



Donald Vanderpoel

May 20, 1921 - December 19, 2006

Donald Arthur Vanderpoel was born on May 20, 1921 near Clinton, Minnesota to the late Arthur and Mary (Willms) Vanderpoel. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. on August 17, 1942 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Donald participated in several missions during WWII in the Asiatic-Pacific area. He held special military qualifications as a sharpshooter and metalsmith. Donald would ready aircraft for missions and maintain the fleet upon return. He was honorably discharged on December 16, 1945. Donald was united in marriage to Fern Falenschek on January 26, 1946 in Brainerd, Minnesota. He completed course work in agriculture education supported by the G.I. Bill and was able to start his dairy operation. Donald enjoyed sharing his sense of humor, telling stories of his military experiences and travels. Reading, presenting slide shows of his travels, and his collection of vintage tractor items were things he enjoyed.

Donald is survived by his wife, Fern of Onamia, MN; son, Dennis of Pierz, MN; daughters, Karen Melhouse & husband, Steven of Cannon Falls, MN, Linda Vanderpoel of Minneapolis, MN; brother, Leonard Vanderpoel & wife, Helen of Onamia, MN; grandchildren, Colette, Melissa, Emily, Karla, Pauline, & Elijah; great-grandchildren, Hunter, Mitchel, & Jaden.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur & Mary (Willms) Vanderpoel; son, Russell; brother, Clarence; & grandson, Glen.

Casketbearers: Russ Smith, Jeff Huschle, Jeff Butterfield, Ron Wall, Dave Fradette, Harry Tretter

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Onamia
100 North Pine
Onamia, MN

Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Onamia
100 North Pine
Onamia, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Vanderpoel*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM