



Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler

May 16, 1936 - February 22, 2021

Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler, 84 year old resident of Little Falls, MN, passed away February 22, 2021, at his residence. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 10:30 A.M., with Father Mark Botzet officiating. A visitation will take place from 9:30 A.M.-10:30 A.M. at the church prior to the Mass. Burial will take place at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family.

Fred was born on a small family farm in 1936 and grew up in the Northfield area, until his parents bought a resort business in the Park Rapids and later Walker area in northern Minnesota. He spent his summers scheduling boats and hauling motors for the resort guests and sharing the good fishing spots. After graduating from Northfield High School in 1954, he joined the U.S. Navy and served 4 years, active duty, as a ship electrician on the USS Buttner and USS Pawcatuck during the Korean War. His education was in his many and varied work experiences starting as a draftsman for Possiss Engineering in Minneapolis during the early 1960's, while caretaker of an apartment building. From there he left to operate a hardware store in Oklee, Minnesota for 4 years before moving his family to St. Louis, MO, where he was trained to operate an A-frame room-size computer for a private accounting firm. He then worked as a traveling liquor salesman outside the St. Louis area for a period of 2 years before returning to Minnesota to work for Jewell Lighting, selling to

hospitals, schools and businesses in central Minnesota. Many hours on the road found him falling asleep at the wheel. At that time he made the decision to sell Real Estate and manage rental properties in Little Falls. The 1980's found him teaching Behind The Wheel Drivers Ed to high school students, a job he enjoyed.

Fred liked cooking and developed his own BBQ sauce. In 1991 he bought a small take out business and named it 'Chicken and Rib by FES' later expanding to include catering. He was the first dealer in central Minnesota to use and sell Traeger wood pellet grills, which he used frequently in his catering business. He grilled for the Musser Mansion fundraisers during their summer events and also volunteered at the Fishing Museum later in life. Fred was active in his church, serving on St. Mary's school board and often lecturing at Mass. He served on the environmental committee in its beginning years and 'play acted' in 2 community plays. Fred enjoyed being with the public and was friendly and well received. Fred liked to fish and hunt and taught his children to appreciate the environment by enjoying the outdoors.

He was enthusiastic about taking friends fishing on his favorite lake and showing them a good time fishing. He taught his children about gardening, by growing food in the backyard.

Fred is survived by his wife, Kathleen; his children, Kevin (Marie) Festler, Brian Festler, Shivaun Farlow, Tara Festler, Lisa Hunstiger, Daniel Festler, Mary Justin, Paul (Yaika) Festler; grandchildren, Kyle (Nicole) Festler, Steven (Meredith) Festler, Jared (Jana) Festler, Miranda Festler, Dylan Festler, Lily Festler; 7 great-grandchildren; his two sisters, Mary Helen (Roger) Cyr, Betty (Jeff) Haukebo.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents and one infant child.

God willing, we will meet again in Paradise and we will be the best of friends.

Your loving wife of 60 years.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **25**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Little Falls
305 4th Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **25**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Little Falls
305 4th Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - February 24, 2021 at 10:07 AM



“ *Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Mary Jo Retka lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Mary Jo Retka - March 05, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ *Trudee Preimesberger lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Trudee Preimesberger - March 03, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler.*



February 25, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ *Myron & Cathy Bahmer sent a virtual gift in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Myron & Cathy Bahmer - February 25, 2021 at 10:11 AM



“ *Kathy & Family, I am blessed to have known Fred. I have so many fond memories of my “adventures” with Fred. I always looked forward to heading up north to hunt or fish. I’ll always be grateful that he and my dad took the time to teach us how to love the great outdoors. He and your family will always hold a special place in my heart. Heaven gained a good one! 🙏 Love and peace to all of you.*
Lisa (Nikolai) Meschke

Lisa Meschke - February 25, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Kathy and family,*
We are so sorry to hear of Fred's passing. He was a good man and did much for the church and community. Our prayers, Dave and Irene



Dave and Irene Becker - February 25, 2021 at 09:05 AM



“ *My prayers and sympathy to the Festler family. Fred was a very sweet person. May he Rest In Peace. I thank him for his service.*

Kathy Marshik - February 24, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ *Sympathy to the family. Goodbye old friend. Fred made the best chicken around. Rest in peace.*



John Cook - February 24, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ *Fred & Judy Leisenheimer lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Fred & Judy Leisenheimer - February 24, 2021 at 05:30 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler.*



February 24, 2021 at 03:44 PM

RS

“ *Ron & Lisa Sahr sent a virtual gift in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Ron & Lisa Sahr - February 24, 2021 at 03:31 PM

RS

Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Ron & Lisa Sahr - February 24, 2021 at 03:32 PM

DK

“ *Darrell & Anna Klein lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Darrell & Anna Klein - February 24, 2021 at 12:35 PM

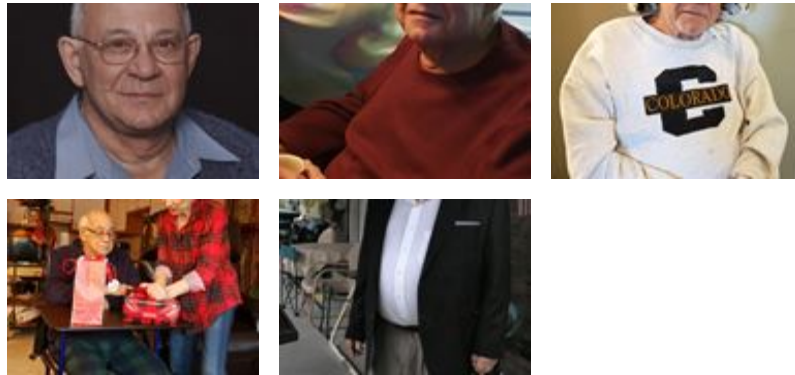
DL

“ *Sending our sincerest sympathies to the Festler family. Fred got us started on our Traeger grill & have enjoyed our grilling since! He was a great one to visit with-😊! Our thoughts & prayers are with all of you-🙏❤️! Dawn & Brad Laager*

Dawn & Brad Laager - February 24, 2021 at 10:34 AM



“ 36 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - February 24, 2021 at 10:08 AM

KN

“ *I was a frequent visitor of eating their food. It was my favorite place to go. Greetings were always with a smile and they knew your name. He will be missed by many.*

Karon Newcomb - February 24, 2021 at 09:30 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler.*



February 24, 2021 at 09:22 AM

SF

“ *Mary (Fes),*

I'm very sorry for your loss. Thinking of you.

Shari (Force)

Shari Force-Smith - February 24, 2021 at 09:20 AM

BW

“ *Bruce Waldvogel lit a candle in memory of
Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler*



Bruce Waldvogel - February 24, 2021 at 09:15 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the
family of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler.*



February 23, 2021 at 09:18 PM

JS

“ Kathy, Kevin, Brian, Shivaun, Tara, Lisa, Dan, Mary and Paul,

I'm so sorry to hear that Fred has passed away. I take comfort in the thought that he and Dad are catching up and sharing fishing stories.

I can't think of a family that was more foundational in my early years. Fred and your whole family were so generous with sharing your cabin and teaching us how to fish and sort of hunt. I tell stories to this day about what a great fisherman and hunter your dad was. How he could let us take a shot at something and miss and still shoot the bird himself. I remember him teaching me about tracking. I remember when Rachel caught the big muske and him putting his foot on it to keep it from biting us as we raced to shore. I remember many good times and grandmas and Katherines. Or stopping at Moreys on the way up to get smoked fish. But nobody's pickled fish ever tastes as good as Freds. And the many fish fries and wild life dinners with my first taste of turtle soup.

But mostly his smile and laughter and a kind, gentle soul who was always willing to help others. I'm so glad I got to see him on his 80th birthday. He will be dearly missed.

May your many happy memories keep you going during this tough time.

Julie Nikolai Sullivan

Julie Nikolai Sullivan - February 23, 2021 at 05:42 PM

MR

So sorry he was a good guy he will be sadly missed .your in my prays

Meredith ringwelski - February 23, 2021 at 10:10 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler.*



February 23, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ *I had many nice conversations with Fred and Kathy both when I worked at the credit union. He was even so kind as to share a recipe or two of homemade soup from his Chicken & Ribs by Fes days! Such a wonderful family man! My thoughts and prayers for the entire Festler family.*

Melissa Sharon Gerads

Melissa Gerads - February 23, 2021 at 02:12 PM

BM

“ Kathy and family,
My deepest sympathies on Fred's passing. He graciously let my brother Tom and I come and join in The Festler Deer Camp. Many memories when younger of working hard to get the cabin ready, hunting hard to get the deer and of course eating well.
As time evolved I took over the main cooking duties and Tom and I were the meal planners. There was always a little added pressure as we were making sure we lived up to the tradition started by Fred. The conversations were honest and thoughtful. We always took time for a little prayer too. Thank you for examples set, love of hunting and our great get together every November that I have been a part of for over 40 years.
Rest in peace my friend.

Bob Miller

Bob Miller - February 23, 2021 at 02:05 PM

KN

“ Kathy, Shivaun and everyone, I was so sad when I found out about Fred. I have so many memories of doing things with your family, not only in Little Falls, but up at Grandma's house when we would go fishing. Aunt Catherine was always so sweet and Betty and Jeff helped us learn how to clean fish and do a pan fish fry, and remember when Shivaun and I tried to hunt and had no idea what we were doing and no interest either but it was still fun. All of that was because of Fred. Hopefully he and Dad are hanging out in heaven, catching up and having a good belly laugh.

Karen Nikolai - February 23, 2021 at 01:34 PM

BE

“ Kathy, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Your husband was a kind and courageous man who stood up for what he believed in. His smile was infectious, his conversations interesting, and his cooking impressive. The days when the loss here on earth is felt most strong are the days heaven's rejoicing is even stronger. Today is one of those. I pray that fond memories and the peace that passes all understanding bring you comfort.

Becky Olson

Becky - February 23, 2021 at 11:16 AM

GZ

“ Kathy and Family, Sending prayers and thinking of your all.



Greg and Wendy Zylka - February 23, 2021 at 11:04 AM

BA

“ Bruce And Kathy Anderson lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler



Bruce and Kathy Anderson - February 23, 2021 at 10:20 AM

JS

“ Sending healing light and love to Fred's family. A special hug being sent virtually to Tara — a giant Jessie sized hug.

Jessica Schmiesing - February 23, 2021 at 08:42 AM

KK

“ Our sympathies to Kathy and the Festler family. Sending our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Kurt and Lori Kneeland



Kurt and Lori Kneeland - February 23, 2021 at 07:39 AM

EN

“ This is so incredibly sad. I have so many childhood memories of Fred and my dad, Leon Nikolai, doing so many things together with us kids; smelting in Duluth, fishing, hunting and more. I remember the "wild" dinners he and Kathy would host where only wild game was served. Mostly I have missed, and will continue to miss, our one-on-one conversations when I would drop in on Fred and Kathy unannounced. RIP my old friend, I will miss you!

Eric Nikolai - February 22, 2021 at 08:15 PM

BR

“ So sorry to hear this. Fred was an amazing man! Prayers to all his family during this difficult time.

BreeAnn & Andrew Rakow - February 22, 2021 at 06:18 PM

CM

“ Claudette Moran lit a candle in memory of Fredrick "Fred" J. Festler



Claudette Moran - February 22, 2021 at 06:07 PM

CM

Gentle hugs, prayers, and condolence go out to Kathy, Dan, and family. May Fred rest in the peace of Christ, and may God hold all of you in the palm of his hand. Blessed be his memory.

Claudette Moran - February 22, 2021 at 06:08 PM



“ We Are So Sorry For Your Loss, Kathy, Dan, & Family:(He Was A Gentle Soul That Was A Pillar Of The Little Falls Community... He Will Be Missed By All Of Us... Please Let Us Know If There's Anything That We Can Do For You To Help You Through This Trying Time...



Our Deepest Sympathies,

Chuck Larson, Doris Larson, & The Larson Family

Chuck Larson - February 22, 2021 at 05:45 PM

RS

“ To Kathy & Family : Our deepest sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to the family of Fred. Fred was a great & loving man. He was a very respectable & fun loving man. Fred always had a loving smile for everyone he met. Fred will be sadly missed by all. May Fred Rest In Peace with our Heavenly Father. May God's Grace & blessings be on all of his loving family.

Richard & Mary Schneider - February 22, 2021 at 05:24 PM

OF

“ *Kathy and family so sorry for your loss. It was real nice knowing Fred he was a great guy a real nice neighbor also.* ”



Ochoa family - February 22, 2021 at 04:46 PM