



Lowell L Bray

May 28, 1926 - March 8, 2020

Lowell Ladelle Bray was born on May 28th, 1926 to John and Susie (Crist) Bray of Arcadia, NE. He was the youngest of 10 children and was raised on a farm. The boys were expected to tend to the farm animals, including pigs, chicken and cows. Milking all the cows was also expected before leaving for school each morning. Each week they brought their eggs and cream to town to be sold for grocery money for their mother, Susie. Lowell and his siblings weren't very close to their father as he was a stern and demanding of them and their mother. Lowell adored his mother. He also had a very close relationship with his brother Leo.

Growing up, Lowell had a love for fishing, hunting and sports. He always told his own kids that he wanted to be sure to introduce these hobbies to them to help "keep them out of trouble." Many of these fishing memories were made up at Sherman Reservoir with friends but mostly family. Lowell's love of fishing rubbed off on most of his children. He and Leo always found the time for an annual pheasant hunting trip (35-40 years). They also enjoyed ice fishing together.

Lowell married Dorothy Moody on September 23, 1950. They had met on a blind date some years before. Along with two friends, they traveled to South Dakota to elope, and drove through the night to get back because Lowell had a baseball game the next day. Upon their return, Lowell's mother insisted that they sleep separately, despite being married. They were married for 66 years until Dorothy's death in 2016. Lowell and Dorothy had five children: Shari, Dan, Joni, Bob and Barb. Lowell was always quick to point out that he had "the best family in the world."

He spent the last 30 years of his working career as an agent for State Farm Insurance in Millard. Prior to that, he served as a door to door milk man in North Omaha for Roberts Dairy. Early in their marriage, he and Dorothy both worked in the ordnance plant near Grand Island.

Lowell was also an avid sports fan. He occasionally coached baseball and softball teams

that his kids were a part of, and during that time became well known by calling out “Ducks on the Pond!” from the dugout or stands, whenever the bases were loaded. Throughout his life, he never missed an opportunity to attend his grandkids’ games and activities.

Lowell was proud to have served in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II. Later in life, he admitted that he had lied about his age to be able to enlist early to serve his country. He would often share stories of being on a ship in the Pacific that served as an escort for a destroyer. One such story told of being a part of the fleet assembling for the inevitable invasion of mainland Japan. During preparation, a rumor started running from ship to ship about “some really big bomb” that had been developed. Not long after that, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and a few days later Nagasaki, bringing the war to an end.

Those who knew Lowell well, lovingly recall seeing him in his garden, dressed in his Dickies coveralls, and a front pocket full of pens and eyeglasses. He always planted an extremely large garden and did so because he loved to share with friends, relatives, and neighbors.

Lowell passed away on Sunday, March 8th at St Luke’s Hospital in Sioux City, Nebraska at the age of 93 years old. He was proceeded in death by his parents John and Susie Crist. He is survived by his children: Shari Kusek of South Sioux City, Danny and Deanna Bray of Fremont, Joni Pierce of Papillion, Robert Bray of Nashville, TN, and Pat and Barb McCauley of Hastings; along with Fifteen grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and Four great-great grandchildren.

A memorial can be made to the American Legion Post in Valley, NE and can be mailed or left at the funeral home.

Comments



“ I so enjoyed getting to know and visit with your mom and dad. I looked forward to you guys coming to the fall festival! I was planning to come to the funeral to see all of your family, but am not going to be able to make. My thoughts and prayers are with you guys during this difficult time. Kathy Dietz

Kathy Dietz - March 12 at 02:22 PM



“ Thank you Kathy. All us kids talked over the last few days about all getting together for fall festival weekend.

Barb McCauley - March 15 at 09:22 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lowell L Bray.



March 11 at 12:45 PM



“ Your parents were wonderful neighbors at Sherman lake. Your Dad was our cove monitor and kept us safe from unwanted critters. We really miss his popcorn on football day and homemade peanut brittle at Christmas. We send our love, Bill and Robin Clark

Bill Robin Clark - March 11 at 10:43 AM



“ Thank you for the memories Bill and Robin. Dad was in heaven living up at Sherman Dam. Although Mom loved her friends and neighbors there, she always struggled not being physically close to any grandkids.

Barb McCauley - March 15 at 09:31 AM



“ Dave and Becky Hamik purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lowell L Bray.



Dave and Becky Hamik - March 11 at 10:15 AM



“ Ron & Stef Honz, Sherman Lake purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Lowell L Bray.



Ron & Stef Honz, Sherman Lake - March 11 at 09:58 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Lowell L Bray.



March 10 at 09:20 PM



“ Carl and Sue Chaney purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Lowell L Bray.



Carl and Sue Chaney - March 10 at 06:26 AM



“ There are too many memories to count. I've shared my most memorable one of Lowell. However, I loved how Lowell and Dorothy raised a family with love, stability and security. You can see how their efforts paid off with how Shari, Danny, Joni, Bobby and Barbie cared for their mom and dad in their final days here on earth as well as the bond they all share today! I remember Lowell and Dorothy's hospitality and generosity. I remember Lowell taking my husband and I out on Sherman Dam in his boat, eating wonderful vegetables out of a well tended garden and wonderful visits when they came to Oregon. I remember the trips made to Central City to help

with big projects and memorable family reunions. Lowell is well loved and will always be missed and cherished until we meet again! I'm proud to be family and have been blessed richly because of them!



Kelly - March 09 at 07:31 PM



“ Kelly, you held a special place in mom and dad's heart too. Thank you for sharing the memories!

Barb McCauley - March 15 at 09:35 AM