



Alvin J. Van Heel

April 17, 1932 - March 1, 2021

Alvin J. Van Heel, 88 year old resident of Swanville, MN, passed away Monday, March 1, 2021, at his residence. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Swanville, MN with Father Ron Dockendorf officiating. Burial will take place in the St. John's Parish Cemetery in Swanville, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Friday and from 9-10:30 A.M. on Saturday at St. John the Baptist Church in Swanville, MN. Funeral arrangements for Alvin with the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Swanville. Please follow the COVID-19 mandates with regards to social distancing and wearing of a face covering.

Alvin was born on April 17, 1932, in Spring Hill Township to the late Richard and Adeline (Stalboerger) Van Heel. He was united in marriage to Frances Gerads on January 27, 1953. Together they rented a farm in St. Francis, MN until Alvin was drafted into the U.S Army in September of 1953. He served for 2 years in Alabama and Georgia, where Frances joined him after basic training. After his honorable discharge, the couple returned to the farm in St. Francis. In 1958 they bought the family farm near Swanville, MN where they raised their 10 children. In 2016, Alvin retired from farming. In his free time, he enjoyed traveling, riding his ATV, playing cards, and bowling. He and Frances loved spending the winter months in Texas, which they did for many years. His family was most important to him and he cherished the time he spent with

them. Alvin was an active member on the township board, director of MidAm Board, American Legion member, and served on the St. John the Baptist Parish Council. He also volunteered at the Swanville Senior Center, ushered at St. John's Catholic Church, and drove veterans to appointments. Alvin was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Alvin is survived by loving wife, Frances Van Heel; children, Ronald (Jayne) Van Heel, Diane (Tom Whiting) Schneider, Janet (Thomas) Kruzel, Larry Van Heel, Melvin (Brenda) Van Heel, Kevin (Amanda Hand) Van Heel, Mary (Doug) Mielke, Joyce (Mark) Albertson, John (Lisa) Van Heel, Steven (Melissa) Van Heel; 38 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Adeline Van Heel; infant daughter; brother, Ray Van Heel; great-grandson, Bentley Peterson; mother and father-in-law, William and Erma Gerads; stepfather, Joe Koll; brothers-in-law, Clarence Gerads, Raymond Pohlmann, Clarence Wuebkers; sisters-in-law, Betty Gerads, Lillian Van Heel, and many good friends lost along the way.

Cemetery Details

St. John the Baptist Cemetery - Swanville, MN

Swanville, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Visitation

MAR 6. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Funeral Service

MAR 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville
12 First Street
Swanville, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 03, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Alvin J. Van Heel*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Nona Koester lit a candle in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel*



Nona Koester - March 05, 2021 at 09:51 AM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.*



March 04, 2021 at 01:19 PM

MF

“ *My sincere condolences to the entire Van Heel family. Knowing John for many decades, I know where he learned his work ethic and outstanding character. - Michael Faber*

Michael Faber - March 03, 2021 at 07:37 PM

LH

Thank you, very much. He was a great man and will be deeply missed by all.

Lisa Van Heel - March 03, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *56 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 03, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 03, 2021 at 03:16 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.*



March 03, 2021 at 01:58 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.*



March 03, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.*



March 03, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Sandy Barthel lit a candle in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel*



Sandy Barthel - March 03, 2021 at 09:23 AM



“ *Victor and Mary Gerads purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.*



Victor and Mary Gerads - March 03, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ *Such a sad time for his family. I bet he would want his memories with all of you to carry you thru this time of sorrow. Gather and talk about him. He will like that and then he can be on his way to his forever home. Blessings to you all*

Vickey & Mike Goeden - March 03, 2021 at 07:48 AM

CE

“ Collette Ehrenberg lit a candle in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel



collette Ehrenberg - March 03, 2021 at 04:52 AM

LK

“ Linda Kaiser lit a candle in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel



Linda Kaiser - March 02, 2021 at 10:56 PM

JG

“ To the family of Alvin our deepest sympathy goes out to all of you during this difficult time our prayers and thoughts are with you all. Jean Gwost and family

Jean Gwost - March 02, 2021 at 10:42 PM

RF

“ Rod & Irene Gerads and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Alvin J. Van Heel.



Rod & Irene Gerads and Family - March 02, 2021 at 09:29 PM



“ *Jon Strandberg lit a candle in memory of Alvin J. Van Heel*



Jon Strandberg - March 02, 2021 at 11:38 AM



“ *Francis and Family, I'm so sorry to hear that Alvin has passed away. He was such a good guy and always joking around. He will be greatly missed by all of us. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. My deepest sympathy goes out to you. Sandie Klimmek*

Sandie - March 02, 2021 at 11:22 AM