



## Lawrence W. Everett

November 2, 1920 - June 28, 2019

Lawrence Everett, 98, of New Sharon, passed away Friday, June 28, 2019, at the Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa.

Lawrence William Everett, the youngest of five children born to Fred and Mildred (Fox) Everett, was born November 2, 1920, at his parents' farm near Lacey, Iowa. He graduated from Lacey High School in 1938. He worked on the farm until beginning a two-year agriculture program at Iowa State College in 1940. While there he was in ROTC and participated in the Cossacks horse stunt riding team.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in September 1942 and was called to active duty February 23, 1943. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served as a bombardier in a B-24. His crew received their B-24 in July at Hamilton Field (San Francisco). They left California and flew to Omaha, then, having telephoned Lawrence's parents, circled their farm in Iowa twice, and dropped a note that was later found by a neighbor. They continued to Newfoundland, Iceland, and then on to England. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 458th Bomber Group, 753rd and then 755th Squadron, lead crew. He flew 29 missions and received the Good Conduct Medal, the Air Medal with 3 clusters, Air Lead Crew Commendation, and the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). The DFC was awarded for exceptional performance as Lead Bombardier on many missions over occupied territory and Germany. On one mission he recognized a navigation error of the wing lead bomber and convinced his bomber group commander of the error, resulting in saving that bomber group from intense anti-aircraft fire. Their crew was made the wing lead bomber the following mission, and their squadron dropped 83% of its bombs in a 500 ft. circle on the target. He returned to the U.S. for short assignments after V.E. Day and was inactivated in October 1945. He was promoted to Captain while in the inactive reserves.

He enrolled in the Farm Operation B.S. program at Iowa State College in the fall of 1945. He lived at the Alumni Hall residence and was president of the YMCA, where he met Beverly George who was president of the YWCA. Together they developed life-long friendships with other couples brought together through the "Y." They married June 15, 1947, after Beverly graduated and remained at ISC until Lawrence completed his degree in 1948.

They moved to a farm owned by Lawrence's mother near Lacey, Iowa in spring 1948. They lived on that farm until building a house on a nearby acreage in 1978 where they lived the rest of their lives. They gradually expanded their farming operation with both rented and purchased land. From his uncle Frank Everett he continued a side-business of growing and selling watermelons, cantaloupe and more, operated via roadside stand on Highway 63, with the help of a longtime employee, Don Connor. It was a busy, friendly stopping place for locals looking for produce fresh from the field. Lawrence was active with 4-H, the North Mahaska School Board, Lacey Methodist Church Board, Farm Bureau which included being the Mahaska County Farm Bureau President and a director on the State Farm Bureau Board. He also belonged to the Mahaska County Land Fill Commission, Mahaska County Hospital Board of Trustees (23 years), Ruritan, and the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee. Supported and encouraged by Lawrence, Beverly gained local, national, and international acclaim for her leadership in women's education, human rights, and environmental preservation. Both were avid supporters of Iowa State University. Lawrence and Beverly welcomed farm visitors from across the globe into their home for weeks and months at a time, including guests from Bangladesh, Argentina, Kenya, the Soviet Union, and India. Lawrence twice visited son Leslie in Africa, including Zaire (DRC) where he assisted in farm equipment repair and swine facility design.

His honors included the 4-H Alumni Award and the Junior Chamber of Commerce Young Farmer Award.

Lawrence was a people person. He had a ready smile and a twinkle-in-his-eye sense of humor that he shared with everyone. He loved conversation and being with his family whenever possible.

He is survived by five children: Leslie Everett (Lois), Falcon Heights, MN; George Everett (Anna), Casselberry, FL ; Rebecca Sinkler (Jack), Montezuma, IA; Gordon Everett (Barbara), Lake Stevens, WA; Floyd Everett, New Sharon, IA; ten grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, three nieces, and three nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Beverly Beth George Everett, his parents Fred and Mildred Fox Everett, two sisters Esther Everett and Alice Everett Truog and Alice's husband Vyron Truog, two brothers Jerry and Fred Everett, and brother-in-law Neal George and his wife, Helen.

Lawrence has left behind many friends and family.

Memorial services for Lawrence will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, at the Lacey United Methodist Church with Rev. Gordon Everett and Rev. Olivia Fabros officiating. As was Lawrence's wish, his body has been donated to the University of Iowa Medical School. Burial will be held in Forest Cemetery at a later date. Langkamp Funeral Chapel is handling the arrangements. Memorials can be made to the Lacey United Methodist Church or the North Mahaska Education Foundation.



# Comments

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“ O Boy O Boy. This is a wonderful obit and I now recall how Clyde Hesling and I were going to get one watermelon for our church Wednesday nite catcism at the Court House we were talking and someone said "Nobody gets away with a watermelon from Everetts. Clyde and I looked at each other and said "Nobody?' Well Clyde picked corn for Everett in the fall with his dad's big super M (Of course Clyde and his dad-John were the biggest work alkaholica and took on many challenges. All we wanted was one melon that we could share and say "compliments of Everetts farm. Our plan was great, as I had a dark shirt and Clyde was as dark as an Indian and knew the farm well.

Clyde rolled out the back car door and headed across and over the fence when all the boys and circled around Clyde. They heard a rumor about some Fremont boys and were ready. Even if you parked down by the rock quarry you got caught. I long walk. I was to drive back on the highway and pick up Clyde then to town. A nice challenge. However Clyde and his captures had Clyde under the tall lamp. I drove on and came back in another car looking for Clyde. No luck.

As they were putting Clyde in the car and to the sheriffs office, Clyde took off north into the corn field with buck shot over his head. Then down to Schnikle who drive him home. Clyde's dad was waiting and mad. "Why do you want one of their melons when we have a cellar full of them." Everett woke John up which made John madder at 11:00 pm.

It was a cold night for Clyde. The next morn at breakfast John said "What no water melon." John was more mad that he was awakened. John was a hard hard worker He never even had time to talk to his brother when he came to the farm. Clyde had to do pennece the next day at the church trimming brush. When John was called to help pick corn next fall, John was still mad and said "pick your own corn." The Bible was torn to shred here.

This is a wonderful man Mr Everett with this war history and more and we never knew until this. We should have stood over his patch. and with all his benefits to all men. I now figure I would owe you \$5 but we got any water melon. I don't remember if I confessed this sin , but I will now at 87 years of age.

L Everett had to be a wonderful, wonderful man

Donald Bouma , 6600 E Bethany PI Denver CO 80224 303-757-4186

**Donald Bouma** - September 10, 2019 at 12:10 AM

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“ From Les's partner Lois. I didn't come into the Everett family until Larry was 76. My most salient memories of my first visit were how, at random times he would belt out "Oh plant a watermelon vine on my grave, let the juice (slurp, slurp) run through! Plant a watermelon vine on my grave, that's all I ask of you. Mama makes some chicken, she makes it mighty fine, but nothing can compare with the watermelon vine. So plant a watermelon vine on my grave, let the juice (slurp, slurp) run through!" That, and how, whenever we headed out somewhere, he'd say "Off like a dirty shirt on washday!" I sure hope that Les keeps that kind of sense of humor and twinkle in his eye that he inherited from his dad for as many years as his dad kept them!

Lois Braun - July 05, 2019 at 09:51 PM

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“ Loved this gentleman and his sense of humor-many years ago my husband officiated high school athletics and it was approaching Christmas time-he came into the business where I worked and said with a very straight face "Sharon, for Christmas you need to get your husband a seeing eye dog". Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.  
Jerry and Sharon McCrea

Jerry & Sharon McCrea - July 01, 2019 at 05:32 PM

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“ From an Alumni Hall classmate of Les's..... The Everett boys always got better grades than the rest of us, generally had a smile on their faces and a dry sense of humor just below the surface and always did the right thing more readily than the rest of us. But they tolerated the rest of us pretty well...okay, admirably well, and reading Lawrence's obit, now i know a lot of the reason why!!! What a guy. Most of will have to resort to deep fiction to have half as good of a tribute. You were lucky kids...truly winners of the birth lottery, and in a tribute to your father, you didn't waste it!  
SJ

sj - July 01, 2019 at 03:37 PM



“ Just heard about his passing. and OH my what a guy he was....We were on a trip to Montana a few years ago where he was also and everyone enjoyed him so so much.. There was a whole bus load of us and he kept us all going.....He was quite a guy and always had some wisdom to share with everyone..

george and Janet Meyers - July 23, 2019 at 12:02 PM