



## William Van Draska

November 23, 1913 - June 2, 2006

William Van Draska: Bill passed away Friday afternoon at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines as the result of a traffic accident. He was 92 years, 6 months and 10 days of age. His body has been cremated and no memorial services are planned. The family requests no flowers. Memorials contributions may be made to the Oskaloosa Public Library.

Bill lived all his 92 years in Oskaloosa. During the Depression he joined his father in business at Bill's Shoe Repair until his retirement in 1973. During his working years he was an active community member. He started the local Junior Jay Cees, and organized clean up efforts for Eddyville after the 1950 flood. He was a semi-pro softball player and coached the Gambel's Dodgers Little League team for many years with his friend Wes Glenn. At the time of his death he was the longest tenured member of the Elks. During his 30-plus years of retirement he remained active, mentally sharp and more aware of current events than most half his age. He was an avid tennis player until the age of 80 when his knees gave out. He won numerous tennis awards the most special of which was a silver medal at the Iowa Senior Olympics at the age of 75 with tennis partner Jack Lamberson.

Bill was born Nov. 23, 1913, to William and Martha Von Draska in Oskaloosa. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Elsie. He is survived by his sister, Faye Von Draska and his children and their spouses: Marcia and Rob

Branstetter, Barbara Wantiez, Larry and Clara Van Draska, Doug and Deb Panuco, grandchildren: Amy Weaver, Guy Wantiez, Chris and Shawna Van Draska, Joanna Van Draska and three great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Jean Kalbach (his fourth daughter and favorite tennis partner) Gere Quarton, Neal and Marcia Hadden and children, Joe and Jean Crookham, Lori Poush, Brian Clemons and all the guys in the coffee bunch who provided him with love, support, companionship and kept him on his toes. For that, we are in your debt.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *William Van Draska*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM