



Earl R. Koester

April 3, 1926 - July 17, 2019

Earl R. Koester, 93 year old resident of Swanville, MN, passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the Little Falls Care Center. A Funeral Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 21, 2019 at First Lutheran Church in Little Falls, with Rev. Jake Dyrhaug officiating. Burial will be at St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery in Swanville, MN. Visitation will be from 4 to 6 PM on Saturday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls and one hour prior to the church on Sunday.

Earl was born on April 3, 1926, to the late Alfred Sr. and Irene (Rahn) Koester. He grew up in rural Swanville and attended Swanville public school. His first job was picking up canned milk from farmers in the Swanville and Flensburg areas. For a short time, he also hauled cattle to South St. Paul. Then it was back to the milk business. He was a house-to-house milkman in Little Falls for 35 years. Two years before he retired at the age 65 the house-to-house milk delivery service came to an end. Those last two years were spent delivering to local restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses. Earl played the tenor saxophone in his old-time band called The Six Jolly Fellows for 25 years. It was at one of the dances that he met his wife-to-be Martha Martin. They were married on August 21, 1952, at a friend's home. They had an old fashioned farm wedding and were happily married for 58 years. From this marriage, they were blessed with three daughters, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. When Earl wasn't working or playing in the band he was

busy shooting strikes on a local bowling league. After retiring, he kept himself busy by mowing lawns, going for long walks, keeping a weed-free vegetable garden, growing roses and keeping his truck clean and shiny. It was quite the talk of the town. He and Martha spent their mornings playing Kings Corner and sipping on coffee. They enjoyed long drives and maybe stopping at a garage sale or two along the way. Earl was known to his grandchildren and neighborhood children as "Papa" and took pride in that role. After Martha passed, Earl could be found visiting with friends at the local cafe and Swanville Produce. He also went on a few trips with LaVerne's Travel to Branson, MO, the Twin Cities, and Mackinac Island in Michigan not to mention a trip or two the local casino. At the ripe old age of 88, he went on his first plane ride to Las Vegas to help his granddaughter celebrate her birthday! Karen and Nona shared trips with Earl, Karen taking the long trips, Nona the short. But it didn't matter the trip, Earl always knew the way and wasn't shy about telling you the quickest way to get somewhere-he knew every road in Minnesota we think! At age 90 he moved into Bridgeway Estates in Little Falls and most recently into the Little Falls Care Center after declining health. He will be deeply missed by his family.

Earl is survived by daughters, Nona (Tom Kliber) of Swanville; and Karen Koester of Maple Grove; grandchildren, Sara (Ryan) Keillor; great-granddaughter, Harlyn of Stillwater, and Ryan Kliber of Swanville; and sister, Devona (Dee) Peterson of Baxter.

Preceded in death by his wife, Martha; infant daughter, Linda; sister, Bernice Zastrow; brothers, Homer Koester and Alfred Koester.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery

Swanville, MN 56382

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

JUL 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church - Little Falls
2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN

Funeral Service

JUL 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church - Little Falls
2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Earl R. Koester*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - July 19, 2019 at 03:57 PM



“ *Earl R. Koester*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Nona and Karen
So sad to hear of Earl's passing
Sending prayers to you and your family
Scot & Norma Eastwold*

Scot Eastwold - July 20, 2019 at 08:48 AM



“ *Karen so sorry to hear of the passing of your dad...May he rest in peace.*



Debbie Jelinski-Harakel - July 19, 2019 at 11:50 PM

NV

“ Uncle Earl was the “Best”. Always smiling and finding the “funny” in life. Brought fun wherever he went. A very humble and loving man. You are in our hearts forever!

Love,
Nancy and Vicky

Nancy and Vicky - July 19, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl R. Koester.



July 19, 2019 at 08:29 PM



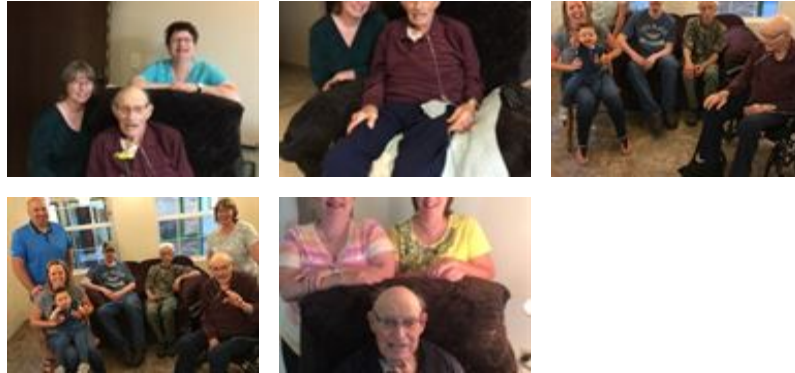
“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Earl R. Koester.



July 19, 2019 at 03:27 PM



“ 95 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieur Funeral Homes - July 19, 2019 at 02:56 PM

NV

Uncle Earl was the Best! Always smiling finding the “funny” in life. He is in our hearts forever!
Love, Nancy and Vicky

Nancy and Vicky - July 19, 2019 at 08:37 PM

TH

“ Praying for peace and comfort for all of you.



Tracy Hannah - July 19, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ Brenda Baum lit a candle in memory of Earl R. Koester



Brenda Baum - July 19, 2019 at 01:10 PM

SK

“ Nona, Karen and Family, We are so sorry to hear that Earl is no longer with. He was a knowledgeable man and gave me good advice on gardening. He always had a hello and would never walk by without some type of comment. Missed that when he was no longer living in Swanville. We will all miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. You have our deepest sympathy. Sandie and Glenn Klimmek

sandy klimmek - July 18, 2019 at 05:23 PM

TW

“ Tamie Wimmer lit a candle in memory of Earl R. Koester



Tamie Wimmer - July 18, 2019 at 12:53 PM

BE

“ Earl was such a nice man all thought i never knew him long and he had such nice daughters. rest in peace

betty - July 18, 2019 at 11:59 AM

JA

“ *Earl was a sweetheart of a man.
I met him about 40 years ago thru my wonderful girlfriend Karen (his daughter).*

He always showed interest in your life.

I was very fortunate to see and visit him when he lived At Bridgeway Assisted living in Little Falls.

R. I. P. Earl...💖💖💖

Jane Anderson - July 18, 2019 at 07:56 AM

JG

Our condolences to you and your family!! Prayers 🙏💖

Jean Gwost - July 18, 2019 at 12:57 PM

PC

“ *Pam Czech lit a candle in memory of Earl R. Koester*



Pam Czech - July 17, 2019 at 11:11 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Waltman lit a candle in memory of Earl R. Koester*



Wendy Waltman - July 17, 2019 at 09:24 PM

SW

“ *RIP Earl, such a nice man. Couldn't meet nicer people than Earl and Martha.*



Sandy Wright-Olson - July 17, 2019 at 09:23 PM



“ *So sad to hear of Uncle Earl's passing. He was a good man. Uncle Earl and Aunt Martha always made us feel welcome when we came up to Swanville. My Mom, Dad, Aunt Mary, Uncle Clarence, Jeff and myself always enjoyed ourselves when we visited. Rest In Peace, Uncle Earl.*



Jackie Phillips - July 17, 2019 at 07:40 PM

BC

“ *The best milk man, so dependable such a good person. Joyce and Brian-Paul Crowder*



Brian-Paul and Joyce Crowder - July 17, 2019 at 06:54 PM