



## Melvin A. Van Bockel

May 28, 1931 - January 26, 2011

Melvin A. Van Bockel, 79 of Little Falls, MN passed away Wednesday (January 26) at St. Otto's Care Center in Little Falls attended by his family after a 17 year battle with cancer. A Memorial service for Melvin A. Van Bockel will be held Saturday (Feb. 5) at 11 AM at Bethel Lutheran Church in Little Falls with Rev. Glen Leaf officiating,.

Melvin was born May 28, 1931 in Lebanon, SD to the late Peter and Rena Van Bockel. In 1947, the family purchased a farm and moved near Swanville, MN. Mel graduated from Swanville High School with the class of 1950. He was united in marriage to Yvonne Zarns on August 19, 1950 in Swanville, MN. Mel worked for Knutson Construction Company in Minneapolis, MN as a tower crane operator for 42 years. Some of the buildings he helped construct included the Hilton Hotel and Metrodome in Minneapolis. He also helped build the Minnesota Historical Society building in St. Paul, MN and the Fontaine Towers in Rochester, MN. Mel retired in 1990. The couple moved to their lake home in Pequot Lakes, MN where Mel was active in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. The couple moved to Little Falls in 2003. They enjoyed traveling, pontoon rides and watching wildlife at the lake. Mel also enjoyed playing cards, hunting, fishing and bowling in the Senior Bowling League. Most of all, Mel enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church and the Lions club in Little Falls.

Melvin A. Van Bockel is survived by his wife of 60 years, Yvonne; sons, Craig (Roxann) Van Bockel of Kona, HI and Brad Lee Van Bockel of Waukesha, WI:

daughter, Pamela McNamara of Cold Spring, KY; grandchildren, Jenny and Chris Van Bockel, Jason Doremus, Michael and Jonathan Fritz; a great grandchild, Gryphon Van Fimbres; sisters, Gertrude Chance of Savage, MT and Marie Umiker of Gettysburg, SD; son in law, Roger Fritz of Plymouth, MN and a sister in law, Lucy Van Bockel of Gettysburg, SD.

Mel was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Debra Fritz; sister, Ada (Ken) DeMaster; brothers, Richard Van Bockel; Jake (Doris) Van Bockel and Joe (Maxine Van Bockel; brother in laws, Ernest Chance and John Umiker.

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethel Lutheran Church - Little Falls  
901 West Broadway  
Little Falls, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melvin A. Van Bockel*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your husbands death, we were out of state so were unable to attend the funeral. You will be in my thought and prayers. With deepest sympathy, Karen Haaland##imported-begin##Karen Haaland##imported-end##*

February 07, 2011 at 02:59 PM



“ *Dear Yvonne and Family:I so enjoyed visiting with Mel over the years. My thoughts and prayers have been with.Alan##imported-begin##Alan Thelander##imported-end##*

February 05, 2011 at 09:09 AM



“ *Dear Vonnie and Family, I am so sorry to hear of Melvins passing.I think he was Dads best friend and confidant. Loved him dearly. Can't all of you imagine the deer hunting stories going on in heaven right now. We do have many memories of those storys and many other wonderful things about Melvin..God Bless You and Keep you now and in the lonely days to come. Eventually they say it gets better. I'm hoping Debbie and your Mom can handle this up there. Love and Lots of Hugs to all of you Laura##imported-begin##Laura Benning(Kazecks Daughter)##imported-end##*

February 01, 2011 at 08:46 PM



“ *Melvin was a wonderful and caring person with whom I have had the pleasure of many lively conversations. He will be missed. My heart felt condolences to all of Mevin's family.*##imported-begin##Robert Rooney##imported-end##

---

February 01, 2011 at 05:49 PM



“ *Dad could fix anything with a little duct tape and a philips screwdriver - he was very generous as well and loved a good joke.*##imported-begin##Pam VB McNamara##imported-end##

---

January 31, 2011 at 05:24 PM



“ *My dad was always ready to offer a helping hand when called*##imported-begin##Craig Van Bockel##imported-end##

---

January 31, 2011 at 04:21 PM