



Morris "Mike" H. Jessen

January 19, 1934 - February 15, 2021

Morris "Mike" Jessen, of Waterloo, passed peacefully of natural causes at age 87 on Monday, February 15, 2021.

He was born January 19, 1934 to Anton and Edna Thuesen Jessen in Waterloo. His steady hard work ethic was forged very early as he enjoyed helping his father and some of his uncles (all whom immigrated from Denmark) on their local farms. Mike graduated from West High School in 1951 and went on to serve in the Marines during the Korean War. His innate reliability and loyalty continued on in his 44 years of "safe" service record as a switchman and conductor for the Waterloo railroad industry: Chicago Pacific and Illinois Central Railroads. He was "Morey" to his all RR buddies.

After those decades of very hard work and frugal saving, he truly enjoyed his retirement years with his precious wife BJ. Snow-birding in Texas and Arizona was their biggest reward. They continued with their longtime enjoyment of square and polka dancing locally and RVing to festivals all around the US. They also made the most of traveling when health was good to visit children and grandchildren scattered across the country and abroad; seeing Mikes's relatives in Denmark from both his father and mothers families and making new friends and dream memories on cruises. Their years pursuing local

hobbies together as a couple were noteworthy: camping, fishing, biking, playing pool and cards! Mike had a lifelong love for playing cards of any type, with bridge and pepper being a few of his top favorites. Playing a card game remained his main highlight until health diminished. Mike, a quiet veteran by nature, was so thrilled to be on September 17, 2013 Waterloo Honor Flight to visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial in DC.

Survivors include:

His wife BJ Jessen of Clive, Iowa, two sons, Scott (Mary) Jessen, Texas; Larry (Randa) Jessen, Texas; 4 stepchildren, Carrie (Lani) Leichty, Minnesota; Michael (Janet) Minear, Florida; Jennifer (Phil) Jacoby, Tennessee; Greg Minear, Austria; one brother, Lauren (Brigetta) Jessen, Texas; one sister, Dee Fowler, Texas; 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by:

his father Anton Marinus Jessen, his mother Edna (Thuesen) Rimathe, her 2nd husband Ray Rimathe, and one brother-in-law.

Graveside memorial service:

Saturday, June 19, 2021 11 A.M. SHARP with full military honors at Garden of Memories Cemetery, Waterloo, Iowa (Lutheran Garden F)

Memorials:

May be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice, 6919 Chancellor Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. The extremely kind, compassionate staff care given to Mike as a veteran during his final months was beyond helpful and excellent—even more life giving during the sad isolation created by Covid chaos.

Cemetery Details

Garden of Memories

3669 Logan Ave
Waterloo, IA 50703

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Garden of Memories
3669 Logan Ave
Waterloo, IA 50703

Tribute Wall

AS

“ BJ. Thank you for letting me know of Mike’s passing. You have both been very courageous! Jim and I enjoyed your friendship when we could be together at music fests and one winter in your “park” in Texas. His cheerful disposition brought pleasure for those whose lives he touched! May the Lord grant you comfort and strength as you go forward living with the void his passing has created.
Hugs, Annette. Illinois

Annette Stamberger - March 05, 2021 at 07:05 AM

CW


“ Worked with Mike for many years on the Railroad. Always kind and smiling. He once saved my life and that is not an exaggeration. I will be forever grateful. He will be missed.

Chip Wood - February 25, 2021 at 08:21 AM

NA

“ BJ, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May the many memories of your good times together sustain you at this time. Let's keep in touch.
Nancy Gooch Anderson

NancyG Anderson - February 22, 2021 at 12:53 PM

 Marcia
Milner-
Brage

“ BJ, Mike had recently retired from the railroad when we met and you were helping us out at our office. You told us how proud he was for never having an accident in all his years riding the rails. When I hear the whistle and the clacking of the train going through downtown Cedar Falls, I have and will think of Mike. Sending you love and our condolences, Marcia & John Milner-Brage

Marcia Milner-Brage - February 22, 2021 at 08:12 AM



“ *BJ. will be praying for you and family. So sorry for the passing of Mike. Your former neighbors on Progress Ave. Mike and TD Tully*

TD Tully - February 21, 2021 at 04:09 PM

DS

“ *So sorry to hear Mike is gone. I have a lot of memories. If I can be of any help BJ, let me know. Be sure to let me know when memorial is. I will make a special effort to be with the Military Honor Guard.*
Don Shellenberger

Donald Shellenberger - February 21, 2021 at 11:31 AM

SS

“ *B.J., we are so sorry to hear of Mike's passing, Mike always had a smile and ready to offer a drink or a chair. Asking God to put his hands around you and be your support.*
Dan and Susie

Susie Sondag - February 18, 2021 at 08:56 PM

MP

“ *BJ, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. May God bring you comfort and peace.*
Marilyn Peterson

Marilyn Peterson - February 17, 2021 at 09:37 PM

JC

“ *BJ and family, we are so sorry and sad about your loss of Mike. Jim & Paula Cole*

Jim and Paula Cole - February 17, 2021 at 07:51 PM