



George C. Blake Jr.

June 26, 1926 - March 10, 2018

George C. Blake Jr., 91, of Oskaloosa passed away Saturday evening, March 10, 2018, in hospice care at the Mahaska Health Partnership in Oskaloosa. George was born June 26, 1926, at the Mahaska Hospital in Oskaloosa, Iowa. His parents were George C. and Margaret (Cole) Blake. He attended Jefferson Grade School and then continued his education through high school in Oskaloosa, graduating with the class of 1944.

When George was 12 years old, he mowed yards, shoveled snow, and fired furnaces for 50 cents a week. He also carried papers for the Des Moines Register. Then, at the age of 13, he went to work for Earl Walker as his hired man on Earl's farm. He left Earl's employment at age 18 when he enlisted in the Navy. After his discharge, he returned to Oskaloosa and worked for the freight docks for Rock Island and M & SL Railroads in the winter months and then went back to work for Earl Walker in the spring for two years.

November 20, 1949, George married Pauline Robbins. She was the wind under his wings. George farmed for three years and then moved to town in Oskaloosa. He worked for Oskaloosa Ice and Oskaloosa Bus and Transfer for a time and then drove a semi for Rock Island Motor for 24 years until his retirement at the age of 57.

George was a volunteer fireman for 15 years in Oskaloosa. He coached the Lions in Little League and pitched softball for 21 years in Oskaloosa, Tracy and What Cheer. He had a large garden, and both he and Pauline canned a lot of vegetables and also gave lots of produce to family and friends.

He was a skilled handyman. He and Pauline bought properties to remodel and rent to families for many years. He built his home and a home for his son, Kevin and completed all these tasks working nights and weekends, after long days at work. He also put an addition on Deb's home and helped Mike with numerous projects.

George had a passion for fishing and loved river, pond, and ice fishing. He fished at Murray Sytsma's pond for 26 years, and when they rebuilt Red Rock dam, he and Pauline bought a piece of ground along the river by the Belle Fountain bridge. He built a cabin there and had 30 years of wonderful memories with his children and grandchildren.

He leaves behind his wife of 68 years, Pauline and their three children: Mike (Sharman) of West Des Moines, Deb (Tom) Overbergen of Pella, and Kevin (Sally) Blake of Oskaloosa; seven grandchildren: Julie (Mike) Van Utrecht, Heidi (Matt) Hennig, Jennifer (fiance', Lane Matice) Overbergen, Lindsey (Brett) Herny, Blair (Alison) Blake, Grant Blake and Steven (Miranda) Overbergen; and nine great-grandchildren: Mackenzie Overbergen, Lexi and Maddie Van Utrecht, Blake, Brody, and Boston Herny and Cash and Heath Hennig and Sawyer Blake.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his six sisters: Edna Linville, Grace Thompson, Bernice Sharp, Dorothy Moore, Mae Klingler and Elizabeth Rust.

Funeral Services for George will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 16, 2018, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel. Military honors will be conducted by the Oskaloosa Honor Guard. As was his wish, his body will be cremated following the service and burial of his ashes will be at 3:30 p.m., Friday afternoon in Forest Cemetery. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., Thursday at the Langkamp Funeral Chapel; the family will greet visitors from 5-7 p.m. Memorial contributions can be made to MHP Hospice Serenity House.

Cemetery Details

Forest Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Open Visitation

MAR 15. 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>

Family Visitation

MAR 15. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

MAR 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
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Military Honors

MAR 16. 11:30 AM (CT)

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Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Burial

MAR 16. 3:30 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of George C. Blake Jr.*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - March 13, 2018 at 05:12 PM



“ *George C. Blake Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *To Mike and Family,
George was a leader in Oskaloosa by all his actions and how he lead his life. We all will miss him, and we know he will always be in your heart.
God bless you George and save a place for all of us.
Tom Walling*

tom walling - March 16, 2018 at 09:04 AM

KS

“ *I remember the time we moved to Tracy and had no electricity yet. Uncle George and Aunt Pauline let us stay at their cabin down the road so we could have hot showers before going to school for the first day. He will be missed by all.*



Kim Sytsma - March 14, 2018 at 10:03 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of George C. Blake Jr..*



March 14, 2018 at 07:43 PM

BD

“ George we will miss you dearly...your love for your family, positive attitude, hard work ethic and faith in God are a wonderful example for the rest of us to live by. Your loving relationship with Pauline is a testament to true love. The time my husband, John, and I have spent with you the last few years will be memories to treasure. Thank you for your trust and love! I have lost not only a cousin but a dear friend. Pauline you are a very special part of our lives too and we are always only a phone call away. Kevin, thank you for the call informing us of your Dad's passing. And for waiting to meet us in August as we made our quick trip to Missouri to see the total eclipse of the sun. But we could not drive through Iowa without stopping to see George and Pauline. We enjoyed the time spent with our Iowa family. Please keep in touch and we will pray for your entire family in these difficult times.



Brenda Dettloff - March 14, 2018 at 07:10 PM

YJ

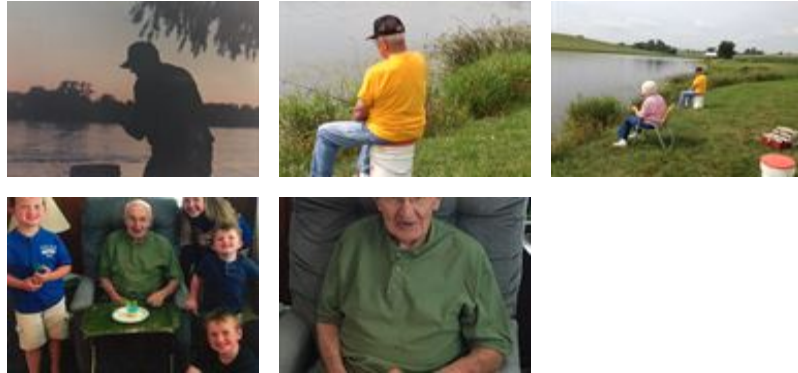
“ Your cousin Brenda (Boyle) Dettloff & John purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of George C. Blake Jr..



Your cousin Brenda (Boyle) Dettloff & John - March 14, 2018 at 06:43 PM



“ 100 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - March 13, 2018 at 04:06 PM



“ *Shelly Manning lit a candle in memory of George C. Blake Jr.*



Shelly Manning - March 13, 2018 at 03:31 PM



I had the privilege of buying the house next door to George and Pauline. The BEST neighbors anyone could have. RIP George...soar with the angels.

Shelly Manning - March 13, 2018 at 03:33 PM

MB

“ *Dad,
You were and are my hero. It would not be fair to describe you as perfect, but you had so many wonderful qualities that made it easy to be your son. Thank you for being my dad and preparing me to be an adult. I am forever grateful for all that you did to help me. God bless you. Love, Mike*

Mike Blake - March 13, 2018 at 11:29 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of George C. Blake Jr..*



March 13, 2018 at 11:11 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of George C. Blake Jr..*



March 13, 2018 at 10:25 AM

DB

“ To all of Coach Blake's family, I played on the Lions little league team that George coached, he supported his long ago players and continued his support for the people and the Fire Fighters through his service as a councilman. Great man, loved by all !!!!!

*Dean and Barbara Bone
Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.*

Dean Bone - March 12, 2018 at 10:59 PM

CW

“ Pauline, Mike, Debbie, and Kevin.
Sorry to hear of George's passing. He was such a great guy. I always remember him playing ball with my dad. I know dad is probably showing him around in heaven and they are having a wonderful time with the Savior. It hurts to lose a love one but knowing that you will see them some day helps. Praying that God will give you strength and comfort in the days and weeks ahead.
Lee, Connie(Wymore), and Lesli Wright



Connie Wright - March 12, 2018 at 09:49 PM

MC

“ Will never forget you George when you would call me at work and say " what are you having for supper" come over Pauline has made soup or what ever was on the menu for the evening and then we would sit and talk about the past. You will be missed.

MARJORIE CUNNINGHAM - March 12, 2018 at 06:55 PM

SF

“ Sent with love from your Iowa Cubs Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of George C. Blake Jr..



Sent with love from your Iowa Cubs Family - March 12, 2018 at 11:48 AM

DJ

“ I first met George when he played ball for Dad in the Jemac ball team. What a pitcher!! Later when I worked for Osky Gas Oil for 25 years George and I solved all the world problems each week when he bought gas for the week. Visits with he and Pauline at their home was always a great time! Rest in peace my friend you will be missed by many!

Donna johnson - March 11, 2018 at 11:12 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of George C. Blake Jr..



March 11, 2018 at 10:32 PM

LY

“ Lynette lit a candle in memory of George C. Blake Jr.



Lynette - March 11, 2018 at 10:17 PM

LY

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lynette - March 11, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George C. Blake Jr..



March 11, 2018 at 07:53 PM

SC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of the Blake Family



Sara Crosby - March 11, 2018 at 07:19 PM

MT

“ Marla Thomas lit a candle in memory of George C. Blake Jr.



Marla Thomas - March 11, 2018 at 03:19 PM