



George Oldenkamp was born January 9, 1924, on a farm northwest of Rock Valley, Iowa to Adrian and Nellie (Cannegieter) Oldenkamp. The Oldenkamps moved to a farm southwest of Rock Valley, where George first met a neighbor, Johanna Talsma. He attended rural school until eighth grade, graduating with honors. George worked on the farm and hired out doing farm work. He married Johanna Talsma on April 2, 1946. They lived on a farm northwest of Rock Valley until 1958, moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, until 1961, then returned to farm north of Rock Valley. They purchased a farm near Alvord in 1973 and lived happily there until 2007 when they retired to a new home in Rock Valley. George continued to farm until he was 85. He took care of Johanna for several years until she moved to Pleasant Acres in Hull and passed away in January 2015. George continued to live at home by himself. He celebrated his 100th birthday in January 2024, and later that month moved to Whispering Heights.

George loved to farm and was always happiest being in the fields and preparing for planting and harvest. He enjoyed caring for animals, and we remembering him getting up twice a night to deliver baby pigs. He especially enjoyed raising cattle, and he and Johanna often took trips to Nebraska and South Dakota to buy calves. He served on the board of Farmer's Elevator Company from 1971-1988. He joined the First Reformed Church when he married Johanna and remained a member through life. George had a wonderful dry sense of humor and had many stories of his farming adventures that he shared with us throughout our lives. He was a loving father and wonderful Grandpa to his three grandchildren, who always spent time on the farm in the summer. He continued to have a keen memory until his last days, and always knew who farmed or lived anywhere in the vicinity. We will miss his stable presence, his strong faith, and his fierce independence. Thank you to all the caregivers, especially Shirleen Post and Evelyn Bajema, who helped Dad stay independent. George passed away Friday, May 24, 2024, at Whispering Heights at the age of 100.



George is survived by his daughters, Sandi Oldenkamp of Portland, Oregon, and Garneth Peterson and her husband Brian of St. Paul, Minnesota; grandchildren Eric, Kirstin and Julia Peterson.

He was preceded in death by his wife Johanna, parents and three brothers, John, Sidney, and Harold.

## *In Loving Memory* **George Oldenkamp**

*January 9, 1924 ~ May 24, 2024*

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

10:30 AM, Friday, May 31, 2024

First Reformed Church

Rock Valley, Iowa

### **OFFICIANT**

Rev. Clifford Hoekstra

### **PIANIST**

Madelyn Vander Heul

### **MUSICAL SELECTION**

*"This World Is Not My Home"*

### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

*"We Plow the Fields, and Scatter"*

*"When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder"*

### **PALLBEARERS**

Eric Peterson ~ Kirstin Peterson

Brad Den Herder ~ Jacob Den Herder

Matt Suter ~ Mike Suter

### **INTERMENT**

Valley View Cemetery

Rock Valley, Iowa

*George's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service at the cemetery.*

## *I Am Not There*

Do not stand at my grave and weep,

I am not there, I do not sleep

I am in a thousand winds that blow,

I am the softly falling snow.

I am the gentle showers of rain,

I am the fields of ripening grain.

I am in the morning hush,

I am in the graceful rush Of birds in circling flight.

I am the star shine of the night.

I am in the flowers that bloom,

I am in a quiet room,

I am the birds that sing,

I am in each lovely thing.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,

I am not there. I did not die.

— *Mary Frye*

