



Claude Andrew Beck Jr.

October 26, 1936 - September 17, 2024

Claude Andrew Beck Jr., a cherished father, grandfather, and friend, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Yutan, Nebraska, on September 17, 2024, at the age of 87. Born on October 26, 1936, in Athens, Georgia, to Claude Andrew Beck Sr. and Francine Brown Beck. Claude's early years were filled with a love for sports, music, and the great outdoors. As a teenager, he often snuck into concerts, finding inspiration in the soulful work of the late R&B artist Sam Cooke.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Claude embarked on an impressive 40-year career in retail management, while attending classes at the University of Georgia. His professional journey led him to meet Rita Ann Albers of Wisner, Nebraska, who was studying at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. Their love story blossomed, paving the way for a rich life filled with adventure and accomplishment.

Claude's career took them to Memphis, Tennessee, New Orleans, and ultimately to Greenville, Mississippi, where he proudly managed the flagship Stein Mart store for nearly 25 years. His commitment to the community was evident as he served on the board of the local Boys and Girls Club, enriching the lives of countless children.

In 1997, following his retirement, Claude and Rita moved to Yutan just

southeast of Omaha, where they opened Beck's Market, a village grocery that created lasting connections for nearly 20 years. Claude's passion for serving his community also extended to his role as a city councilman.

A dedicated sports fan, he cheered fervently for the Georgia Bulldogs and Nebraska Huskers, while also being an avid Atlanta Braves baseball fan. In retirement, Claude found a love for gardening, second only to his love for telling a good story. He could often be found at the town cafe, laughing along with friends who loved to point out his uncanny resemblance to the animated character Geppetto from Disney's "Pinocchio."

Above all, Claude was most proud of his family. He took immense joy in his role as a father and grandfather, supporting and celebrating his sons, William A. Beck of Central City, Nebraska, and Charles Beck of Yutan, as well as his granddaughter, in their school activities and sporting events. Claude's legacy will forever be enriched by the love and laughter he brought to their lives.

Claude was preceded in death by his beloved wife of over 55 years, Rita; his son in infancy, John Beck; his parents; and three siblings: Francis Adams of Athens, Winfred Beck of Comer, Georgia, and Harry Beck of Marietta, Georgia.

He is survived by his sons, William A. Beck of Central City, Nebraska, and Charles Beck of Yutan; three siblings, Pat Sewell (Carl) of Athens, Marie Richards of St. Simons Island, Georgia, and Samuel Beck of Royston, Georgia; and his granddaughter, Madeleine Beck of Chicago.

Visitation will be held at 10 am Tuesday, Oct. 8, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Yutan. A short memorial service will follow at 11 am at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Yutan. A private family burial service will be held in Wisner, Nebraska, later in the day. In Lieu of Flowers, Memorials

are suggested to the family for later designation.

Claude leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and a community that he cherished deeply. He will be missed not only for his remarkable contributions but also for the warmth and kindness he shared throughout his life.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Yutan, NE
Yutan, NE 68073

Memorial Service

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Yutan, NE
Yutan, NE 68073

Graveside Service

OCT 8. 4:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Cemetery - Rural Wisner, NE
Wisner, NE 68791

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Claude and I shared a lot of laughs at Athens High. He was a great guy and we enjoyed seeing him at the reunions. Our sincere condolences to your family. Pat and Faye Marshall

Pat Marshall - October 10, 2024 at 05:58 PM

JE

“ You could not forget Claude he had the personality that made you smile or laugh. He always knew you and called you by name which is a trait I don't have. He and Rita fit right into the community. Will miss seeing him.

Joyce Egr - October 08, 2024 at 01:15 PM

RC

There are not many people I remember vividly from High School, but Claude was one of the few!

Rory Coker - October 09, 2024 at 02:09 PM

KF

“ Kathy Albers and Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Claude Andrew Beck Jr..



Kathy Albers and Family - October 04, 2024 at 11:27 AM

JY

“ *Jeff and Susan Yarbrough purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Claude Andrew Beck Jr..*



Jeff and Susan Yarbrough - October 03, 2024 at 06:52 PM