



Lowell C. Lenarz

May 19, 1937 - October 20, 2023

Lowell C. Lenarz, 86, formerly of Oskaloosa, passed away peacefully at Deerfield Retirement Community in Urbandale, Iowa, on Friday, October 20, 2023. He was lovingly surrounded by family, praying him to heaven and out of cancer's grip.

Lowell Charles Lenarz "LC" was born May 19, 1937, in Hastings, Minnesota, to Mabel Irene (Cash) Lenarz. The family moved to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, when Lowell was a small child. Lowell was a Henry County boy! While growing up in Mount Pleasant, he was actively involved in St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and School. He was a Boy Scout, which significantly influenced his life. He was a four-sport athlete and letter-winner for the Mt. Pleasant Panthers and graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1955. He moved to Michigan for a short time after graduation and then returned to Mt. Pleasant after a call from a coach to come and play football for Iowa Wesleyan College. Lowell played center for his high school and college teams. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in education. His first teaching and coaching job was at the high school in Williamsburg, Iowa.

Lowell married the love-of-his-life, Harriet Valene Bryant, on March 4, 1961, at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Mount Pleasant. Harriett and Lowell had known of each other while at Mount Pleasant High School, but it was while they were both teaching in Williamsburg that they became reacquainted and fell in love. In 1964, the couple and their daughter, Trisha, moved to Fort Morgan, Colorado, so Lowell could pursue his Master's Degree in Education

Administration at Colorado Teachers College in Greeley. He was awarded his degree in 1967 and hired that same year as Vice-Principal at Oskaloosa Junior High School. He served in that capacity for three years and was then promoted to junior high principal, remaining in service until retirement in 1995. Lowell fought for many years to build a new junior high school, and in 1986, a new building was finally opened. He was a member of the School Administrators of Iowa. Lowell made his mark on the legislative committee advocating for fair school administrator retirement benefits, as Iowa was in the lowest tier nationally in that category. In addition to his duties as principal, he officiated high school and college football for many years, including state playoff games. Lowell served as the KBOE Radio play-by-play announcer for Oskaloosa High School basketball for many years - The Golden Voice. Lowell loved track and field, supporting the Oskaloosa Relays from 1968-2006, and he announced them with style for 29 years. The Lowell Lenarz Girls 4x4 Relay at the Osky Relays was established in his honor at the end of his announcing tenure. After retirement, Lowell taught student-teachers at William Penn College for four years. He was also a past member of Do-Gooders International.

Lowell's Catholic faith was one of the most important things in his life. He was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church for 55 years, having served on the parish council as a lector and eucharistic minister.

Lowell enjoyed his teaching career, but his real passion was the out-of-doors. He and Harriet spent countless hours in their yard, turning it into a place of beauty and a haven for birds and wildlife. In later years, he even had a small bird seed business simply called "For Birds". In the spring of 1960, Lowell went on his first of over 100 Canadian fishing trips; the near Hudson Bay trips eventually became up to a thrice-yearly event with dear friends and family. Canada and fishing was a time to enjoy the peace and splendor of the wilderness and the thrill of the catch.

Lowell Lenarz was a lifelong STL Cardinals fan, even scoring tickets from Augie Busch himself a few times. He was a mid-60s Denver Bronco south-

stander season ticket holder and later coached them from his recliner to three Super Bowl victories. He was a loyal Iowa State Cyclone. It is impossible to capture all of Lowell's pursuits and interests over his lifetime, but all were approached with gusto, passion, and a quick wit.

Lowell's family includes his wife of 62 years, Harriet, formerly of Oskaloosa; their treasured daughter and beloved son-in-law, Trisha Lenarz-Garmoe and Tony Garmoe of West Des Moines; a light-of-his-life grandson, Ryan Lowell Garmoe, of Minneapolis, MN. Lowell also leaves behind a dear sister-in-law, Patricia Doak of Mt. Pleasant; and very special nephews, nieces, and many friends.

In addition to his mother and stepfather, Lowell was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Lenarz; a sister, Clara Dell Nichols; and In-laws, Harry and Alice Bryant.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, October 27, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oskaloosa with Msgr. Edward Hurley and Fr. Joseph Phung concelebrating. A luncheon will directly follow. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, with the family present from 4-6 p.m. at Langkamp Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa. A vigil prayer service will follow at 6:00 p.m. Thursday. Inurnment at the Catholic Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant will take place at a later date. Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Hospital, Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter in Oskaloosa, or Oskaloosa High School Track and Field.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Family Visitation

OCT **26**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
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Christian Vigil Service

OCT **26**. 6:00 PM - 6:15 PM (CT)

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Funeral Mass

OCT **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
315 First Ave.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
oskystmary@diodav.org
<http://stmarysosky.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - October 26, 2023 at 03:18 PM

JW

Just watched the tribute video...so very special and captures all things Lowell. We have so many memories tucked away in our heart over the years and this tribute certainly brought them to the forefront. Thinking of all of you and had to think of a few of Jesus's disciples as I watched the love he had for fishing...I'll bet he's already found some new fishing buddies...We love you Lowell & you will be missed! RIP

Jayne Wake - October 27, 2023 at 05:18 PM

WK

“ *We met LC & Harriet Lenarz, in 2005 in Gulf Shores,AL while escaping the winters of the north. We immediately became friends, and had many wonderful times together, and we even attended Mass together on Sunday mornings, followed by breakfast usually at one of LC's favorite restaurants. He was bigger than life and shared so many life stories with us. He will be dearly missed by family and friends. Our deepest sympathy to Harriet and his extended family. God Bless you, LC.....our love, Will & Janet Krastins, now living in Broomfield, CO*

Will and Janet Krastins - November 03, 2023 at 06:05 PM

BR

“ I have known Lowell for almost 30 years. I enjoyed my time with the two of them with my many many visits over the years. I think i got as much advice and wisdom from them as i tried to offer them.

May he rest in peace.

Bob Robinson

bob robinson - October 30, 2023 at 02:44 PM

LP

“ Lowell, Wesley Moyer and I, as kids, used to hang out around MHI looking for mischief, which sometimes, we found.

Lou Piatt

Lou Piatt - October 27, 2023 at 05:48 PM

SM

“ My sincere condolences to Harriet, Trish, and family of the passing of a great, fun-loving man. After reading his obituary and viewing the photos, what a life very well lived! He and Harriet were wonderful friends to my mom and dad and I have such fond memories of the many “dinner parties” that group had back in the 70’s. I’ll have to admit, though, that I came to enjoy and appreciate Lowell much more as an adult than in junior high. Holy crap could he put the fear of God in you!! I think I still called him Mr. Lenarz sir well into my adult years! In all seriousness, he always greeted you with a firm handshake, looked you straight in the eye, a smile on his face, and genuinely cared about how you were doing. May God rest your beautiful soul Lowell Lenarz. Steve Moore

Steve. Moore - October 27, 2023 at 10:34 AM

VO

“ Dear Harriet and Trish and Family,
You all are in our prayers for peace. I know you will miss him so much. Lowell could light up a room and added so much to so many people’s lives.
Jack and I are sorry we can’t attend the service, but please know we will be thinking of you all and sending prayers and wishes of peace and love.
Victoria And Jack OBrien

Victoria Overbergen OBrien - October 27, 2023 at 12:16 AM

VO

“ Mr. Lenarz was a wonderful Principal of the Oskaloosa Junior High when I first met him — I was a 7th grader. He knew kids by name, and was always in the halls greeting us between classes. He was funny and positive, but serious when he needed to be. We students laughed at his jokes and loved him. One morning on the announcements he challenged us to the definition of the word “Pachyderm”. I have no idea why that is in my memory, but to this day, I associate him whenever I hear that word or think of elephants 🐘. He was such a fun guy! Later, when the Lenarz family were close friends of my parents, I was able to enjoy Harriet and Lowell from an adult perspective. He was part of many fun evenings and holidays when we came back to Osky. Lowell was a very special part of many lives through the leadership and the important part he played in the Oskaloosa education system. We are saying many prayers for the Lenarz family for peace. He will be missed and remembered by many. Much love, Victoria Overbergen OBrien and Jack OBrien

Victoria Overbergen OBrien - October 27, 2023 at 12:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rusty Raymond - October 26, 2023 at 11:14 PM

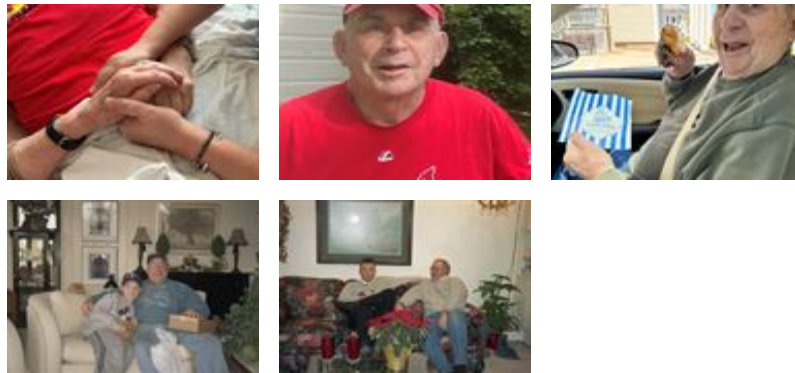


“ Lowell was my dad's best friend. Was he really.... didn't matter. Everyone who was blessed to know Lowell felt that same way. He was goofy when you needed cheering up but kind and thoughtful when your life wasn't so hot. He visited my dad frequently when he was in the nursing home after his heart attack. Dad lit up like a candle when he saw Lowell walk down his hallway. It was his buddy ready to make funny noises and faces to make him smile again. You will be loved by our family forever my friend! Bless you. Say hi to my dad!

Bob Barnhouse Jr - October 26, 2023 at 04:19 PM



“ 210 files added to the album LifeTributes



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - October 26, 2023 at 01:39 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lowell C. Lenarz.*



October 26, 2023 at 05:38 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers for Harriett, Trish, and family. Lowell touched so many lives.*



Judy & Larry Lewis - October 25, 2023 at 10:39 PM



“ *Sherry Auld lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz*



Sherry Auld - October 25, 2023 at 06:32 PM



“ *So very sorry to hear of Mr Lenarz passing. He was a great principal. I can still hear that voice and laugh of his.
Peace to all of you~
Sharon Slagter Cunningham-Class of 1989*

Sharon Cunningham - October 25, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lowell C. Lenarz.*



October 25, 2023 at 09:12 AM



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

October 25, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lowell C. Lenarz.*



October 24, 2023 at 09:04 AM



“ *We are sorry for the Lenarz family at this time of your loss. Prayers are with you all. Mr. Lenarz was our respected and present Osky Junior High School principal. We were fortunate not to visit him in his office! Later he and I became friends on the adventures of Candian fishing trips, I treasure those memories.*



Tim and Kathy Besco - October 24, 2023 at 04:16 AM

RM

“ *ROBERT MORRISON lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz*



ROBERT MORRISON - October 23, 2023 at 10:07 PM

CC

“ *Lowell was a blessing to our Junior High. He treated all of us with respect and you could go and talk to him about anything. I am a classmate of Trisha's and my sympathies are with you and your family and friends. I atruly thankful for him.
May God Bless all of you at this time of grief.*



Carla Chambers - October 23, 2023 at 06:27 PM

TB

“ *Toni Breuklander lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz*



Toni Breuklander - October 23, 2023 at 05:55 PM

BT

“ *Brenda Todd lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz*



Brenda Todd - October 23, 2023 at 04:23 PM

SS

“ He was a great principal. All around good guy. My condolences go out to his family

Stephanie Schneider - October 22, 2023 at 07:40 PM



“ Remembering "Mr. Lenarz" as my principal at Osky Jr. High. What a wonderful man he was, during those early years at school and running into him in the community after his job at the school. Rest in peace.

Tamara Kirby-Sparks - October 22, 2023 at 12:41 PM

TG

“ Oh Harriet and Trish I am so sorry for this. He was such a funny guy and I truly enjoyed him. Peace for the journey ahead and hugs for your hearts.

Theresa Grahek - October 22, 2023 at 10:10 AM

CP

“ My memory of Lowell was the friendship he extended to my mom and dad. I was happy to see him at my mom's funeral recently. My dad considered him with high regard and the Canada fishing adventures were amazing. He was a loving and kind hearted man in all respects. He will be missed by many.

Cynthia Posovich - October 22, 2023 at 09:45 AM

PP

“ Pat Probst lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz



Pat Probst - October 22, 2023 at 07:41 AM

PP

So sorry for your loss, he was my principal when I was in school 🙏

Pat Probst - October 22, 2023 at 07:42 AM

EA

“ Very sorry for your loss..
Arbogast family

Eric Arbogast - October 22, 2023 at 01:40 AM



“ Peggy Swick Dykstra lit a candle in memory of Lowell C. Lenarz



Peggy Swick Dykstra - October 21, 2023 at 08:35 PM

MH

“ Lowell was very kind and was always there for helping a friend or someone in need❤️ We will miss him very much! another dear friend gone from us but is in a wonderful place❤️ Our love to his family ❤️
❤️

mary heslinga - October 21, 2023 at 06:46 PM