



Mike Orris

October 15, 1926 - July 28, 2019

Milo (Mike) Orris of Washington, Iowa passed away on July 28, 2019 at the age of 92.

His memory will live on through Donna his wife and partner in life for over 70 years, his daughter Sue Mertz (Frank), his son Tom (Mary) and his son Dave (Chele) as well as 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, a sister Alice (Simkins) a brother Donald and numerous other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Hollie and Opal, brother Rex and twin brother Cleo as well as infant daughter Christy.

Mike was a WWII veteran of the Navy who piloted an LST and proudly fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa as a teenager (17). He lost his brother (19) and best friend (17) at the same time he was serving in that theater.

He is remembered by many in the area as a prominent businessman and civic leader that gave freely of his time and treasure. His accomplishments are too numerous to list (and Mike wouldn't want them listed) but they are highlighted by his over 4 decades at the Washington State Bank where he worked his way up from teller to President. He was Secretary of the Washington County Fair Board where he did virtually everything for 48 years. On the Thursday before his death he was awarded a pin for 7,500 volunteer hours at the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City. Mike had been active in the American Legion for decades, playing taps at hundreds of military funerals. He touched many lives through these and other causes, including Marr Park Fish Days, GIVE Foundation handicapped veterans golf outing to mention a couple. He had dozens of awards for his charity work but that was never the point.

He was quick with a joke or story and always ready to lend a hand to friends and strangers (he never really knew one). While others talked about problems, Mike solved them.

Celebration of life services will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2019 at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home in Washington with Chaplain Andrew Zuehlke officiating. Visitation

will be on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home where the family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Interment with military honors will take place at the Elm Grove Cemetery in Washington. Honorary pallbearers are Keith Orris, Max Orris, Grant Orris, James Myer, Nile Myer, Frank Mertz and Cory Goetsch.

In lieu of flowers, memorials/contributions can be made to the Washington County Hospice or a scholarship fund in Mike's name that is being established by the Washington County Fair Board. Online condolences may be sent for Mike's family through the web at <http://www.jonesfh.com>

At 5:00 p.m. family and friends are invited to have one last meal on Mike. The family will host a get together at Dallmeyer Hall at the Washington County Fairgrounds where we can all share our stories about Mike.

The family wishes to thank the UP Home and Washington County Hospice for its fine care in Mike's final days.

Cemetery

Elm Grove Cemetery

Washington, IA, 52353

Events

AUG **Calling Hours** 12:00PM - 07:00PM

1

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

AUG **Family Receiving Friends** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

1

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

AUG **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

2

Jones - Eden Funeral Home

116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

Comments



“ Donna and family. I am so sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. He lived a wonderful life. More of us should do more for each other and volunteer like Mike did. He was nothing but kind to his clean housecleaning ladies who followed he and Donna from the house in the north part of Washington to three or four houses after that. He always had a smile on his face no matter where you met him, taking a few minutes to speak with you. It was a pleasure to have known him. Rest In Peace Mike!

Phyllis Kulisky - August 08, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ It makes me sad to hear of Mike's passing. As a nurse at the VA I didn't work directly with Mike, but saw him often. He was always ready with a smile and a friendly comment and will be missed by all. Thank you Mike for all your years of dedicated service and support to our country and the VA!

Alison - August 05, 2019 at 03:36 PM



“ We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mike! Mike and I worked on fair business and other activities. Mike was dedicated to whatever position he held and was not afraid of hard work. I think of the hours he spent at our county fair and what an important part he has served in the great county fair we have today. We have Mike to thank for all the hours he spent working on other ventures such as clerking sales, operating the bank and volunteering. Mike also had a very dedicated family+ that followed his caring attitude! Mike will be remembered for years to come and deserves all the praise he receives! Rest in peace Mike!

Gary and Karen Murphy - August 02, 2019 at 05:50 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to Tom & Mary in the passing of your beloved father. We wish we could be there with you today. Both you, your family and friends are in our continued prayers.

April & Patryce Jackson

April & Patryce Jackson - August 02, 2019 at 12:23 PM



“ April & Patryce Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mike Orris



April & Patryce Jackson - August 02, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mike Orris.



August 01, 2019 at 10:41 PM



“ I met and worked with Mike when I took over doing the talent show for the fair. Eighteen years ago, yet today when I would see him he still would ask how it was going and gave me words of encouragement. He was dedicated to making the fair the best it could be. I feel blessed to have known him. He will be never be forgotten. Thoughts and prayers for his family.

Nancy Trier - August 01, 2019 at 11:32 AM



“ Mike was like a second dad to me we had quite a few adventures from working the fair to moving people to the UP home to helping with Sales at the fairgrounds . Thank you Mike for your service to this country and this community.

Frank Miller - July 31, 2019 at 10:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mike Orris.



July 31, 2019 at 10:58 AM



“ As a neighboring farm kid Mike worked for my grandfather on the farm. Mike was wanting a raise and my grandfather, a tight Welshman, was not giving in. One summer day they were at the wood lot using a 2 man crosscut. Mike was working my grandfather on the other end as extra hard as he could. Finally grandfather says 'ok, I'll give u the raise if we can stop to rest'. I can't count how many times Mike had to tell me this story!

Don Lewis - July 31, 2019 at 09:17 AM



“ Good thoughts and prayers to all Mike's family My Dad thought the world of him he helped my Dad in many business ventures Heaven gained a great man

Norm Bruty - July 30, 2019 at 08:50 PM



“ Mike was always a smiling helpful face. As a nurse at the VA I had frequent contact with Mike. He was an asset to the VA and will be missed by many.

Margaret - July 30, 2019 at 01:27 PM



“ Nancy McCreedy lit a candle in memory of Mike Orris



Nancy McCreedy - July 30, 2019 at 11:04 AM



“ Dear Family,

Mike and Donna's family lived on North Marion Avenue in Washington and were my neighbors growing up through junior high and high school. We had some pretty good ballgames in the open lawn and on the courts:) by their home. I have very fond memories. My love and peace to all of you during this time of loss.

Respectfully,

Peg Crull

Peggy Crull - July 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM



“ I always looked forward to seeing Mike on Tuesday's at the VA when he stopped by my clinic for the mail run. We'd only talk for a couple of minutes, but he always had something interesting to talk about. Condolences to his family.



Lynn Young - July 29, 2019 at 11:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mike Orris.



July 29, 2019 at 09:20 PM



“ Mary Whittaker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mike Orris



Mary Whittaker - July 29, 2019 at 05:42 PM



“ Mike was a wonderful man. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Cheyenne Miller - July 29, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ Donna and family, many prayers of sympathy for all of you. May memories sustain you.

Joe and Jean White

jean white - July 29, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ So many memories of Mike and his family have flooded my mind since hearing of his passing yesterday, praying for comfort and peace for all of you.

Doris Moore

Doris Moore - July 29, 2019 at 11:47 AM



“ Heartfelt sympathy to Mike's family and friends. I recently came to know Mike and he was an honorable, loyal, and dedicated man. He had the respect and admiration of many. The Washington community will miss him.

Tari Speece Deiters - July 29, 2019 at 11:28 AM



“ Lots of prayers and thoughts for Donna , Tom, Dave, Susan, and families. Jerry remembers many stories Mike told him while working with him. They put a smile on our face . Mike is resting in peace. He left you with many great memories.
Joyce and Jerry Bryan

Joyce Bryan - July 29, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ Donna and family,
My deepest sympathy on Mike's passing. May you find comfort in your memories.



Annette Fritz - July 29, 2019 at 10:01 AM