

Richard W. Eklund, 88, of Alexandria, Minnesota, died peacefully on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, surrounded by family at his home. He was born February 13, 1932 in Badger, Minnesota the son of John and Hilda (Malmskog) Eklund. He grew up on the family farm, attended school in rural Badger, and in 1954-56 served in the United States Army. Richard married Jeanette Walsh on October 16, 1956 in Badger, Minnesota and moved to the Iron Range in Northern Minnesota.

Richard was employed by Erie Mining Company for 37 years as a millwright and was a member of the St. John's Catholic Church in Biwabik, Minnesota. His passion and hobby was a 25 acre vegetable farm in Lakeland where he raised many varieties of vegetables and his seven children. He enjoyed woodworking, anything with motors and the outdoors; snowmobiling, fishing, camping, waterskiing, vacations with friends and family.

He retired from the mines in 1994 and spent many winters in Texas doing missionary work with the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepard. In 2014, moved to Alexandria, MN and continued to travel and explore the country. His greatest love was spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Jeanette, brother Howard, brother in-law, Leonard (Ellen) Walsh; sisters in-law; Marie Eklund, Delores Walsh, Helen Hlucny, Sister Luella Walsh, Phyllis Walsh and seven children: Rillis Eklund, Kathy (Gary) Moe, Jerome (Kimberly) Eklund, Wayne (Brenda) Eklund, Marilyn (Vern) Rasmussen, Jean (Jon) Sandquist, Carol (Stan) Thompson; 15 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings: Margaret, Norma, Betty, Jeanette, John; and several brothers and sisters in-law.

The Day God Called You Home

*God looked around His garden
and found an empty space.*

*Then He looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face.*

*He put his arms around you,
lifted you to rest.*

*God's garden must be beautiful,
for He only takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering.
He knew you were in pain.*

*He saw the road was getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.*

*So He closed your weary eyes,
and whispered, "Peace be thine".*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone.*

*For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.*

Arrangements

Anderson Funeral Home
Alexandria, Minnesota

In Loving Memory of

**Richard W.
Eklund**

February 13, 1932



February 3, 2021



Mass of Christian Burial

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Alexandria, Minnesota

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 12:30 PM

Officiant

Reverend Father Steve Binsfeld

Casket Bearers

Evan Eklund Jacob Thompson

Samuel Eklund Alec Sandquist

Austin Sandquist Adam Sandquist

Andrew Rasmussen Luke Eklund

Honorary Casket Bearers

Gina Fumia Andrea Fumia

Tina Davis Sarah Eklund

Megan Eklund Bridget Eklund

Katie Rasmussen

Military Honors By

Alexandria Veterans Funeral Honor Guard

Minnesota National Guard

Burial

St. Mary's Cemetery – Alexandria, MN