



Raymond Paul Trenkamp

October 10, 1923 - June 27, 2020

Raymond Paul Trenkamp, age 96, of Maquoketa, IA, passed away Saturday, June 27, 2020 at Maquoketa Care Center. A funeral mass will be held Thursday, July 2, 2020 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Preston, IA at 11 am. Visitation will take place at Law Jones Funeral Home in Preston, from 5-7pm Wednesday, July 1, 2020, and again on July 2, one hour prior to mass at the church.

Ray was born October 10, 1923, in Sugar Creek, IA, the son of Henry and Christina (Banowetz) Trenkamp. One of 19 children, Ray attended Sugar Creek Country School. A lifetime farmer, Ray helped at the family homestead before entering into service with the United States Army at the tail end of WWII. Ray didn't speak of his military service often, but his family remains proud of it to this day. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Ray began his working career as an electrician with Bob Asmussen. He married Velma Thines on February 10, 1949 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. It wasn't long before Ray returned to farming, renting farm ground for a while, then ultimately buying the Banowetz Farm.

Ray was a proud member of the American Legion and St. Joseph Catholic Church, but if there's one thing he was known for, it's his penchant for jokes and pranks. Growing up in a house with 19 kids, it's easy to see where his mischievous side developed. On one afternoon, his mother left the house, instructing Ray and his siblings to behave, and above all else, "don't pick the lone apple from the apple tree!" Their mother returned home to find that the apple had been eaten. Upon closer inspection, the apple had indeed been eaten to its core, but it still hung, attached to the tree, at the stem. You see, Ray and his siblings followed their mother's instructions. They didn't "pick" the apple.

Ray kept the pranks going into old age. After supper, he'd always take a "snooze" in his chair. And if you paid close enough attention you often see a grin appear on his face as he sat there, eyes closed. This meant that he was planning something, and you could expect a good laugh before too long. It was this light heart and playful spirit that made him so beloved by so many. His friends and siblings held a dear place in his heart. Upon

retirement he'd go into town every morning and afternoon for coffee, with his friends and brothers. They'd solve the world's problems and of course, predict the future. The predictions weren't magic, examining caterpillars to determine the upcoming winter was a science, and you couldn't tell them any different.

Ray will be dearly missed by his family, whom he loved with every ounce of his being. He is survived by his 6 children Laurence "Larry" Trenkamp of Preston, Lonnie (Lola) Trenkamp of Preston, LaVerne (Jann) Trenkamp of Preston, Beverly (Allen) Hansen of Ainsworth, Nebraska, Constance "Connie" (Dean) Chrest of Preston, and Mary Lou (Larry) Johnson of Maquoketa, Iowa; 20 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; a brother, Leo Trenkamp of Preston; a sister, Margaret Roling of Preston; sister-in-law, Lillian Trenkamp of Preston; and many extended family members.

Ray is preceded in death by his wife, Velma, his parents and 16 of his siblings.

Cemetery

Events

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Preston, IA,

JUL

1

Visitation

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Law Jones Funeral Home - Preston

111 South Main Street, Preston, IA, US, 52069

JUL

2

Funeral Mass

11:00AM

Saint Joseph Catholic Church-Preston

250 South Faith Street, Preston, IA, US, 52069

Comments



“ My deepest sympathy to the family. Cherish the Love shared and the Memories made for these keep or loved ones with us forever in our hearts.



Patricia Krantz - July 02, 2020 at 04:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Raymond Paul Trenkamp.



July 01, 2020 at 02:47 PM



“ To all of Ray's Family. My deepest Sympathy to all of you at this sad time. He was truly a great person and will be missed.

Diane Weideman - June 30, 2020 at 01:27 PM



“ To All Ray Trenkamp FAMILIES !! So Sorry For The Loss !! May R I P- Ray, Be SAVERLY MISSED !! Harry Shady

Audra Martin /Harry Shady - July 01, 2020 at 10:42 PM



“ Our sincere sympathies to the entire Trenkamp families on the passing of Ray. One of a kind. Steve and Judy Driscoll

Steven Driscoll - June 30, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Raymond Paul Trenkamp.



June 30, 2020 at 08:56 AM



“ Best wishes to the Trenkamp family. He was a good one and a lot of people enjoyed being around him!

Robert Regenwether - June 29, 2020 at 06:53 PM



“ Joyce & John Shryock, Betty Kirst purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Raymond Paul Trenkamp.



Joyce & John Shryock, Betty Kirst - June 29, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ Ray will be dearly missed but has left us with many treasured memories. To begin with, it was my honor to have Ray as my Godfather. As kids, we spent a lot of time visiting with the family on the farm. His son Larry was one of my closest friends and classmate. I could go on and on with memories but the one I remember most involved THE BIG CATCH. It had been a harsh winter and the DNR was concerned about the fish in Green Island. They asked that the public do a lot of Ice Fishing as to create holes in the ice. We all went spear fishing, including Ray. However, Ray placed a bunch of boxes in the back of his pickup and then laid all the Carp he had caught over them. He then drove up and down the Preston streets to display as if he had this REALLY BIG CATCH of a Whole Pickup Load of fish. God Bless you Ray and I'm sure He welcomes your light hearted love into heaven.

Richard R Trenkamp - June 29, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ I remember Ray well. He worked with my dad, Art Michel, as an electrician after he was discharged from the service. His son Larry was a friend of mine.

Julius Michel

Julius Michel - June 29, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Paul Trenkamp.



June 29, 2020 at 12:31 PM



“ I am thinking of the entire Trenkamp family during this sad time. Dave and I were glad we got to know Ray when we lived at Preston. Never a dull moment when around him! God's peace to all of you!

Cheryl A Pence - June 29, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ I remember Uncle Ray well we would go there for Sunday dinner and he would hang candy on the ceiling for us to look at when we got in the car ready to leave, he would have us come back in for a piece of candy. When I got older he would always give me candy when he saw me. Do you think he had a guilty conscious. Love him a lot may he rest in peace.

Mary Kilburg - June 29, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ Ray would sneak a piece of gum to our kids during mass, as much as he enjoyed that I think he had more fun watching them wait until church was over to get to enjoy it, Later in life whenever we went to Clover Ridge he was often the greeter, and would give us place mats to enjoy the beautiful pictures on them. He was a great man! Nancy Kieffer

nancy - June 29, 2020 at 09:25 PM