



George E. Vapenik

December 8, 1928 - May 11, 2020

George Vapenik, 91
Pleasanton resident

George Vapenik, 91, of Pleasanton passed away Monday, May 11, 2020 at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Private family services will be Friday, May 15, 2020 at Pleasanton United Methodist Church with the Rev. Seung Ho Park officiating. Burial will follow at the Pleasanton Cemetery. The community is invited to drive through the cemetery at the conclusion of the graveside service around 11:30 a.m. to express their sympathy and show their support to the family.

The family encourages messages of condolence to be made through the funeral home website at www.osrfh.com or send cards/memorials to the family in care of O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home, 4115 Ave N, Kearney, NE 68847.

George Ernest "Dutch" Vapinek was born December 8, 1928 to Jim and Katherine (Lindauer) Vapenik in Hayes County, NE. He was the youngest of four boys. When George was just 18 months old, his mother passed away. George's father raised him and his brothers in Hayes County. George attended country school through eighth grade and started farming in 1945 and farmed his entire life.

George was united in marriage to Velda Pegg on September 25, 1949 in Grand Junction, CO. To this union two daughters were born, Janet and Beverly. Family was very important to George and he especially loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren. George had the patience of a saint and didn't know a stranger. He took great pride in his farming and enjoyed fishing when he wasn't working. George was an avid sports fan and was always cheering for the Husker volleyball team. George also had a passion for the game of baseball. From his early adult years, he enjoyed playing baseball. He played on several town/neighborhood ball teams every Sunday. One of the teams was called the Green Valley Stump Jumpers. In later years he was either playing ball with his kids and grandkids or watching baseball on TV, especially his St. Louis Cardinals.

After his retirement from farming George and Velda purchased a 5th wheel camper and would spend their winters in New Mexico and warmer weather. They loved their years of travel and meeting new people. Their winter days were spent visiting, playing cards, or having a casual golf game. They did this until his health required him to stay closer to his doctors.

George was a member of the Pleasanton United Methodist Church and Granton United Methodist Church.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Velda Vapenik of Pleasanton, NE; daughters, Janet (Norman) Metz of Pleasanton, NE, and Beverly (Larry) Siegel of Litchfield, NE; six grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; brother, Ed (Annabelle) Vapenik of Wauneta, NE; sister-in-law, Ruby Vapenik of Sutherland, NE; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. George was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, James Vapenik, and Les (Alice) Vapenik.

Memorials are suggested to the Pleasanton Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Department. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services of Kearney.

Cemetery Details

Pleasanton Cemetery

Pleasanton, NE

Tribute Wall



“ George E. Vapenik

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ Dutch was always so kind and helpful. I'm sharing one of his quotes that I use often.

"Take the good memories, carve them in oak and keep them forever; put the bad memories on driftwood, cast them out to sea and remember them no more"

Even though I can't be with you in person I'm sending my love and prayers to each of you.

May God give you his peace and comfort.

Evelyn.

Evelyn Mcgregor - May 15, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ Coleen Schumer lit a candle in memory of George E. Vapenik



Coleen Schumer - May 15, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JR

“ Velda, it is with a sorrowful yet happy heart that I write this message to you and your family. So sorrowful to hear of the passing of George, yet so happy to know that all of his suffering on this earth has passed and to know that he is in the hands of the great almighty and is smiling down on us now. Two great men are now watching over us, God the almighty and George. Your Dutch was and is a great individual and even in our few visits at the dealership I always enjoyed each and every one of them. Take peace and celebrate the time we had with him as our memories will carry us thru till we will all be together to visit again. Jerry Remus- Jerry Remus Chevrolet-Cadillac

Jerry Remus - May 15, 2020 at 09:10 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of George E. Vapenik.



May 14, 2020 at 01:14 PM

 Marcia
Davis

“ I recall my dad, [Nathan Onnen's maternal grandpa] and George really enjoying visiting together at family gatherings. They had the common Nebraska farming lifestyle in common and I am sure shared stories of the good old days together.

While we did not get to know George, we see how special his granddaughter, Lisa, is in our family. Her roots of faith undoubtedly go deep in the family tree.

May each who mourns their loss reflect on their own eternal life and realize that through faith in Jesus alone, we stand accepted into heaven at the point of death. REJOICE! <><

Sincerely,
Uncle Brian & Aunt Marcia [Goeller] Davis

Marcia Davis - May 14, 2020 at 11:14 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of George E. Vapenik.



May 13, 2020 at 10:34 PM

JJ

“ Dear Velda and family, We are so sorry to learn about George's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We have fond memories of George. He was always so nice and took time to visit with Julie when she delivered the mail to the farm. Debra appreciated the support you both showed by attending her Loper basketball games in Kearney. God Bless you all during this difficult time. Your friends from Elsie, Ron and Julie Johnson

Julie Johnson - May 13, 2020 at 09:30 PM

MG

I just heard of the passing of "Dutch" and am so saddened that he is gone. I remember all the Vapenik brothers mainly through my parents Ervin & Ruth McGregor. Velda, may God wrap his loving arms around you and your family in this difficult time. Marlene McGregor Gale

Marlene McGregor Gale - May 15, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of George E. Vapenik.



May 13, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of George E. Vapenik.



May 13, 2020 at 04:52 PM

AC

“ We have a lot of wonderful memories of Dutch and Velda. Dutch was a kind ,caring and loving person. Know he will be missed but he is free now maybe he and Andrea will have a nice visit. Know they are both rejoicing with the Lord. Let God wrap his arms around your families. Our sincere thoughts and prayers. Bob and Anita Cummings



anita cummings - May 13, 2020 at 03:59 PM

KS

“ I remember George from my dad doing business with him and going to Sunday school with his daughters and church. He was a very honorable man.

Kim Stewart - May 13, 2020 at 12:39 PM

EF

“ Ed,AnnaBelle, Marty, Kate, Nancy, Jerry & families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of George E. Vapenik.



Ed,AnnaBelle, Marty, Kate, Nancy, Jerry & families - May 12, 2020 at 10:03 PM