



Earl Odel Benhardus

April 27, 1944 - August 29, 2023

A Life Well Lived

Odel Benhardus was born on April 27, 1944 to Earl and Alberta Benhardus. Alberta and her family had arrived in Minnetonka in the early 30's and attended Minnetonka Union Church, which later became the Mills Church. Alberta and Earl met at Northwestern College, and became the first couple ever married in the church on June 7, 1941. They lived in the carriage house on the Burwell property until 1948, when they moved to West Creek Road with their four children, David, Sharon, Odel and Lynnette.

He graduated from Hopkins High School in 1962 and attended St. Cloud State, Northwestern College and Marion College, graduating in 1968 with a BS in elementary education. In 1974 he earned a master's degree in elementary education from St. Cloud State. He taught second and third grades in the Minnetonka School district, retiring in 2000.

His family life was extremely important to him. He and Kathryn Welo were married August 17, 1968, and had two children, Jennifer and Andrew, and four grandchildren, Kaelynn, Madeline, Myles and Kamden. His grandchildren were always a source of great pride for him.

Generosity of spirit and a willingness to serve were hallmarks of his life. Odel

served as a church elder like his father before him, and taught Sunday School for several years. His Christian faith was a key part of every aspect of his life. He was a car enthusiast, and carefully maintained several vehicles, enjoying car shows, rallies and racing. He also enjoyed playing softball, gardening and working on the addition to his home.

After retiring, his health began to decline, and he gradually became disabled. He was able to celebrate his fiftieth wedding anniversary in his home, moving to Chapel View Care Center in August of 2018. Following a brief hospitalization, he passed away peacefully with his wife at his side on August 29, 2023.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mills Church (Minnetonka)
13215 Minnetonka Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Church Service

SEP 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mills Church (Minnetonka)
13215 Minnetonka Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Reception

SEP 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mills Church (Minnetonka)
13215 Minnetonka Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl Odel Benhardus.* ”



September 12, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Earl Odel Benhardus.* ”



September 11, 2023 at 12:50 PM