



Clarence W. Velgersdyk

February 23, 1928 - December 2, 2022

Clarence's service can be livestreamed at: <https://youtu.be/z9oKtTGGAok>

Clarence was born to John and Nellie Velgersdyk (Vande Griend) on February 23, 1928, in Hull, Iowa. Three other boys were later born to that union: twins Harold and Harvey and the caboose, Marlan.

Clarence was nurtured in Hull by many friends, neighbors and relatives. He remembered with fondness many people who nurtured his Christian faith as a youth. Clarence attended Hull Christian Grammar School and Western Christian High School, graduating in 1945. Fond of music, he took piano lessons, playing and singing throughout his life.

After high school, Clarence drove a truck, hauling gravel and produce from farm to market. When he was almost 18, he met the love of his life, Joyce Kooima from Rock Valley, Iowa. At the same time, he answered the call to Army life. He spent a short time at Fort Lee, Virginia and then was shipped overseas to occupied Japan. During this time, he narrowly averted being in a train wreck, by missing his connection, experienced a forced crash landing at Johnston Island and was reported lost at sea when his troop carrier was lost in a typhoon in the Pacific.

Returning home from Japan, Clarence again drove truck, before leaving to

attend Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. During his senior year of college, he and Joyce were married. on June 13, 1951.

After graduating in 1952, Clarence spent one year in Calvin Seminary, then went to work for General Motors until the fall of 1954 when he accepted an English teaching position at Baxter Christian School. He taught there for 9 years until the school closed.

With the school closing, in 1963 his family moved to Minneapolis where he taught English for 30 years in the Minneapolis Public Schools. At the same time, he taught in the evening Adult Basic Education program at Norwest Bank in Minneapolis for 27 years. Clarence retired in 1993. Clarence and Joyce were founding members of Calvary Christian Reformed Church and later attended Redeemer Reformed Church.

In retirement, he and Joyce enjoyed grandchildren and their athletic events, traveling all over the country. They also enjoyed travel to distant places including Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, Hong Kong, China, England, Germany, Jordan, Israel and the Netherlands.

Clarence always believed he and Joyce had lived an enjoyable, healthy and fruitful life. He often remarked "that truly the Lord has blessed us; praise be to him!"

Clarence is preceded in death by Joyce, his loving wife of 71 years, his parents John and Nellie (Vande Griend) Velgersdyk, brothers Harold and Harvey Velgersdyk.

He will be deeply missed by his children John (Janice), Roxane (Mike) Jeltema, Kevin (Laura), and Jason (Sandi); 12 grandchildren, and 16, soon to be 17, great-grandchildren.

Visitation will take place at Washburn-McReavy Bloomington Chapel (2300 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington) on Tuesday, December 6 from 5:30-7:30 PM. A celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, December 7, at 12:30 PM with visitation for one hour prior at Redeemer Reformed Church (1300 Lilac Drive N, Golden Valley). A luncheon will follow the service. Memorials preferred to Avail Academy or Redeemer Reformed Church. Interment in Dawn Valley Memorial Park.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 6. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W Old Shakopee Rd
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Visitation

DEC 7. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Redeemer Reformed Church
1300 Lilac Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Church Service

DEC 7. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Redeemer Reformed Church
1300 Lilac Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Graveside Service

DEC 7. 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM (CT)

Dawn Valley Memorial Park (Bloomington)
9940 Bush Lake Road
Bloomington, MN 55438

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Makayla Ressler(Great Grand Daughter lit a candle in memory of Clarence W. Velgersdyk



Makayla Ressler(great grand daughter - April 26, 2023 at 08:22 PM

EC

“ It still remember the Sunday afternoons we would visit with the Velgerdyks when they lived by Franklin Park in Grand Rapids. That's just a few years ago. Evan Cuperus along with mom Cuperus, Dena (Dolly).

Evan D Cuperus - April 15, 2023 at 05:15 PM

MB

“ Ken & Marlys Buss

Marlys & Ken Buss - December 14, 2022 at 12:06 PM

MA

We were soooo saddened when John called to tell us about you Dad's sudden death. We know he's in Glory and praise God for his salvation but our deepest sympathy to you all for your grieving hearts. We know how much he and you mom loved you all. Our friendship goes back years, shared many happy times over dinners together also remember the good bye waves. Didn't have address for mail but wanted to send our hugs and prayer to you all. Ken and Marlys.

Marlys - December 14, 2022 at 12:22 PM

MK

I have not seen your dad since the 70's but he was one of my favorite teachers. I hope his final years were filled with peace.

Mary Alofs Kwantes - January 29, 2023 at 08:36 AM

KZ

What a good natured teacher he was. Baxter was made memorable by Mr. Velgersdyk among all his teaching partners.

Ken Zylstra - January 31, 2023 at 01:21 PM

 Roger Groot

Ironidcally I just listened and watched a inspiring video of Wintley Phipps who was addressing a large audience on how all of us are blessed with the HPLP gene but some are more abundantly blessed more than others like this awesome Christain school teacher,Nurses.CNA`s,Pastors etc. You can listen to wintley Phipps on YouYTube,WINTLEY PHIPPS MOTOVATINAL SPEAKER tell about HPLP like Clarence Velgersdyke.

Roger Groot - June 02, 2024 at 12:30 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



December 06, 2022 at 12:04 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



December 05, 2022 at 08:05 PM

PC

“ *Paul and Gail Johnson, Bryce and Calli purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



Paul and Gail Johnson, Bryce and Calli - December 05, 2022
at 05:45 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



December 05, 2022 at 03:52 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



December 05, 2022 at 03:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.*



December 05, 2022 at 10:58 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Clarence W. Velgersdyk.



December 05, 2022 at 10:30 AM

MV

“ I will miss Clarence very much! He had a grounded, loving presence. He loved the Lord and his family dearly. He cared so much for the people he knew and loved, seeking to help and pray for those around him putting his problems on the back burner to support others around him. He was such an amazing example to us and I loved the evenings we'd go over to their house for papa murpheys pizza because after dinner, he'd pull out his Bible and read from it before spending an hour or two reminiscing about the "old days" and catching up on news and our family. There were always lots of laughs and we always learned something new! Our children LOVED playing over there and we're always made to feel very special. Our conversations were meaningful and never rushed and we felt welcome no matter the situation. When we would leave at the end of an evening get together, grandpa would never fail to walk us out to the car and stand outside and wave us off no matter how cold it was! He would stand there smiling with that twinkle in his eye telling us not to wait too long between visits and to drive safely. Our kids would
Be in the back enjoying their gummy worms that were always counted out and bagged for them each time we left- no matter how old they got:-). There was something very special about going to grandpa and grandmas house. We all couldn't wait to go there and we never wanted to leave. They took time and energy to have meaningful relationships, spend time with Jesus and prioritize serving others. Their rewards will be great in heaven and I know they are rejoicing with the Lord right now! I love them both very much and look forward to the time we meet again.

Michelle Velgersdyk - December 04, 2022 at 11:06 PM