



Howard Christian Lauritsen

May 10, 1931 - May 26, 2013

Howard Christian Lauritsen was born May 10, 1931 in Hubbard, Nebraska to Chris M. and Ruth H. (Spencer) Lauritsen. Howard grew up in Homer, Nebraska where he attended Sunnyside country school, and graduated from Homer High School in 1949. Howard loved the farm, playing basketball, football, and softball. As an adult, he was active volunteering and serving at his church, school, and in the community.

Howard married Estella May "Toody" Millard on November 5, 1950 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Homer, Nebraska and to this union, three sons were born: Tom, Jerry, and Gene. The family made their home in Homer, then moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Beatrice, Nebraska, and Clifton, Kansas, before moving to Omaha, Nebraska.

Howard's first work was in farming, but he began working at Northern Natural Gas as a laborer. He progressed up the ladder at Northern, holding positions as equipment operator helper, equipment operator, measurement technician, before being promoted to operations and maintenance supervisor, and ultimately District Manager, retiring from the Clifton, Kansas location. After his retirement, Howard stayed active with the Northern Natural Gas Retiree Organization.

Howard enjoyed spending his time attending the grandchildren's activities, and playing cards, but also found time to research solutions to problems, and serve and help others. He had a love of animals, and could find the good in anyone. While the boys were growing up, he encouraged them in their Boy

Scout endeavors. He could often be found watching the stock market, and actively trading throughout the day. He was fond of the saying, "if you can't say something good about someone, don't say anything", and was annoyed by people's negativism. Howard will be remembered as a man of integrity and inspiration, who was a great communicator, and was faithful and friendly to all. He cherished his marriage to Toody, and was the biggest fan at any son or grandchild activity. He was thankful to have been able to travel to Denmark and the Holy Land, and will be remembered for his desire to help people in any way he could.

Howard passed away on Sunday, May 26, 2013 at the Lakeside Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska at the age of 82 years, and 16 days. He was preceded in death by his parents Chris and Ruth, and 2 brothers Jim and Melvin. Howard is survived by his wife Estella "Toody" Lauritsen of Elkhorn, sons and daughters-in-law: Tom and Ricki of Bennington, Jerry and Gina of Omaha, and Gene and Patti of Beatrice, NE, 8 grandchildren: Traci (Roger) Mercado, Travis (Freyja) Lauritsen, Tana (Mike) Cieciora, Brett (Kelli) Lauritsen, Natalie Lauritsen, Matthew (Allison) Lauritsen, Emily Lauritsen, Shelby Lauritsen, and 6 great grandchildren.

Howard C. Lauritsen, age 82, of Elkhorn, died 5/26/13. Preceded in death by parents and 2 brothers. Survived by wife Estella "Toody" Lauritsen of Elkhorn, sons and daughters-in-law: Tom and Ricki of Bennington, Jerry and Gina of Omaha, and Gene and Patti of Beatrice, NE, 8 grandchildren: Traci (Roger) Mercado, Travis (Freyja) Lauritsen, Tana (Mike) Cieciora, Brett (Kelli) Lauritsen, Natalie, Matthew (Allison), Emily, and Shelby Lauritsen, 6 great grandchildren.

Funeral service 10:30 A.M. Friday, May 31, Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkhorn. Interment Omaha Valley Cemetery, Homer, Nebraska. Visitation Thursday Noon to 8 PM with family receiving friends from 6-8 PM at the funeral home. Memorials to the Homer Education Foundation or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ Howard Christian Lauritsen

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ I knew Howard just Briefly During the start of My Employment with Northern Natural Gas and I can tell You, He was one of the last Managers that truly cared about "His People" and would bat heads with His Superiors in defense of Us. He was highly Commended by a lot of My Peers and Considered to be "One of The Last Good Ones!" He'll forever be Missed!

Ted Lindblad - May 19, 2014 at 09:06 AM



“ Toody and family, I am so sorry to learn of Howard's passing. I so enjoyed being next-door neighbors when we moved into our townhomes near 156th & Fort a number of years ago. It was fun fixing up our homes and getting acquainted with the neighborhood. I have nice memories of our chats. I'm glad you have lots of family around you now and will be able to share all the good memories of your life with Howard. Please know that I am thinking of you and wish you well. Kay Lyman and family

Kay Lyman - May 31, 2013 at 11:32 AM



“ To Aunt Toody, Tom and Ricki, Jerry and Gina, Gene and Patti, and family. We were very sorry to hear about Uncle Howard's passing. Sharon and I send all of you our love and deepest sympathy. You are in our prayers, God Bless All of You. Jimmy and Sharon

Jimmy and Sharon Millard - May 31, 2013 at 10:12 AM

JM

“ *Toody & Family our thoughts and prayers are with you. Howard was a wonderful husband and family man. We feel that our life was enriched by knowing him. We love all of you. Jim & Donna*

Jim & Donna Millard - May 31, 2013 at 09:57 AM

MV

“ *Jerry.....My heart goes out to you and your family.....God Bless*

Michael Vallinch - May 30, 2013 at 06:45 PM

DH

“ *Toody and family, I was so surprised and sad to hear of Howard's passing. It has been a while since I had seen Howard and was not aware that he was having health problems. You all have my deepest sympathy. Losing a husband/father/grandfather is always a sad, sad experience. Please be assured that Howard impacted so many, many lives in nothing but a positive manner. I always admired and respected the way he handled himself and the efforts he put forth to make our little Homer community a better place for all who live there. I know he was a strong leader in getting the hub of Homer together when they re-organized the school district and built the new school. That was no small accomplishment. I know he had help but during his years on the school board he made many wise decisions. I will miss seeing Howard at the alumni banquet. His smile was always bright, cheerful and positive. I will not make it to the prayer service or funeral but I intend to be at Omaha Valley Cemetery.*

Dave Heck - May 30, 2013 at 04:59 PM

BA

“ *Extending my sympathy to the family of Howard Lauritsen.*

*Bonnie Appleton-Busch
Pender,NE*

Bonnie Appleton-Busch - May 30, 2013 at 12:07 PM

TT

“ *Tom & Ricki,
Ricki..I worked with you many years ago at West Omaha National Bank when Traci was just a baby. We shared many a fun lunch together. I have thought of you over the years. I am very sorry for the loss of your father-in-law, I see that he lived in Beatrice for awhile, that is where I grew up. Our prayers are with your family.*

Terry Taylor - May 30, 2013 at 11:13 AM

RC

“ *Gene and Family,
I was so sorry to hear the news of your Dad,it isn't easy. We shared our tears together in a wonderfull conversation today. You have the faith and this will help pull you through no matter how tough. God Bless all the Lauritsen Family.*

Ray and Cindy - May 29, 2013 at 10:51 AM

TL

“ *Very Saddened to Hear about Your Loss! You'll Be in My prayers during this dark time! God Bless Your Family and I was Honored to Have known Howard! Ted Lindblad*

TED LINDBLAD - May 29, 2013 at 09:33 AM

JC

“ Howard was one of the great managers in the Northern system. Very open and personable. He always had a coffee cup in his hand and when he would 'lose' it would get a new one. When he found the old one he would stack them. You could always tell what kind of a day he was having by how high his stack was. We will miss him greatly. Our condolences to the family.

Jeff & Sherry Cullison - May 29, 2013 at 09:18 AM

LD

“ Our very deepest sympathy on Howard's death. He was a great man who will be missed by so very many. Dad shared with me that he won a dollar from Howard on the advent of my birth. Apparently Dad and Howard had a bet that I would be the third boy in our family, just like Gene was the third boy in your family. But Dad won the bet! Our family got a girl, the irony being they named me the same thing as your third child (Gene/Jean). Howard was an important part of Homer history. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family.
Jean Peters

Leo Pigg and Jean Peters (Leo's daughter) - May 28, 2013 at 08:18 PM

PC

“ *Toody, Tom, Jerry, Gene and families,*

Ray and I extend our deepest sympathies in the loss of Howard. He was very kind, caring and generous. Many family members were recipients of those wonderful traits.

I'm sorry we cannot be with you for his services. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers and hearts.

Condolences,

Pat and Ray

Pat Detlefsen and Ray Campbell - May 28, 2013 at 01:58 PM