



Lenus Eugene Woelfel

October 12, 1932 - September 13, 2023

Woelfel, Lenus Eugene

Born October 12, 1932 and died peacefully September 13, 2023. Preceded in death by wife Marlene (nee Beckler), son Tom, parents Charles and Theresa, siblings Joseph, Irene, Paul, James, Victor, Charles, Rachel and David.

Survived by sons Jerry (Becky), Alan, Ken (Ann Marie), Bill and daughter-in-law Pam Woelfel, as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lenus was raised on a farm near Franklin, Minnesota. He met Marlene from nearby Bird Island and they married in 1954. They were blessed with five boys. Len was a skilled machinist and a PT school bus driver. He was known for his sense of humor, craftsmanship, tool collection and bountiful vegetable gardens. He loved the outdoors, spending weekends at the lake and winters in Texas. Len was a long-time member of American Legion Post 493 and frequent blood donor.

Memorials preferred to American Red Cross or donor's choice. Memorial service on September 21 at 11:00 with visitation at 10:00. Washburn-McReavy, 2300 Old Shakopee Road.

Lenus was born during the Great Depression, the fourth of nine children. His family experienced frequent shortages of money, food and materials. Most of

his clothes were hand-me-downs. He walked 1.5 miles to a country school in which students in grades one through eight were taught. He graduated from high school in Morton, Minnesota. He was strong and athletic but turned down participation in team sports because he was needed on the farm.

The farmhouse did not have electricity in the 1940s. A large potbelly stove heated the house with wood. In winter he slept upstairs with brothers and sometimes woke up with the bedside water iced over. When the soles of Lenus' shoes developed holes from wear his parents inserted cardboard in-soles to extend their useful life.

During and after high school, Lenus earned money as a farm hand, earning between 35 cents and one dollar an hour. He joined the Boy Scouts and learned camping skills. Len also fished for catfish in the Minnesota River and did some duck hunting. Around 1948, his family received an inheritance large enough to build a new house and barn - both with indoor electricity!

In the early 1950s Len enlisted in the US Navy with a friend. After completing basic training he was honorably discharged due to a skin condition. He moved to Minneapolis, following his soon-to-be wife, Marlene. He worked at several jobs before enrolling in Dunwoody Institute to learn machine trades. After their 1954 marriage, they rented a one bedroom apartment just south of downtown. Both Jerry and Tom were born before they moved to a small house in Bloomington. After Alan and Ken were born, they moved to a larger house to accommodate his growing family.

With Bill's birth, they now had five boys under ten years old. Len decided to take on a second job as a school bus driver. He worked the second shift at the machine shop, four to midnight. Len got up by 6 am to bus kids to school, napped at home, then bussed kids back home before returning to work at the shop. He worked these long hours for more than ten years.

Summers were great family times spent camping, fishing and gardening. Later, Len bought land on Clear Lake near Watkins, Minnesota. He built a rustic cabin and garage and caught lots of fish. His boys had lots of fun during summers at the lake. For several summers he shared campsites with brother Paul's family including cousins Ron and Donna. Big pots of chili, spaghetti and cases of beer (for adults) kept everyone satisfied.

Lenus retired at age 62 after 34 years of service to Continental Machines in Savage, Minnesota. After several winter bus trips with brother Paul and his wife Jeanet, Lenus and Marlene decided to buy a spot at a Texas mobile home park. He enjoyed winters there for 21 years, including several after Marlene passed away in 2014. He was active on the Home Owner's Association Board, using his craftsmanship and common sense to maintain and improve "Winter Garden Park".

The "Golden Years" of retirement got less golden as Lenus aged. His aches and pains and heart condition gradually restricted his ability to take long walks or do the yard work he enjoyed for most of his life. His mind remained fairly sharp until the last year or two of his life.

Lenus was an energetic, hard-working, self-reliant family man. He passed on lessons to his boys around honesty and frugality. He loved finding bargains at garage sales. He and Marlene made many varieties of crafts in retirement. And one of his favorite sayings was "Life is too short to be serious all the time."

Many thanks to his caregivers at Hayden Grove, Good Samaritan Ambassador Nursing Home and Park Nicollet Hospice Care. May He rest in peace!

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

SEP **21**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Deepest condolences to his family and all of his loved ones. I'm truly so grateful he was my uncle and Godfather. There are too many great memories to share here, but he was a solid, creative, hard working, trustworthy, ethical, tolerant, helpful & kind man who will be forever missed. Absolutely loved the years of camping with him and his family and all of our many visits over the years. Amazing job on writing his obituary. It's one of the most in-depth I've ever read, & really gives a true picture of the wonderful man we knew and loved.*

Donna (Woelfel) Bergh - September 17, 2023 at 10:54 AM

JS

“ *I enjoyed coming and staying in the summer with his family. So sorry for your loss. Josie solomon*

Josie solomon - September 16, 2023 at 09:01 PM