

Calvin John Van Arkel

June 28, 1936 - November 28, 2023

Cal Van Arkel, 87, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and formerly Oskaloosa, passed away Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at the St. Francis Medical Center in Tulsa.

Calvin John Van Arkel, son of Matthew C. and Gertrude (Kloosterman) Van Arkel, was born June 28, 1936, at his parents' home in Section 16 of West Des Moines Township of Mahaska County, Iowa. He attended Star, Bald Prairie, and Beacon Schools and was a graduate of Oskaloosa Christian Grade School and a 1954 graduate of Oskaloosa High School. He attended Central College for two years and then William Penn College, later graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1986. While initially at Penn, Cal worked at the Garland Funeral Chapel. There, he was introduced to funeral service as a vocation and went on to attend the Dallas Institute-Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science in Dallas, Texas, graduating in 1959. Cal returned from Texas and began working for Art Garland at the chapel; he received his Iowa Funeral Director's License in 1960. Cal purchased the chapel from Art in 1973, and in 1984, David Langkamp joined him as a partner. Cal served the community in their time of need for over 42 years. Later, Cal extended the same offer to Dave Langkamp, owner of Langkamp Funeral Home, with his wife, Shawn, and son, Andrew, and retired from funeral service in 2001 but continued to assist Dave for another four years. Cal received his 50-year Funeral Directors Licensee recognition at the Iowa Funeral Directors Convention in 2010.

Cal married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Marilyn Veatch,

on August 3, 1957, at the Central United Methodist Church. Cal was a devoted husband and father who, alongside Marilyn during their 66-year marriage, raised three children: Jon William (Jo) of Springfield, MO, Linda Joy (Stephen) Van Arkel-Greubel of Tulsa, OK, and Ann Louise (John) Eisenman of Clinton, IA. They had eight grandchildren: Matthew Van Arkel, Case (Kelly) Van Arkel, Emily Eisenman, Laura (Tim) Eisenman McLaughlin, Christopher (Katie) Thompson, William Thompson, Andrew (Mackenzie) Thompson, and Katherine Greubel (Coby) Ross; and eight great-grandchildren: Grace, Margot, Leah, Annie, Nora, Blake, Catherine, and Damon. He is also survived by many special nieces and nephews. In September 2020, Cal and Marilyn moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to be closer to their children.

Cal actively supported his profession, attending conferences and conventions, serving on boards, and assisting in setting academic programming and standards at the state level. Cal served on the Iowa Funeral Directors Board of Governors and was a member of the Iowa State Board of Mortuary Science Examiners for many years. He was also a certified American Board of Mortuary Science Education examiner. He was instrumental in establishing a Department of Mortuary Science at DMACC in Ankeny and was on that Board of Advisors for several years.

Cal embodied a work ethic unmatched. He was a man of high integrity. His hard work was one way that he could show his family his deep love for them. And he passed this trait on to his children through his example.

Beyond his professional life, Cal found joy in his family, friends, and hobbies. He held Kansas City Chiefs tickets for decades prior to the successful Patrick Mahomes era, proudly supporting his team through many losing seasons. Fortunately, in his lifetime, Cal was able to experience the Chiefs become super bowl champions once again. The grandchildren loved attending Chiefs games with Grandpa and Grandma, win or lose, sun, rain, snow, or heat. The most fun part of the Chief's games was tailgating with Grandpa and Grandma in the handicapped parking spot next to Arrowhead, drinking Coors, and watching the Rumble march by.

An active father, Cal passionately attended his kids' various events, from concerts to plays to scout and YMCA programs to athletic endeavors. He loved attending track meets. It was his favorite thing – especially when children or grandchildren were competing. Together, Cal and Marilyn traveled extensively to support their grandchildren. Cal and Marilyn attended the Drake Relays every year and sat in their favorite seats. They attended track and field championships as often as possible with children and grandchildren.

Cal loved playing sports, especially basketball and, softball and running. Weekend softball games at Grant School, with Cal on the pitcher's mound, were fun for the neighborhood kids of all ages. Cal could throw a mean pitch, fast or slow. Cal loved to run with his children. He could be seen running throughout Oskaloosa with one of his children by his side, but he was always two steps ahead.

A man of faith, Cal sang hymns at Central United Methodist Church, where he and Marilyn exchanged their vows in 1957. His love for singing extended to joining the Mormon Tabernacle Choir TV Broadcast when he would sing along with them. Cal's weekdays included the daily morning coffee break at Stapps Drugstore and later Hy-Vee with his many friends, where they would solve the world's problems and talk politics.

Cal loved building the log cabin and living on the farm with Marilyn. It was a lifelong dream of his. In his garage, he tinkered with lots of stuff and coffee tins filled with rusty nuts and bolts and screws and treasures like the dozen ax handles hanging in his garage and cast-iron skillets of every size which he found at auctions, his favorite pastime. His grandchildren loved visiting him at the farm where they could ride the four-wheeler and explore, play with Duke and Freckles, fish or paddle boat in the ponds, and herd the ducks.

Cal loved to fish in the ponds on the farm he created and stocked with his favorite fish. Cal would drive his blue Chevy truck around the farm with beloved Duke or Freckles close behind. Cal collected antique tractors, large and small. He loved his tractors, driving them around the farm to accomplish

various tasks. The large ones were often stranded around the farm, stuck and needing some TLC to get going again. The small tractors lined the shelves of his office.

Among the animals he loved were dogs Van, Snoopy, Duke, Freckles, and the memorable poodle Squeaky, despite an initial protest. Cal and Squeaky were constant companions. Childhood ponies like Bud Blossom and Pokey and, later in life, horses Dick and Beauty, along with the barn cat Fluffy and kittens Stars, Stripes, and Forever were his friends. Cal loved to sit with the cats on the farm in the sunshine and nap while the kittens played nearby. He loved raising the chickens and ducks that made their homes at the farm.

Calvin and Marilyn cherished their travels, with Table Rock Lake, Big Cedar Lodge, and Cabo San Lucas holding special places in their hearts. European tours and fishing expeditions resulted in legendary adventures and fish tales shared over and over again with family and friends.

Friends were important to Cal. In high school, he was part of the "Clan" of five boys who became close friends, including Steve Bell. Cal cherished his friendship with Steve Bell over the many years as they stayed close and in contact.

Cal was active in many organizations in Oskaloosa; he was a member of the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce and served as president in 1977. He was a William Penn University Board of Trustees member for over 30 years and was chairman of the building and grounds committee. He was a 50-year member of the Elks and served as PER. He was a 50-year member of the Mahaska Masonic Lodge 644 AF & A.M. He was a member of the Mahaska Community Health Board of Health for over 15 years. He was a member of the Central United Methodist Church since 1957. Cal's commitment to the community extended to William Penn University, where he and Marilyn, proud alumni, backed athletic teams and academic initiatives.

In addition to his parents, Cal was preceded in death by two sisters, Wilma Mae Vandegeest and Beatrice Ann Binford. Cal was proud of his Dutch ancestry and always said you ain't much if you ain't Dutch. Cal was

immensely proud of his Uncle Art, who was killed in World War II and awarded the Purple Heart.

We remember Cal's unwavering love and countless memories that will forever echo in our hearts. Although home was always where Marilyn was, while living in Tulsa, Cal missed his Iowa home. After living in Tulsa for three years, Cal is finally able to go back home to Oskaloosa.

Funeral services for Cal will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 2 pm, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel with Pastor Jon Nelson of Central Church officiating. Cremation will follow the service, and burial of his ashes will be at a later time at Forest Cemetery. Open visitation will be held on Friday, from 10 am to 6 pm, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 1 to 2 pm on Saturday. Memorial contributions can be made to William Penn University or Central United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

934 North 9th ST
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
secretary@forestcemetery.com
<http://www.forestcemetery.org/>

Previous Events

Open Visitation

DEC **15**. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Family Greeting Time

DEC **16**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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Funeral Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Being another Calvin, Cal and enjoyed friendship and visiting together. He and I were second-cousins-once-removed via the Kloostermans, so family history and "Dutch Bingo" were often topics of discussion. Wishing the family God's comfort and peace during this time of loss--Calvin Bandstra*

Calvin Bandstra - December 17, 2023 at 11:48 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Calvin John Van Arkel.*



December 14, 2023 at 09:56 PM

CL

“ *I can't remember a time when I saw Cal without a smile on his face, or when he didn't have a few minutes to chat. His generous spirit touched me and the Legvold family many times over the years, and I am grateful to have met him and enjoyed his family. I had hoped to be able to attend the service this weekend, but could not work myself free. I will miss seeing Jon and Linda, with whom I spent a great deal of time in our younger years, but I will remember all of you in my prayers. May God's grace and peace be with you in abundance. Chuck Legvold*

Chuck Legvold - December 13, 2023 at 11:47 PM



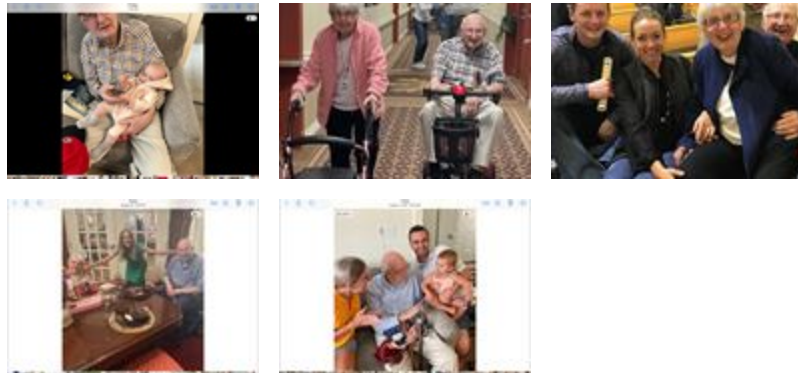
“ 75 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



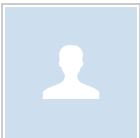
Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - December 12, 2023 at 12:27 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Cal Van Arkel*



Linda Van Arkel - December 11, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Calvin John Van Arkel.



December 10, 2023 at 04:06 PM

LA

“ 1 file added to the album *Cal Van Arkel*



Linda Van Arkel - December 06, 2023 at 10:45 PM

LA

“ 2 files added to the album *Cal Van Arkel*



Linda Van Arkel - December 06, 2023 at 07:59 AM

LA

“ 6 files added to the album *Cal Van Arkel*



Linda Van Arkel - December 05, 2023 at 08:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Calvin John Van Arkel.



December 05, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ Richard Garland Powers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Calvin John Van Arkel.

Richard Garland Powers - December 05, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ I have nothing but great memories of Cal. He was always positive and encouraging and a joy to talk to. A great guy with a wonderful family. They are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Jon Stout - December 05, 2023 at 01:57 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Calvin John Van Arkel.



December 05, 2023 at 09:48 AM

DL

“ *My Condolences to the whole Van Arkel family.
When I was in High school I spent many hours at the Van Arkel home on "O" Ave. Jon and I spent many hours together there, often playing ping pong in the basement, but always talking about the scriptures. It wasn't until years later that I realized that Jon had actually disciplined me in the Christian faith. He did it with such a natural, genuine curiosity that I didn't realize at the time all that he had done for me. The whole Van Arkel family made a difference in my life that lasts until this day.*

The last time I saw Cal was at Smokey Row downtown in Osby, and he welcomed me as an old friend as he sat at the big round table, as the statesman that he truly was.

I would go a long way to attend the funeral, but, sadly, I will be out of the country on that date.

My thoughts, prayers, and thanks to Jon and the whole Van Arkel family at this time.

Don Lee

Don Lee - December 04, 2023 at 06:50 AM

JC

“ *John, David, Bob and Mary Crookham purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Calvin John Van Arkel.*



John, David, Bob and Mary Crookham - December 03, 2023 at 05:09 PM

JC

“ John, David, Bob and Mary Crookham planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Calvin John Van Arkel.

John, David, Bob and Mary Crookham - December 03, 2023 at 05:09 PM

DR

“ Dena Roorda lit a candle in memory of Calvin John Van Arkel



Dena Roorda - December 03, 2023 at 03:31 PM

JS

“ Jerry Smothers lit a candle in memory of Calvin John Van Arkel



Jerry Smothers - December 02, 2023 at 11:33 AM

RP

“ Cal certainly served the families that called on him for funeral service, his community, and his profession with kindness and commitment. I was honored to serve with Cal on the Iowa Board of Mortuary Science Examiners. I have enjoyed reading his life story, which certainly shows his love for his family and those around him, and also shows his compassion for life and for others. Blessings to his family as you grieve his loss and honor his life. Ric Porter

Ric Porter - December 02, 2023 at 09:45 AM

JF

“ We were neighbors to Cal & Marilyn for many years on O Ave East, Cal kept us laughing and was so generous to us by gifting there KC Chiefs game tickets when they were not attending. Good guy and always had time to help out during fall leaf season. So glad for the fun times we shared with Cal and family.

Jeff&Jill Ferguson - December 02, 2023 at 08:17 AM

KB

“ What a guy. Known Cal since he came to my Grandparents with my Uncle Dave Douglas. He loved Penn basketball and the Chiefs. So sorry to hear of your loss

kathy beal - December 01, 2023 at 10:53 PM

DC

“ I have had the Honor & Privilege knowing Cal in the Community & working Professionally with him for 50 years. May he know his dedication, Compassion & Servants Heart will always be remembered. Deepest Sympathy to all the family!

Diana Crook - December 01, 2023 at 09:27 PM

PH

“ Cal was a great man with such a kind heart. I was lucky enough to know he and Marilyn for many years. I went through school knowing their children, especially Ann, as we graduated osky High together and whom I consider a close friend to this day. Ann, my heart goes out to all of you. There's something special about a father/daughter relationship. My Dad was my hero, as I'm sure Cal was yours. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers during the coming days and beyond. I love you, Ann! 🙏❤️

Patti Ryan Hernandez - December 01, 2023 at 08:54 PM

AE

*Thank you, Patti.
I love you, too. Your kind words bring comfort at this sad time. Dad is at peace, and at home in Heaven.*

Ann Eisenmsn - December 04, 2023 at 08:41 AM

RC

“ My most sincere condolences to all of the VanArkel family. I can't begin to explain the utter respect I have for Cal. He was such a truly genuinely nice, caring man. His kindness made a lifelong lasting impression on me.



Rhonda White Callison - December 01, 2023 at 08:45 PM

BN

“ Becky Netten lit a candle in memory of Calvin John Van Arkel



Becky Netten - December 01, 2023 at 06:38 PM

LG

“ 4 files added to the album Cal Van Arkel



Linda Van Arkel Greubel - December 01, 2023 at 05:28 PM

VW

“ Cal was a special guy. He ALWAYS made sure to go out of his way to greet me each time he saw me. That meant so much to me, especially after my parents were gone.
Wayne Kempenaar, Ron Wells and my dad, Herb Munsell, were the other members of "The Clan". My Dad's scrapbook has many great photos of those guys!
Vickie Munsell Wolfe

Vickie Wolfe - December 01, 2023 at 04:45 PM

EF

“ Ok the last line about Cal returning to Oskaloosa brought tears to me! Very special. I never knew Cal real well until he and my dad shared a table for a bit at the Osky Care Center. In that time over meals I felt like I got a glimpse into a very special man! He really gave my dad some extra happiness by the fun things they would talk about! I'm thankful for that brief time. My deepest sympathies to his wonderful wife Marilyn and all the children and grand kids! This is a huge loss. What a great Oskaloosan.

ELie Ford - December 01, 2023 at 03:15 PM

KM

Linda and family, I'm so sad to hear about your Dad. Although I've known your Mom and Dad since we were in school, the last couple of decades I really began to know your parents. Working at Hy- Vee for years if see your Dad just about every day at coffee time. If I didn't make it over to the dining area he'd always stop by the floral dept and say HI to Sue and I... my day was made! Your Dad was a fun, happy man and he will be sorely missed.

Kerri Moore - December 01, 2023 at 07:03 PM

TB

Our sincere sympathy to the Van Arkel family in the loss of Cal. We visited their log home out in the country by Evans and swapped stories as we were building our log home in Michigan. They were gracious hosts. Would also see them at Wm Penn when we attended.

*Ted and Louise Binns Burson
Manistique, MI*

Ted/Louise Burson - December 02, 2023 at 12:58 PM

JC

*Marilyn, Jon, Linda & Ann,
We are so sorry to hear about Cal and you have our deepest sympathies. Cal was quite a guy, so friendly, funny and engaging. From the time we were just a bunch of rug rat kids running around the neighborhood, and on through high school, he was always involved and supportive. He certainly loved his Chief's (and the battles with my dad and his Packers) and we still remember that fun vacation at Table Rock Lake and the years of get togethers with all of your friends (I think at one time they called it bridge club or something but I don't think much bridge was played). He was a great citizen of Osky, with his passion for the town and all of the community sports and activities. As the years have passed, when we would return to Osky to visit, we would frequently see Cal and were always greeted with that big smile and energy he had....it made you feel good....thanks Cal. So many wonderful memories of Cal and your entire family. He will be missed.*

John, David, Bob & Mary Crookham

John Crookham - December 03, 2023 at 04:55 PM