



Howard Christian Denker

May 15, 1922 - January 24, 2022

Howard Christian Denker was born on May 15, 1922 to Christian and Magdalene Denker. He grew up on the farm at 180th and Center. He attended school in rural Douglas County and graduated from Elkhorn High School in 1939. As a young boy, Howard worked with his family on the farm.

When Howard could get away from the farm, he would go to the Music Box in Omaha where he met Lois Kinney. Lois taught Howard how to dance, which was a long-time tradition for the two of them. Howard and Lois were married on September 24, 1944, in Overland Park, Kansas. They enjoyed 71 years of marriage and were blessed with four children: Howard, Jr., Diane, Julie, and Kevin. Howard and Lois raised their family and always lived in the Elkhorn and Omaha areas.

Shortly after marrying Lois, Howard entered the Navy on February 27, 1945. Upon returning from the war, he started farming. Farming was the love of his life other than Lois. Farming involved many different types of crops and livestock over the years. Howard was known for the sweet corn he grew. Many bags of sweet corn were put in the freezer each year from his sweet corn patches. During the off times of farming, Howard worked at Continental Can and Armour Packing Plant. He was also active in organizations: Farm Bureau, Grange, Legion Club, VFW, and his church, Bethany Lutheran, where he served on the church council. He was the longest-living member of

Bethany Lutheran church. Howard also loved to garden growing a variety of different types of produce - watermelon, cucumbers, pumpkins, tomatoes, rhubarb, and fruit trees to name a few. Grandchildren were always involved in the gardening.

His family was a major love of his life. He loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved attending their events and was proud of their accomplishments. Many grandchildren took a ride on the tractor over the years.

Howard loved talking about farming and agriculture. He would be easily drawn into a conversation with fellow farmers. After retiring from farming at the young age of 85, Howard bought two farms in Iowa where he loved to visit and ride in the combine. He sold one farm, but continued to manage the other farm to his death, making improvements on the farm ground.

Howard had a quick wit and a strong sense of humor. His eyes would twinkle and he would smile and laugh when he would share a story or joke or enjoy a laugh with family and friends.

Howard was an avid sports fan. He was a basketball player on his high school team and he followed Nebraska basketball, win or lose. He also followed Nebraska football, Kansas City Royals Baseball and the Kansas City Chiefs. Howard and Lois attended many Nebraska basketball games as season ticket holders. He would also watch the games on TV with his son, Kevin, and was always ready to analyze the game after the fact.

Howard was a very independent man. After Lois passed in 2016, he stayed in his home in Elkhorn until he moved into Independent Living, where he continued to make new friends, visit the Legion Post 1, and even dance! He took pride in the fact that he leased a new car for himself at age 98.

Howard passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022 at Brookestone Meadows, with family at his side at the age of 99 years young. Preceded in death by his wife, Lois; son, Kevin; sisters, Darlene Andersen, Helen Smith, and brother, Chester Denker. Survived by son and daughter-in-law, Howard, Jr. and Mary of Omaha; daughters and sons-in-law, Diane and Harlan Falk of Omaha and Julie and Tom Kozisek of Crete, NE; daughter-in-law, Jean Denker of Omaha; 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; sister, Marge Grabow of Omaha; and brother-in-law, Carl and Sue Kinney of Edmund, Oklahoma.

Funeral service 11 AM Saturday, Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkhorn. Interment with military honors at Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Visitation Friday from 5-7 PM at Reichmuth Funeral Home, Elkhorn. Memorials to Bethany Lutheran Church, or American Legion Post 1, Omaha.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Auburn Cemetery

180th and Q Streets
Millard, NE 68134

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Howard Christian Denker*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - January 28, 2022 at 09:30 AM

AJ

I apologize for any inconvenience, but the service for Howard is now available to view. You will need to forward to the 4:50 mark to begin to see and hear the service. Again, I do apologize for the technical difficulties, but we are grateful to be able to share this with Howard's numerous family and friends.

*Sincerely,
Aaron Janssen
Reichmuth Funeral Homes*

Aaron Janssen - February 03, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ *Howard Christian Denker*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

CL

“ *Lifting your family up in prayer as you celebrate the life of Howard, praying specifically for comfort and peace. May your family be surrounded by those who offer love and support.*

Bethany Lutheran Church

Christina Larsen - February 15, 2022 at 01:08 PM

DH

“ So sorry to learn of Howard's passing I know Howard lived life up until the end, I would see him once in a while at the Eagles in Elkhorn or at a restaurant in Omaha and I would always say hi and he always knew me and we would chat a little. I believe Howard is the last of the Farm Bureau group that use to get together in the 60s and they had a lot of fun that group so I would once more say I'm sorry for your loss
Dave Harrie

David Harrie - January 30, 2022 at 12:41 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Howard Christian Denker.



January 28, 2022 at 05:06 PM

SS

“ No need to tell anyone Howard was a great man. We were neighbors when we kids and theirs were all growing up. Howard and Lois were such good friends with my parents. He and Dad were friends as young men and remained that way throughout life, never losing touch. I remember his laugh, his kindness and his optimistic outlook. A handsome man, who excelled in all the important roles: husband, father, friend... He will be missed, but not forgotten.
Sandy (Willms) Stone

Sandy Stone - January 28, 2022 at 03:45 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard Christian Denker.* ”



January 27, 2022 at 11:57 PM

AH

“ My great uncle Howard was very special to me after I lost my grandparents and then my parents. I sought comfort in my extended family. I felt especially close to uncle Howard, as he came to visit my mom the day before she passed. He walked into her room at the Hospice House and when he heard the rattle coming from the room, his eyes became big with surprise, just like I remember great-grandpa Chris Denker's eyes would get when he was surprised. I was honored to be invited to his birthday party at his home and after aunt Lois passed, I occasionally would bake cookies for Howard and take them to his home or independent living. My daughter Jennifer and I enjoyed meeting him for dinner before Lenten services a few years ago and then we'd sit with him in church for the service. I remember one particular Wednesday night, we held hands in the pew. We would sometimes go to the early church service on Sunday mornings at 8:00, just so we could sit with him. He had a great sense of humor, which Jennifer and I loved! He would often talk to Jennifer and her husband, Alex about their apartment, which overlooked his old home and farm. I remember once before my mom passed away, she wanted to drive by uncle Howard's old farm and house, so I did my best to remember where to turn off 192nd Street to see what was left. I remember how he and aunt Lois didn't like the new baseball lights shining on their property. Just to look at uncle Howard would remind me of my grandpa Chet. Just about a week and a half ago I reached out to Diane to see how he was doing and when I could visit him next (with my mask on, of course). She said it'd be soon, so I anxiously awaited. What I didn't expect, even at 99 years young, was that I would learn that he passed. My heart broke when I heard the news. I will miss my dear great uncle Howard, but I know that he and grandpa Chet are telling great stories in Heaven. Uncle Howard lost his older brother way too soon, so I'm sure my grandpa welcomed him with open arms. I will look forward to being reunited one day in Heaven. Until then, I will miss you uncle Howard!! All my love, your great niece, Amy Nelson Hruska.

Amy Hruska - January 27, 2022 at 09:49 PM

MJ

“ Mike, Carol, Nick, Ali and Justin. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard Christian Denker.



Mike, Carol, Nick, Ali and Justin. - January 26, 2022 at 05:11 PM

CF

“ Crete Area Health Care Foundation purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Howard Christian Denker.



Crete Area Health Care Foundation - January 26, 2022 at 02:53 PM

CC

“ Crete Area Medical Center purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Howard Christian Denker.



Crete Area Medical Center - January 26, 2022 at 02:50 PM

PS

“ Howard was a true gentleman. Lois and Howard are dancing in heaven.
Sincere sympathy to his family.
Patsy Schmidt

Patsy Schmidt - January 26, 2022 at 09:45 AM

NG

“ *Living in the same neighborhood as Howard and Lois, when driving by their home, we always enjoyed seeing Howard working outside most of the time regardless of the weather. Taking care of the land was in his blood. We also enjoyed many lively conversations with him. Our prayers are for comfort, strength and peace to fill the hearts of all those near and dear to him.*

Neal and Nancy Greenberg - January 25, 2022 at 10:41 PM