



Dean Braaksma

September 25, 1947 - August 15, 2025

Dean Braaksma, 77, of Oskaloosa, passed away Friday, August 15, 2025, at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

Dean A. Braaksma, son of Cornelius “Carl” and Katherine (Smedema) Braaksma, was born September 25, 1947, in Denver, Colorado. The family moved to Oskaloosa when Dean was a small child. He attended the Oskaloosa Christian School through eighth grade and then Oskaloosa High School, where he was a 1965 graduate. Dean enlisted in the Army in 1967 and was sent to Vietnam; he served until 1968 and then returned home. He began working as a carpenter and founded Braaksma Construction, which specialized in building and remodeling homes. On August 22, 1970, at Central Reformed Church, Dean was united in marriage to Judi Hardeman, a young lady from his church. In 1978, Dean resumed his education at William Penn College and earned his BA in Industrial Arts in 1992. He taught for a year at Knoxville High School before beginning his career at Oskaloosa High School. Through the years, he taught, mentored, inspired, and prepared many of Oskaloosa’s finest tradespeople. He retired in 2001.

Family was always first and foremost in Dean’s life and thoughts. He loved taking them to Wisconsin fishing trips and on camping vacations. Yearly Adventureland trips were also a highlight of the summer for the family. He built his children a backyard swimming pool and even extended the season one

year by constructing a greenhouse over it. There wasn't anything Dean couldn't build or fix – his home had many additions and was filled with items he created. Dean loved to learn and was always teaching himself new hobbies. Dean's extended family was very important to him, and he admired and cared for his in-laws and truly felt like a brother to each of Judi's siblings. Dean also cherished his coffee group buddies from Tasos, where they started their days and solved the world's problems. He was a member of the Central Church and the American Legion.

His family includes his daughters, Angelisa (Chris) Fynaardt and Jennifer Norgaila; three grandsons: Andrew and Luke Fynaardt and Finley Norgaila; and a brother, Gary Braaksma, all of Oskaloosa. His wife's siblings also survive him: Mary Ostrem, Carole (Jim) Harvey, Kathy (Lowell) Engelhoven, all of Oskaloosa; Kris (John) Korte of Westerly, RI, and Rick (Traci) Hardeman of Park View, IA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and his wife's parents, he was preceded by his wife, Judi, on June 19, 2017; a sister, Marianne Braaksma; a brother, Tony Braaksma; and a nephew, Aaron Ostrem.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at Central Church in Oskaloosa with Rev. Jonathan Spronk of the First Christian Reformed Church officiating. Burial will be in Forest Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., Monday, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to the Harry L. Anderson American Legion Post #34 or to the Pella Christian Clay Target Team.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

The family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m.

Funeral Service

AUG 19. 10:30 AM (CT)

Central Church
815 2nd Ave. East
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

A family prayer service will be held in the lower level at 10:15 a.m. before the funeral service.

Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Funeral Service for Dean Braaksma in memory of Dean Braaksma*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - August 18, 2025 at 06:17 PM

SL

Please log on a few minutes before the service.

Shawn R Langkamp - August 18, 2025 at 06:19 PM



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Dean Braaksma*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - August 17, 2025 at 02:37 PM

CB

“ *Dean was a wonderful family man. He loved his daughters Ang and Jen and he was so proud of them. He loved spending time with his grandsons Drew, Luke and Finley. Praying for all the family during this difficult time.*

Charlene Braaksma - August 19, 2025 at 08:27 AM

SA

“ So many great memories of uncle Dean. Fishing trips to Wisconsin, Colorado and S. Dakota trips, his visits to AZ to see us, and countless family holidays and gatherings. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. Love, thoughts, and prayers for all of the family. ❤️❤️

Shari Braaksma Anderson - August 18, 2025 at 08:06 PM

DA

“ We were so sorry to hear of Dean's passing. May your memories of him be a blessing and a comfort to you. Our deepest sympathies. Don Dop and Darcie Assink

Darcie Assink - August 18, 2025 at 04:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dean Braaksma.



August 18, 2025 at 02:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dean Braaksma.

August 18, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dean Braaksma.



August 18, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ Jamie C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean Braaksma.

Jamie C. - August 18, 2025 at 10:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dean Braaksma.

August 17, 2025 at 08:19 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dean Braaksma.



August 17, 2025 at 08:19 PM

OM

“ Olbrichts, Andersons, Gary & Marilyn purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dean Braaksma.



Olbrichts, Andersons, Gary & Marilyn - August 17, 2025 at 07:30 PM

MH

“ Michelle Harris purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Dean Braaksma.



Michelle Harris - August 17, 2025 at 02:49 PM

MN

“ Our deep and sincere condolences 🌸🌻
May God keep you nestled gently in His love and care. Our heartfelt prayers surround each of you 🙏🌻 Wayne & Marla

marla nilson - August 17, 2025 at 01:12 PM