



Harlen R. Lyons

January 24, 1934 - October 7, 2020

Harlen R. Lyons, 86, of David City, Nebraska died Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at his home in David City.

Memorials can be directed towards family wishes for later designation.

The rosary and mass will be live-streamed beginning at 9:25 to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ChermokFuneralHome/>

With COVID precautions in place, ALL attending the rosary and the Mass will be required to wear masks. Interment will be in the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Harlen Raymond Lyons was born on January 24, 1934 in Clearwater, Nebraska to David and Adele (Brockmoller) Lyons. Harlen attended school in Clearwater until the family moved to Herman, Nebraska in 1941, the family then moved to David City in 1947 where he graduated from Marietta High School in 1952. After high school, Harlen enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany during the Korean War. While deployed, he worked as a trained mechanic. Upon his honorable discharge, Harlen married Patricia Rerucha on June 13, 1959 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City after knowing her since high school. Four children were born to this union.

To everyone throughout David City and the surrounding area, Harlen was known as Mr. John Deere. Starting as an 8th grader in 1948 he began working at the local John Deere dealership Coufal & Birkel. Although the name changed through the years from R.L.D Inc., Seward Implement, Interstate Equipment, Plains Power and Equipment, Plains Equipment Group, and recently AKRS Equipment, one thing remained the same-Harlen was there to help, right up until his passing after 72 years. Harlen was so familiar with John Deere equipment, over the years he consulted with the engineers who designed the new John Deere equipment. Harlen was as close to an engineer as one could be. He was a jack of all trades that could fix anything-from a Waterloo Boy to the latest John Deere technology.

When Harlen wasn't busy fixing a tractor or combine, he would be with his family, either attending church or cheering on his boys (and later their children) at their sporting events. Harlen and Pat loved driving to their grandchildren's events and loved their cross-country road trips. On top of his full-time job, in 1978, Harlen began farming a small farm, in which he took great pride, south of David City.

He was a very devoted man to his church and his community. Harlen was an active member of St. Mary's Church, serving as a commentator and on the cemetery board, and was a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus. Harlen sat on the city council which eventually led to being Mayor of David City. Harlen was also very active in the Aquinas Booster Club and was a longtime member of the Jaycee's.

Whether talking about his faith, family, his job Harlen lived by the simple quote from the original Mr. John Deere- "I will never put my name on a product that doesn't have in it the best that is in me".

Harlen is survived by his wife of 61 years, Patricia; sons: Dan (Lisa) Lyons of Norfolk, Chad (Kim) Lyons of McCook, and Cary (Stacia) Lyons of Morton, Illinois; grandchildren: Trent (Lisa) Lyons and their children Sophia and Ava, Kali (Jake) Curl and their children Landon and Kinlee, Jacob Lyons, Luke (Jordan) Lyons, Matthew Lyons, Vincent Lyons, Bryce Lyons, and Colton Lyons; Sister-in-law: Dolores Lyons of Lincoln, brothers: Robert Lyons of Hastings and Ron (Monica) of David City, Brother-in-law and Sister-in-law: Gerald and Theresa Rerucha of Kalamazoo, MI and sister-in-law: Janice Otoupal of York.

He is preceded in death by his parents, infant daughter Mary Ann, one brother, LeRoy Lyons, and brother-in-law, Gary Otoupal of McCool Junction.

Events

OCT 11 **Viewing with no family present** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

11

Chermok Funeral Home

515 C Street, David City, NE, US, 68632

OCT 12 **Parish Rosary** 09:30AM

12

St. Mary's Catholic Church

580 I St, David City, NE, US, 68632

OCT 12 **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

12

St. Mary's Catholic Church

580 I St, David City, NE, US, 68632

OCT 12 **Burial**

12

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

David City, NE, US

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Chermok Funeral Home - October 12, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ Harlem's Family, I am just a customer that Harlen delivered parts to for my work and personal work. I always looked forward to visiting with him and see him grin. He helped me on numerous occasions with mechanical questions. I was in the dealer today and asked about him when I heard of his passing. What a wonderful man! I will miss visiting with him . So very sorry.my thoughts and prayers to all his family and friends. I will miss him.
Steve Abegglen

Steve Abegglen - October 19, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ Dear Cary and Neal,
I'm truly sorry for the loss of your father Cary and your Uncle, Neal. Your families are in my prayers.

Cindy Klenda - October 17, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ Dear Pat and family
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Butler county has lost a wonderful man. We were blessed many times to have Harlen help us out. Enjoyed our chats with Harlen and
Pat. God Bless You.
Love Lynn and Liz



Lynn and Liz Ostermeier - October 12, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Pat and Family,
Randy and I were saddened to hear of Harlan's passing. Randy said he was one of the nicest farmers that he ever worked for. Randy enjoyed hauling grain off the farm for him. Our deepest sympathy to your entire family.
Randy and Mary Schultz

Mary Schultz - October 12, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ My sympathy to Pat and the Lyons boys and families.
It was a bit of a highlight, when I would be back in DC, to see Mr. and Mrs. Lyons. Just about a month ago I was pedaling the streets of DC and visited with them in the yard for just a few minutes.
Dan you were always a positive influence and Chad I got to see you at Administrator days... I have to say your smile and chuckle reminded me of Harlan.
Harlan was as solid as they come, I'm glad to have known all of you.
P.S. I have 2 John Deere tractors :)

Dan Ingwersen - October 12, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ Pat and family,
You have our deepest sympathy at this sad time. We were shocked to hear of Harlen's passing and have you all in our thoughts and prayers!
I have been cutting Harley's hair for several years and always enjoyed talking with him and Pat. Not only was he my customer, but I considered Harley a dear friend! I've enjoyed hearing stories of him growing up in Brainard and how much everything has changed, the many miles driven to all the grandchildren's sporting events, the Christmas gatherings at the hotel and others.
Sometimes he'd stop by the shop just to chat when he was in town or stop by the house to check on our John Deere mower that has some issues. He was such a kind, sweet man and I will miss him dearly!
Cherish your many memories and know that we wish you peace and comfort during this hard time! Thinking of you, Tim & Julie Reimer and family

Julie Reimer - October 12, 2020 at 09:12 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Martha and Dennis Disberger

marthadisberger - October 11, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Pat, and family, I am so saddened to hear of Harlen's passing. I first met Harlen when I went into the John Deere store asking for donations for fundraisers for the soccer complex we wanted to build. He never turned me down, always donated something. He always greeted me with a smile & "good morning" when I'd enter your pew. I will miss seeing him there, but am sure that he will be "with us" in that pew every Sunday. Hugs and prayers to all.

Sandy Rech - October 11, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers to you and your family at this difficult time. Steve and Laura Kucera.

Laura Kucera - October 11, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Pat, Dan, Chad, Cary, and all of Harlan's family. I had the privilege to work with, and learn from Harlan for many years. Many memories and stories I could mention, but some may not be suitable for social publication!! I never told Harlan how much I appreciated all of the life and people lessons I learned from him, and many Deere lessons also, but at least his family will know now. He was simply a great and respected man. May peace be with you Harlan and all of his family. Mike DeWispelare



Mike DeWispelare - October 11, 2020 at 01:03 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Harlen R. Lyons.



October 11, 2020 at 08:07 AM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy is with all of you and your families. So enjoyed the times we got to visit with Harlen. May your many memories of him help you at this time. Blessings and prayers. Shorty and Cindy

Shorty and Cindy - October 10, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ Our Thoughts and Prayers to the Family. With Deepest Sympathy, Brenda and Ron Shipley



Brenda Shipley - October 09, 2020 at 08:41 PM



“ Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Harlen R. Lyons.



October 09, 2020 at 06:11 PM



“ Maureen L Lyons lit a candle in memory of Harlen R. Lyons



Maureen L Lyons - October 09, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ Lyons family,

So sorry for your loss!

I had the opportunity observe Harlan's great leadership and gentle character/teacher as the Division Sales Manager of Nebraska for John Deere. He was truly one of John Deere's best representatives and ambassadors. He was highly respected not only in the state of Nebraska, but also by the entire John Deere Management and especially with our engineers at each Factory. If Harlan called with an issue, you had better listen closely, because Harlan could solve almost any problem. The good news is when he would call, he often had several great thoughts of how the issue could be resolved. Not only did he have a unique mechanical skills, but he equally had the great people skills. He was a great listener, teacher and communicator. All who worked with Harlan have been blessed to work with a person of such high integrity, character and wisdom. Thank you for sharing him with all us John Deere Employee's

Dennis Stewart
Retired John Deere Employee

Dennis Stewart - October 09, 2020 at 03:33 PM



“ I met Harlan years ago attending several Deere functions and schools. It was a pleasure watching Harlan call out the instructors on several items.

Seemingly Harlan actually knew more about the subject matter than the instructors!

That being said Harlan earned the respect of Deere, myself, and all that knew him.

We grew from casual acknowledgements, to respected rivals, then to co-worker, then friends, and finally to close advisor and confidant.

Harlan always had time to talk, advise, and tell you his opinion. He did this with the humility and grace I only wish to achieve.

I honestly don't think Harlan ever met a stranger.

The lessons associated with his legacy will live on through the people he has touched.

To this day his ability to hang with the youngsters going toe to toe with his ever popular Black Russian "potato whiskey" is a phrase that I will continue to say for as long as I can.

Condolences to the family and prayers for healing and peace in the days to come.

Nothing but respect my friend. God speed Harlan Lyons!

Steve Rust, Geneva

Steve Rust - October 09, 2020 at 03:32 PM



“ I know there isn't much I can add to Harlan's memories to the family I just wanted you to know how wonderful Harlan and Pat treated myself and Denise after we came to David City just like they had always known us I'm so sorry I can't beat the funeral as I am battling the corona I would have loved to have met you all my dearest sympathy I will miss Harlan every day at work Don and Denise Loecker

Don Loecker - October 09, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ Jolene Hookie lit a candle in memory of Harlen R. Lyons



Jolene Hookie - October 09, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ Pat, Dan, Chad, Cary, and families.

We are extending our deepest sympathy in offering our sincere condolences in the passing of Harlen. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you deal with your loss.

Don & Dorothy Schaecher

Dorothy Schaecher - October 09, 2020 at 08:17 AM



“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Sending prayers. Randy and Shirley Ryser.

ryser - October 08, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ May God hold your family tight and comfort you all.

Melanie Wilson Hoegerl - October 08, 2020 at 10:33 PM



“ Prayers for him and the family. He must of been a great dad because he raised a great son, Chad. Dennis, Cora and Susan Berry

dennis berry - October 08, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ Dear Pat, Cary, Dan and Chad and all your family,

We are so sorry for your loss, Harlen was a great neighbor to my parents and now to us and his smile and laugh will be missed in the neighborhood. God guide you through this time of loss and grief and may the perpetual light shine upon him. Bless you all.

Ann Ptacek Heermann - October 08, 2020 at 04:40 PM



“ Our sympathy and prayers to the family. Steve and Gina Barlean

Gina Barlean - October 08, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ Miss waiting on Harlen at Northside and sharing all my sports stories with him

Dee samek - October 08, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ I was fortunate to work With Harlen from January 2 1970

He told me to make sure the customer always gets 100% of what he's paying for he was a great teacher he was fantastic at explaining things with great detail you could usually figure out a math problem faster in his mind that you could on the calculator I was blessed to see her on Monday had a great talk show me he was going to retire after the first of the year we talked about getting together

And have a beer like old times when Don Reed ran those beer route Harlen showed me the real use for a CO2 fire extinguisher what's the cool beer and did it work fantastic it was always a fun side to Harlen the stories are endless I will miss him greatly ! great loss for our community very sorry for your loss

Dave - October 08, 2020 at 08:42 PM



“ Marilyn Kobza& Dan Kobza lit a candle in memory of Harlen R. Lyons



Marilyn Kobza& Dan Kobza - October 08, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ Prayers for the families, Dan Kobza and Marilyn Kobza.

Marilyn Kobza and Danny Kobza - October 08, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Sincere sympathy to Pat and family! Don Birkel

Diane birkel - October 08, 2020 at 09:04 AM



“ Pat and Family - We are thinking of you. from neighbors who farmed "across the fence". George remembers playing baseball with Halen which followed thru to some pf our sons. Hugs!

Bev - October 08, 2020 at 02:29 AM



“ Pat and family,
We were so saddened to hear about Harlen. His strong faith and love for his family was evident. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers as you mourn his loss.
In Christ,
The Aquinas Alumni Association



Aquinas Alumni Association - October 07, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ Harlen was a glowing example of what parents hope their children will become, a wonderful human being. We were all blessed to have him and his family in our community for his lifetime.

Skip Trowbridge - October 08, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ Pat and family,

Prayers are being said for your entire family during this sad time. May Harlen rest in peace. Blessings to all.

Marita (Mert) Zwick

Marita A Zwick - October 08, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ For as long as I can remember, Harlen and his family have been interconnected with my family. I was just 2 years old when my dad, Alfred (Fritz) Birkel and my Uncle Stan Coufal took a chance on a lanky 8th grade boy and hired him to do odd jobs at their farm implement business, Coufal & Birkel John Deere..
They undoubtedly saw his willingness to work hard, good attitude and a very bright intellect..
He and later Pat and their boys became treasured friends.
And, after 72 years of service, he is renowned as one of the most valued minds in the John Deere Family.
Work was a huge part of who Harlen is but as everyone who knows this family knows, family and faith to him was without equal.
My memories of him always include so many breakfasts at the “North End” with cups of coffee and good stories.
My hope is that he is up there somewhere sharing that coffee and those stories with my dad, before He goes back to “tinkering” on his latest project.
Our love to the entire Lyons Family,
Beth (Birkel) and Wayne Fricke

Beth Fricke - October 10, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ What a wonderful man... he was a very kind and considerate guy. We would like to send appreciation for the knowledge he gave to 3 generations of our family farm. He had more information than you could ever find in any John Deere manual and always had time to answer any question. Our deepest sympathy to your family. Mary Ann, Ron and Julie, Seth, Becca and Merlyn Hoffman

Julie Hoffman - October 07, 2020 at 09:09 PM