



A Memorial Prayer

*You never looked back, you never complained,
you never let hardship, keep you restrained.*

*We saw through your eyes, Jesus' wisdom and power.
You showed us God's grace, at its finest hour.*

*You were humble, and gifted, and patient with me.
You were just who I've always wanted to be.*

*I asked for your healing, so you'd stay here with me,
but God knew you were tired, so He set your soul free.*

*Now I won't waste a minute, wishing life to be fair,
I'll trust as you did, in God's answer to prayer.*

*Please look in my eyes, and see from my heart.
I know you are with me, although we're apart.*

*And if you see tears - don't worry I'm fine.
I just feel so special, that God let you be mine.*

~Barbara D. MacAdam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Earl Andrew Kampmeier, Sr.

WHO WAS BORN
February 18, 1934
Morris, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME
March 10, 2024
Maple Plain, Minnesota

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Friday, March 15, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Graceville, Minnesota

CELEBRANT: Father Brian Oestreich

READER: Don Kampmeier

MUSICIANS
Deb Needham, Organist
Deb Stueve and Jean Costello, Vocalists
Rana Tharaldson and Ingrid Tharaldson Schmitt, Vocalists

GIFT BEARERS
Ava Sheppeck | Scarlett Wethern | Elena Leon

CASKET BEARERS
Jamie Wangen | Nicholas Dripps | Jerod Hofbauer
Joseph Biehn | Charles Biehn
Michael Biehn | John Biehn | Alexander Sheppeck

HONORARY BEARERS
Earl "Andy" Andrew Kampmeier, Jr. | Earl "Drew" Andrew Kampmeier, III
Jacob Dripps | Douglas Paulson | David Dripps
Kenneth Wangen | Scott Biehn | Corey Wethern
Matthew Helson | Tyler Sheppeck | Antonio Leon

MILITARY HONORS
American Legion Post #297
Graceville, Minnesota

INTERMENT
Graceville Consolidated Cemetery
Graceville, Minnesota

APPRECIATION
Earl's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.
Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply
appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family
for food and fellowship at Holy Rosary Parish Center.

Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home - Graceville, Minnesota

Earl Andrew Kampmeier, Sr. was born on February 18, 1934, at Stevens County Medical Center in Morris, MN, to Walter and Loretta (Fritsch) Kampmeier. Earl was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chokio, MN. He attended school in Chokio and was graduated in 1952.

Following graduation, Earl moved to Minneapolis to study Morse Code at the Gale Institute. While attending school, Earl also worked at Grais Drug Store. He greatly admired the two brothers who owned the pharmacy and the pharmacist, Mituso Yoneji, who entrusted Dad with his Studebaker to deliver prescriptions around town. After completing the six-month course, Earl moved to Chicago to work for Santa Fe Railroad. He was a messenger sending Morse Code messages from Western Union and also started using radioteletype.

In 1953, Earl moved home to help on the family farm. He also worked at the Chokio hardware store. In 1955, Earl enlisted in the United States Army. He did Basic Training at Camp Chaffe in Arkansas. From there, he went to Camp Gordan in Georgia to train in international radioteletype and American Morse Code. In 1956, Earl was stationed in Orleans, France. While there, he saw Amsterdam, Belgium, Germany, and the French Riviera. He was most proud to share his stories of seeing Pope Pius XII at his summer residence, in Castel Gondolpho, and visiting his ancestral homes in Germany. He served two years of active duty and returned home in 1957 to work on the farm. He was honorably discharged from the Army on June 30th, 1963.

On September 13, 1958, Earl was united in marriage with Mary Margaret Leuthard. Together, they were blessed with three daughters: Mary Beth, Laurie, and Susan. Earl started working at Great Plains Supply (GPS) lumber yard in Chokio in 1960. Mary passed away unexpectedly in March of 1963. Earl and his daughters moved in with Walt and Loretta for a short time. In 1965, Earl took over as manager at the GPS lumber yard in Chokio.

Earl found love again in Mary Virginia Drevicke and the two were married on November 4, 1965, in Barry, MN. Seven more blessings came to the family in the form of six daughters and one son: Jennifer, Earl Jr. ("Andy"), Stephanie, Virginia, Anna, Celina, and Fredericka.

Earl was a skilled mathematician and draftsman. He loved his career as a lumberman and his ability to interact with people around the Midwest and help create a plan to make their dreams come true. He was a successful business man and his many promotions relocated the family to Jamestown, ND, Montevideo, MN, and back to his home area with many travels to his yards across the Midwest along the way.

In 1985, Earl and Mary purchased the Graceville Lumber Yard so they could return to Graceville to be close to their parents and Earl could own and operate his own lumber yard. This was a testament to what really mattered most to Earl, his family. Earl ran Kampmeier Lumber until 1993, when he sold the yard and inventory to Joe and Jean Kohout. He joined their team to establish Hooter's Lumber in his hometown, Chokio. He was awarded Lumberman of the year in 2010 and later retired in 2016 after 56 years in the lumber business. Earl and Mary moved to the Twin Cities in 2019.

Earl truly felt that home was not a place, but rather it was wherever his family was. He was a faithful Catholic, member of the Knights of Columbus, Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, and member of the parish council. He was proud of his community, served on the city council, and ultimately invested his time and talents to the community and the people within it.

Earl is survived by his wife, Mary Virginia; 10 children: Mary Beth (Douglas) Paulson, Laurie (David) Dripps, Susan (Kenneth) Wangen, Jennifer Kampmeier, Earl Andrew Kampmeier, Jr., Stephanie (Scott) Biehn, Virginia (Corey) Wethern, Anna (Matthew) Helson, Celina (Tyler) Sheppeck and Fredericka (Antonio) Leon; 21 grandchildren: Emily (Chris) Fickes, Laura Madsen, Nicholas and Jacob Dripps, Jamie (Stephanie) Wangen, Jodie (Dan) Berg, Janessa (Max) Harrison, Sabrina and Jerod Hofbauer, Earl Andrew "Drew" Kampmeier III, Joseph, Charles, Michael, and John Biehn, Scarlett Wethern, Charlotte Helson, Ava and Alexander Sheppeck, Elena, Natalie, and Sofia Leon; seven great-grandchildren: Hanna Sorum, Mea Mahon, Jayden Leuthardt, Tenley Madsen, Ryder Moe, James Harrison, and Emma Harrison; and two brothers: Ralph Kampmeier and Don (Barb) Kampmeier.

Earl is preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Margaret (Leuthard) Kampmeier; parents, Walter and Loretta (Fritsch) Kampmeier; infant brother; in-laws, Rudy and Roxie Leuthard / Roy Ahlvin, and Joseph and Jane Drevicke; sister-in-law, Donna Kampmeier; grandson, Jesse Wangen; and great-granddaughter, Hailee Sorum.

Earl was a positive man who touched many lives throughout his lifetime. If you met him, you likely liked him. If you knew him, you likely loved him. He has left an enormous void and will be greatly missed. We are so fortunate that he was part of our lives.

