

James Leo Dokken was the oldest son and third born child of Martin Ole and Clara Mildred (Syverson) Dokken, formerly of Willmar. He was born August 23, 1935, in Willmar, Minnesota.

James was a graduate of Willmar Senior High School and continued his education later in life at Willmar Community College. In 1955, he embarked on a remarkable journey of service by joining the United States Air Force, serving with distinction for 20 years. His unwavering commitment saw him retire as a "First Sergeant" at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, after working primarily as a draftsman illustrator for 18 years. He was awarded numerous citations of excellence, ribbons, and medals for exemplary service to his nation.

It was during his assignment in Germany that James met the love of his life, Reinhilde Agnes Hofer, and in 1961 they exchanged vows, marking the beginning of a beautiful partnership that lasted for over six decades. Together, they raised three wonderful children: Joseph Martin, Michael James, and Thomas Keith, who brought immense joy and pride to their lives.

Returning to his hometown in 1975, he spent the next two years earning his associate degree in psychology. Over the next 40 years he worked for several companies; Woodland Hills, Minneapolis Star and Tribune area manager, Willmar bus service, and for a number of years ran his own business "Designs by Dokken" as a professional sign painter.

James was a man of faith and community, a devoted member of the Willmar Assembly of God Church, teaching adult Sunday School and serving as an usher for many years. His dedication extended beyond his spiritual life, serving as Commander of the Willmar American Legion Post from 2009-10, working tirelessly to support veterans and their families. He was also a proud member of the Disabled American Veterans, advocating for the rights and well-being of disabled veterans.

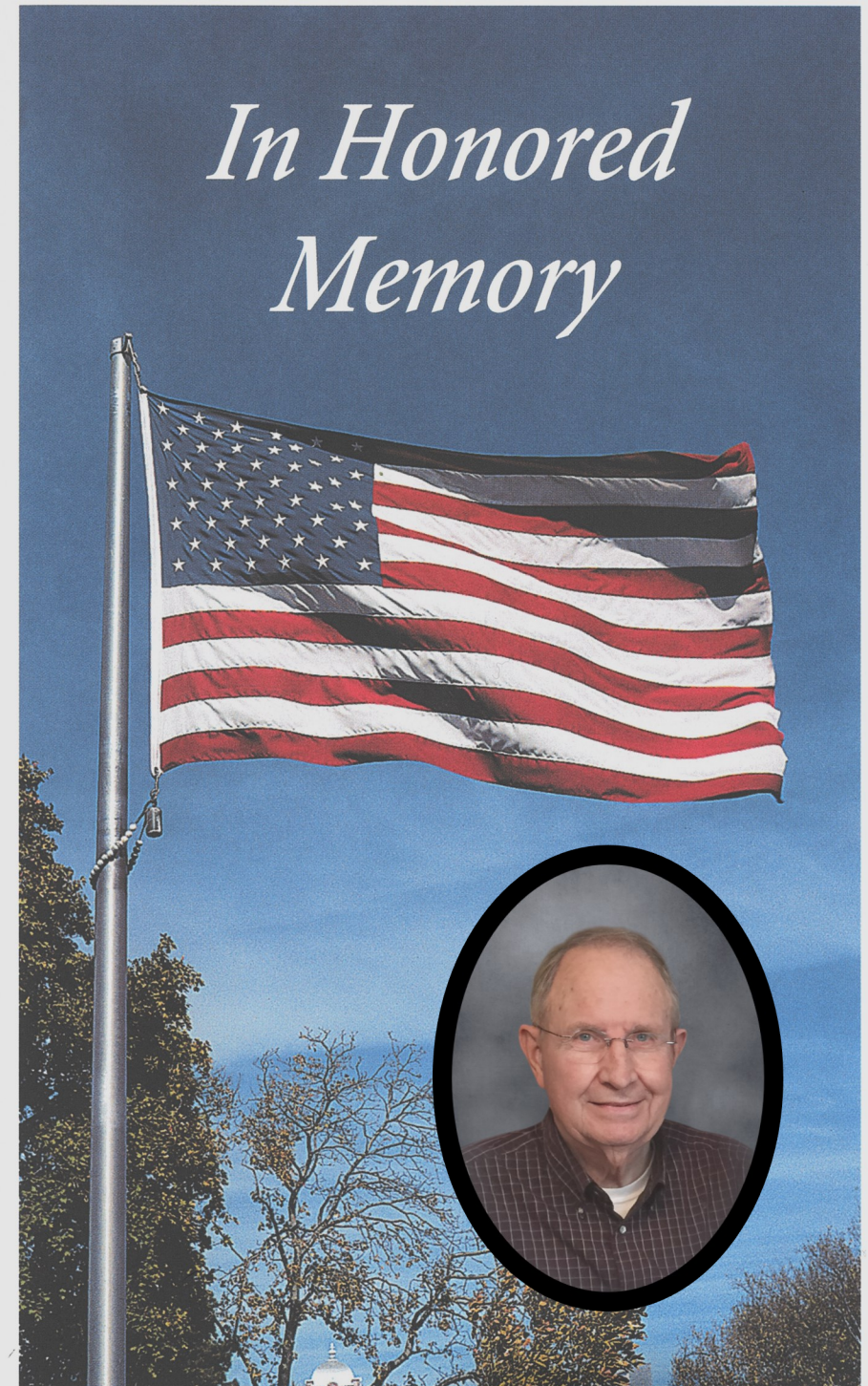
Additionally, James made significant contributions as a City Councilman for 17 years, helping to shape the future of his beloved hometown.

James passed away peacefully October 2nd, entering his eternal reward as a follower of Jesus Christ. His life was a testament to dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to his family, faith, community, and country.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Reinhilde "Hilde" Dokken of Willmar; three sons, Joseph (and Janet) of Lake Nebagamon, Wisconsin; Michael of Chaska and Thomas of Willmar; three grandchildren, Aaron (and Katie) Dokken of Butler, Illinois; Lauren (and Matthew) Burg of Minneapolis and Timothy Dokken of Minneapolis; and five great granddaughters, Gwenyvere, Verity and Myrielle Dokken, and Eleanor and Rainy Burg. Also surviving is one sister Janet (and Allan) Hillstrom of Willmar, besides many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Arlene Sharstrom and Delores Kottwitz; one brother, Donald Dokken; two brothers-in-law, Henry Kottwitz and Herbert Sharstrom; and one sister-in-law, Janet (Peterson) Dokken.

James leaves behind a legacy of selflessness, integrity, and unwavering dedication, and will be remembered for his love, service, and the indelible mark he left on the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His spirit will continue to inspire us all. To God be the glory.



In Loving Memory Of

# James "Jim" L. Dokken

August 23, 1935  
Willmar, Minnesota

October 2, 2023  
Willmar, Minnesota

## Celebration of Life Service

Friday, October 20, 2023 - 11:30 a.m.

Assembly of God Church  
Willmar, Minnesota

*Blessed is the man who walks not in  
the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates  
day and night.  
He is like a tree planted  
by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.*

*-Psalm 1:1-3 ESV*

Prelude	
Processional	
Welcome and Opening Prayer	Pastor H. Paul McCullough
Time of Worship	Pastor Clint Carter
Scripture	Tim Dokken
Thoughts	Pastor Joe Dokken
Obituary	Mike Dokken
Time of Remembrance	Tom Dokken & Aaron Dokken
Special Music	<i>"In The Garden"</i> Ron Christianson
Time of Remembrance	Mike Dokken
Message & Prayer	Pastor Keith Kerstetter
Video Tribute	<i>"Scars In Heaven"</i> Tom Whitcomb
Congregational Hymn	<i>"It Is Well With My Soul"</i>
Closing Prayer	
Recessional	
Postlude	

## Military Honor Guard

Austin F. Hanscom American Legion Post #167  
Willmar, Minnesota

## Private Interment

Calvary Lutheran Cemetery  
Willmar, Minnesota

Arrangements By

*Peterson Brothers Funeral Home*  
*"Celebrating A Life Remembered"*



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