly carried on for the next 4 years and 4 months. Herm leaves a wonderful legacy of love, kindness, and laughter. He was a staple in the community of Geneva for many decades not knowing a stranger young or old, and he always greeted you with a smile and a laugh. Everyone looked up to and out for Herm. He's most likely making the angels smile (and probably blush) with his jokes and humor.

Herm was preceded in death by his parents; beloved wife Liz; and sisters Vera and Vivian.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law Suzanne & Jesse Sherwood of Stilwell, Kansas and Patricia & Chris Huston of Central City, Nebraska; and grandchildren Aaron, Chelsea, and Daniel Huston.

Tribute Wall

SR

“Herm and Liz were some of the first people to welcome us to Geneva. Herm marched right up after church and asked who we were, told me I had "a beautiful voice", complimented us on having "well behaved young men", and welcomed us with a great big smile. He attended many band concerts that Ron directed, and always shook his hand and said great things following the concerts. He had dinner at our home in May and attended the FCMS music concert with Ron following dinner. We had a great evening, and that is the way I wish to remember him--laughing and enjoying life. He was always one to have a kind word, and a joke to share. We will miss him. Sue Rickert

Sue Rickert - August 17, 2016 at 08:27 PM

MH

“Such good memories. The band room was just down the hall from my mom's 7th grade room. I used to wait for her to take me home after school & Mr. Larsen would come down the hall & visit with us. I always felt special to him. When I lived in Denver for my asthma, the family came & visited me - what a loving gesture. He taught me to play the clarinet in 7th grade. I have nothing but wonderful memories of him. My condolences to the family.

Mary Bornschlegl Halkyard - August 16, 2016 at 01:48 PM



“ 46 files added to the album *Flower Pictures*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - August 16, 2016 at 01:09 PM



“ 5 files added to the album *Remembering Herman Larsen*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - August 16, 2016 at 01:00 PM

QF

“ Mr. Larsen was one of those people in life whom you never forget. Remember so well boys glee club, marching, concert and summer band. Can't imagine what it was like to keep all of those energetic teenagers focused on producing beautiful music. But he never gave up. And, when it came to music contest everyone wanted to their best, most often earning a "superior" rating. You were a good man and you instilled values that have lasted a lifetime. Your legacy lives in your students! Well done!

Quinton Friesen - August 15, 2016 at 08:16 PM

DM

“ We always knew when Herm was in the room when we heard his laugh! Loved his friendly wave. He will be missed in Geneva.

Dorothy Moravec - August 15, 2016 at 08:15 PM

CM

“ Herm was a genuine kind soul, so full of life and love. I no longer have my dancing partner at the Ambassador Club gatherings. He demanded perfection of his students and in return he not only got all they could give but he earned their respect. He will be missed by so many. Hugs and prayers to his family.

Kent and Cheryl Myers

Cheryl Myers - August 15, 2016 at 01:42 PM

BM

“ Brenda Motis lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen



Brenda Motis - August 15, 2016 at 09:20 AM

BM

Herm could always light up a room with his genuine smile and his fun-loving attitude. You will be missed.

Brenda Motis - August 15, 2016 at 09:23 AM

MY

“*Mr. Larsen was truly a wonderful man ! I remember him as a kind and caring man. What an excellent role model for oh, so many students ! We only lived in Geneva for five years, but he has always remained, through the years, one of my most favorite educators. To his family I send my love and sympathy.*

*Mary Johnson Yahn
Sidney, Nebraska*

Mary Yahn - August 15, 2016 at 09:15 AM

MJ

“*Herm was truly one of a kind! The best kind! I so enjoyed the 6 six years in Geneva that gave me the opportunity to work with and get to know him. We shared a love of music and that was so special! Loved singing in the Methodist choir as Herm was so fun but also expected excellence from the choir and he got it because of our love and respect for him. My memories of Herm are forever and his love of family, community, friends and music should be an inspiration to all of us! He truly lived life to the fullest. Comfort and peace to Pat and Suzanne.*

Mary Lou Olson Jackson - August 14, 2016 at 10:40 AM

BC

“ *Brenda Crawford lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



Brenda Crawford - August 14, 2016 at 09:19 AM

SM

Rest in peace Mr. Larson knowing that you were a positive influence on many of us through the years. Many of my fondest memories include you and band. I hope you knew how much you meant to us.

Sally Cellar Murphy - August 14, 2016 at 07:44 PM

BB

“ *Bobbie Bock-Itzen lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



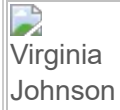
Bobbie Bock-Itzen - August 13, 2016 at 11:16 PM

JS

“ *Jan Schelkopf lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



Jan Schelkopf - August 13, 2016 at 10:03 PM



Virginia Johnson

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen



Virginia Johnson - August 13, 2016 at 07:47 PM

CP

“ Clark Poppert lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen



Clark Poppert - August 13, 2016 at 05:49 PM

LN

“ I sang in the choir at the Methodist Church with Herm. He had such a great singing voice. I had the pleasure of seeing him and talking with him a couple years ago and he was as gracious to me as he always was. I know he will be missed by many. He was such a special man.



Linda (Schelbitzki) Newell - August 13, 2016 at 05:47 PM

JL

“ Jeff & Sarah Lux lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen



Jeff & Sarah Lux - August 13, 2016 at 03:37 PM

SL

“ *Loved his jokes and his laugh!! What a great man!*
Sharon and Jerry Lauber

Sharon Lauber - August 13, 2016 at 03:00 PM

GM

“ *He was a joy. Fun and laughter followed Herm like playful puppies. He was such an inspiration!*



Gerry Merck - August 13, 2016 at 02:00 PM

KW

“ *Mr. Larsen embodied all the attributes an educator should possess: talent, wisdom, caring, and lots of energy!*

As a St. Joseph Catholic School student, I am especially grateful for the sacrifices he made. Mr. Larsen gave freely of his after school time to instruct us in seventh and eight grade. At this time, we were too young to understand how remarkable that was.

I later enjoyed playing in the Geneva City Band with him. His talent on the trumpet was fully intact. His contribution to the band was immeasurable.

With fondest memories and thoughts of caring for the family,

Kathleen McCarthy Wilbeck

Kathleen McCarthy Wilbeck - August 13, 2016 at 01:47 PM

CR

“ *What a great loss to his family, the community and to my family. Suzanne and Patty, you are in our thoughts and prayers. The McMullen family - Cindy McMullen Rossi*

Cindy Rossi - August 13, 2016 at 12:25 PM

SW

“ *Herm was my favorite teacher. Always full of energy. Loved reconnecting with him in Geneva the last few years. A lovely man. Susan Wilkins*

susie wilkins - August 13, 2016 at 10:16 AM

JW

“ *Jan Wood lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



Jan Wood - August 13, 2016 at 10:06 AM

AV

“ *Alise Verhage lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



Alise Verhage - August 13, 2016 at 06:41 AM



“ *Amy Franssen lit a candle in memory of Herman L. Larsen*



Amy Franssen - August 12, 2016 at 08:00 PM



Herm was a great man and a inspiration to all! He will be missed dearly- I always enjoyed our time together in therapy at Heritage Crossings

Amy Franssen - August 12, 2016 at 08:03 PM

DB

Mr. Larsen--he was always Mr. Larsen, to me (out of great respect) was very much a part of my life through many years through band. Playing flute, I was "up close and personal" as he tapped his baton in displeasure over errant notes or misbehavior. Rarely did he have to "speak" to correct students--his displeasure was always easy to see--and we strove to make him pleased and proud of us. Participating in band produced some of my greatest memories of high school. I'm proud to have been a "band geek" and raised five "band geeks" of my own. Some of them even continued band in college. As an adult, it was fun reconnecting him through participation in Community Band. Condolences to Suzanne and Patty, may you be comforted by happy memories. And may he be blowing his trumpet with the heavenly host in a much better place.

Deb Bixby - August 13, 2016 at 11:29 PM

SM

Rest in peace Mr. Larson knowing that you positively influenced so many of us. We loved and respected you more than you probably could have known.

Sally Cellar Murphy - August 14, 2016 at 07:29 PM

LP

What fond memories I have of spending New Years Eve at the Larsen's, Grahams or our home playing cards(especially Hearts)and trying to beat Mr. Larsen at Hearts. Whenever I visited Geneva I tried to visit Herm and Elizabeth and then Herm. Always loved to hear his stories! They were very special friends. Linda Portwood Hipp in NJ

Linda Portwood - August 14, 2016 at 08:14 PM

NF

Mr. Larsen and Boy's Glee are some of my fond memories of GHS. Now and then, I find myself singing a couple lines from the "Harbor Lights" or "Put Another Nickel In". He was a great educator and role model. God used him to influence so many live so. Norrie Friesen, Huntington, IN

Norris Friesen - August 15, 2016 at 09:09 PM

PB

Herm Larson was an outstanding role model. I am sorry to hear of his passing. He had compassion for all his students to do their best in every situation. He made band fun along with Marching Band and putting up with all the twirlers!!! We loved him dearly. Sorry to his family for their loss. Mahalo! Pat Souba Braun.....Maui and Merced, Ca

Pat Souba Braun - August 19, 2016 at 11:23 PM