



Byron Luke Burgstahler

February 26, 1931 - December 20, 2020

BYRON LUKE BURGSTAHLER, aged 89 years, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 20, 2020 from the effects of Covid-19 at a care center in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Formerly of Saint Paul and Mahtomedi, Byron was born the fifth and youngest child of Luke D. and Edna Marie (Beihoffer) Burgstahler at the hospital in Litchfield, Minnesota on Thursday, February 26, 1931.

Byron was raised in a God-centered home of German and Swiss-American heritage on the South side of Glencoe, Minnesota. He and his brother Sylvan spent Summers fishing in Buffalo Creek and exploring nature. Born during the Great Depression, the Burgstahler boys helped their sisters with house chores as required by their father, an insurance salesman. The family cow kept in the garage supplemented their needs and was Byron's first pet. He helped with the large family garden and caring for chickens and occasional ducks. Byron delivered the Minneapolis newspaper around Glencoe by bicycle as a child. He was a dreamer and was fascinated with history.

Byron graduated from Glencoe High School in 1949. He had varying employment dates and duties for an egg candling factory staffed with relatives; and Green Giant Company in Glencoe in the early 1950s. Byron completed a 2-year Drafting Certificate at the University of Minnesota. In July of 1954 Byron volunteered for military service, with basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He served almost two years honorably in the U.S. Army in Korea, being stationed at Pusan and Inchon. For five months Byron

worked at First Infantry Division headquarters on the Korean Demilitarized Zone in Korea, relaying top-level orders as a typist. Byron used his free times in Asia to tour Japan, including a memorable trip to Hiroshima. Byron was discharged with the rank of Army Specialist Fourth Class in May of 1956. Byron earned his Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on the G.I. Bill. He worked at the State of Minnesota Highway Department building near the State Capitol until 1968. Fieldwork included being a surveyor for Interstate 35's new placement North of Forest Lake, Minnesota, and he prided himself in helping to save many farms from dissection during the project. In May of 1968 he met his future wife Elaine, an elementary school teacher, through his barber LeRoy Runion. Elaine had seen him for years at church and wanted to meet him. Byron and Elaine were married on September 28, 1968 at Central Baptist Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota where they have membership. His father-in-law recruited him to be a church usher, which he did for years.

From 1968 to 1971, Byron worked for the engineering firm Toltz-King-Duvall-Anderson and Associates in Saint Paul. After a national recession, Byron discovered Brown-Minneapolis Tank Company (BMT), working as a civil engineer drawing plans for storage tank fabrication until his retirement in 1999. At BMT, Byron designed storage tanks for people all over the world, sometimes having to climb up on the towers to supervise correct painting of his storage tanks. He even worked on a project designing Air Force One's fuel facility. This steady career enabled he and Elaine to raise two boys at the family home in Saint Paul's Midway neighborhood. In 2016, Byron and Elaine sold their home and moved to a senior apartment in Mahtomedi. Byron filled retirement with reading, Minnesota Twins baseball, gardening, bird-watching, inventing things and puttering in the garage. He liked nature, photography, his various pets, trains, bridges, comfort foods including favorites like ice cream and beef roasts, and visiting Lake Superior on family vacations. Byron liked the lake view from his desk window at the apartment. Byron enjoyed visits from his sons and their families and other relatives; and treats baked by

daughter-in-law Karla and son Kevin. Byron was reserved at times, but a very faithful and silent source of strength for his family. Ever curious, funny, loving and gentle, he will be missed.

Byron is survived by his wife Elaine of Mahtomedi, Minnesota; two sons, Steven (Karla) Burgstahler of Hazel Green, Wisconsin, and Kevin (Jody) Burgstahler of Cottage Grove, Minnesota; Granddaughter Breanna; Brother-In-Law Pastor Daryl Runion of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Sisters-In-Law Kathy Runion of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Janice Burgstahler of Duluth, Minnesota, and Shirley Burgstahler of Minnetonka, Minnesota. Also survived by 14 loving nieces and nephews, and many loving cousins, extended relatives and friends.

Byron was preceded in death by his parents, father Luke Burgstahler, mother Edna Burgstahler; brothers Merrill Burgstahler and Sylvan Burgstahler; sisters Merlyn ("Junie") Jensen and Arlys Benjamin; brothers-in-law Albert ("Al") Jensen and John Benjamin; also many previous generations of relatives residing in Heaven.

Byron's memorial requests in lieu of flowers may be directed to: Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota; Animal Humane Society of Golden Valley, Minnesota, and Central Baptist Church After School Elementary Tutoring Program.

This funeral is by INVITE ONLY due to Covid restrictions.

Service available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NatkFNtm7P3YwtRdNaw2XVAVFccQMJ425fuiakfk648j2ocWC9aYB4DIAreYcftn.Mz9yRAnCL8iuL5cY> Passcode:
u\$Ld6M#g

Tribute Wall

JK

“ *our sympathy's for your loss.*

jon Koeberl - December 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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“ *Our deepest sympathies go out to Elaine and the family.*

Keith & Dianne Runion - December 28, 2020 at 12:00 AM