



Vilas "Sid" Morris Jr.

September 18, 1932 - May 18, 2021

Vilas Lester "Sid" Morris Jr., 88, died peacefully in his sleep on May 18, 2021 at Unity Point Allen Hospital, Waterloo, IA

Sid was born on the family farm in rural Taylor County, IA on September 18, 1932, the son of Vilas Sr. and Ruth (Salen) Morris. He grew up on a farm near the Missouri border, attended K-8 grades in Gay Center Township School (a one-room country school). He attended Bedford High School his freshman year, then transferred to Blockton High where he graduated in 1950.

Rather than staying on the farm and farming with his dad, Sid chose a different path. He enrolled in a two-year elementary teaching program at Clarinda Jr. College where he earned an elementary teaching certificate in May 1952.

Sid was drafted, inducted into the Army, took basic training at Camp Chaffee, AR, trained in fire direction, and shipped out to Korea. From his arrival the fall of 1952, until the June 1953 cease-fire, his artillery unit saw action along the MLR from mountains with names such as Old Baldy and Pork Chop Hill. After he left Korea he was stationed at Camp Carson, CO.

Upon completion two years of military service, he returned to Iowa and unexpectedly was offered an elementary teaching position. His goal then became to complete a BA degree in teaching.

On August 18, 1956, Sid and Alvira Stock were married in the First Methodist Church Bedford, Iowa. They left Bedford to attend and complete BA degrees at ISTC (now UNI). They did that and have lived in Cedar Falls since then. Sid

and Alvira raised two sons, Jeff and Dan, and have had the privilege of enjoying grandchildren and now great-grandchildren.

Upon completion of a BA degree in January 1958, Sid was offered an elementary teaching position at Edison Elementary / Jr. High School, in Waterloo. In 1960 he became the Assistant Principal which was the beginning of a long career in school administration. He culminated his career as the Administrator of River Hills School from which he retired in 1995.

Over the years Sid served on numerous foundations and boards: Sartori Hospital Foundation, Hawkeye Community College Foundation, Western Home Foundation, Iowa Scottish Right Foundation; Goodwill Industries Board, EPI, Black Hawk–Grundy Mental Health, Cedar Falls Historical Society, to name a few. He held leadership roles in many of the organizations to which he belonged.

He also served on boards that promoted Cedar Falls: Community Main Street, Visitor and Tourism, the former Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce. Sid was involved in numerous fund-raising activities - most notably Veterans' projects: Veterans Park, the Shelter House, the Black Hawk County Freedom Rock. Sid served his city through terms on: Board of Adjustment, Planning and Zoning, City Council and Cedar Falls Utilities.

Sid was a proud member of several Veterans organizations. He was a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, and Korean War Veterans Association. He also belonged to 7th Infantry Division Association, in which he served on the Board of Governors for many years. He was a member of 40 & 8, member, and past president of Iowa Chapter 99, KWVA and PO2 Taylor Morris Chapter 323 of KWVA. Sid also served on the Black Hawk County VA Commission.

Sid was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls. He was a 50-year member of Black Hawk Lodge #65 where he served two terms as Master and was the Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge of Iowa 1989-1990. He was a member of the CF York Rite Bodies, Scottish Rite, El Kahir Shrine, P.P. 1986, and ROJ.

It is said “You can take a boy off the farm, but you can’t take the farm out of a boy.” That was apparent by Sid’s love of their acreage; tilling the soil for his expansive gardens, planting an orchard, riding his John Deere garden tractor for mowing grass hours on end, trimming trees and clearing brush. His asparagus, rhubarb and raspberries were well known. He became fascinated by the many varieties of plants in the “Morris Tall Grass Prairie” he and Alvira had planted.

Sid was preceded in death by his parents Ruth and Vilas Morris Sr., siblings; Jack, James, John, Judy Cox, Joanne, Scroggie, Jillene Casey; and an infant granddaughter, Meggy.

Left to cherish Sid’s memory are his wife, Alvira, sons: Jeff (Christy) Tempe, AZ,

Dan (Juli) Cedar Falls, grandchildren: Lindsay McQillan, Tempe, AZ, Jordan Terrones, Waterloo, Molly Morris, Taylor (Danielle) Morris, Riley (Lauren) Morris, and Claire Morris, all of Cedar Falls, great-grandchildren: Celise McQillan, Tempe, AZ, Arlo Morris and Rosalie Morris Cedar Falls, a brother-in-law Gary Scroggie, Clarinda, IA, several nieces and nephews.

A gathering to share memories and honor Sid, “A Time to Remember the Life of Sid Morris” will be June 19th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at The Diamond Event Center, Western Home Communities, 5307 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls, with Military Honors at 3:00. Please come with a memory or story to share.

A private family service will be held. The family requests no flowers. In lieu of flowers:

memorials may be made in the name of Vilas “Sid” Morris to: Western Home Foundation,

First Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, or Shriner’s Children’s Hospital Twin Cities, 215 Radio Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125

Online Condolences may be left at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

the end of College St, north of First Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

JUN 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Western Home Communities-Diamond Event Center
5307 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

GS

“ Sid was one of my favorite people to visit with. He always had a smile and always wanted to serve and make things better. He will be greatly missed.

Greg and LeaAnn Saul Family

GREG SAUL - June 19, 2021 at 11:06 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Vilas "Sid" Morris Jr..



June 19, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vilas "Sid" Morris Jr..



June 17, 2021 at 03:13 PM

JZ

“ Sid was a great community leader and a wonderful family man. Sympathy and prayers to Sid's family

Jim and Lanny Zimmer

James and Lanny Zimmer - June 08, 2021 at 04:30 PM

MM

“ Just learned of Sid's passing today. My father, R. Wayne Mooers, worked with Sid at River Hills and many other projects revolving around special education at Area 7. Sid and Elvira wer good friends to myself and my parents. My condolences to Sid's family.

Mike and Patti Mooers...Queen Creek, AZ

Mike and Patti Mooers - June 07, 2021 at 07:42 PM

DH

“ Sympathy and prayers for Sid's family. Marlyce met Sid at AEA 7 when she was a consultant in Ed. Services. Sid was always kind and caring. He was an inspiration to all who knew him! Rest in peace dear friend. Dr. Marlyce and Ray Holbach

Dr. Marlyce Holbach - May 25, 2021 at 02:42 PM

JR

“ My condolences to your family. I will remember Sid's quick smile and positive attitude. He had a gentle spirit and I am appreciative of the chance to have known him.

Jon Rippentrop

Jon Rippentrop - May 25, 2021 at 12:18 PM

KW

“ Sid was one of a kind. Friends with my grandparents and with me once I started working at the AEA. My deepest sympathy to Alvira and your family. Sid's hugs and laughter will long be remembered and missed. May God grant you peace in the coming days. With deepest sympathy from Kerri Gabbard Wilson and family

Kerri Wilson - May 24, 2021 at 08:03 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Vilas "Sid" Morris Jr..*



May 24, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ *We extend our condolences to you, Alvira, and your family for the loss of Sid. Our community would certainly look a lot different were it not for his many efforts to improve it. He always took an active role in the many boards on which he served. We loved his enthusiasm for projects, his strong belief in the good of people, his hearty laugh, and his "can do" attitude. He was such an inspiration to us and so many in our community. Rest in peace, dear friend.*

Jim and Kathy Krieg



Jim and Kathy Krieg - May 20, 2021 at 02:48 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and community on the great loss of a wonderful man. Riley, Miranda and I mourn the loss of our Uncle Junior. Praise God for his gift of this beautiful soul. Staci Shearer*



Staci Shearer - May 20, 2021 at 10:03 AM

DD

My deepest sympathy to the family. Everyone knew Sid and we all loved him. I will always remember his laugh and making you feel like you were the only important person in the room. AEA 7 was the place we met. What a blessing. Rest in Eternal Peace Sid.

Diane Dahlheim - May 24, 2021 at 05:55 PM

TH

“*Sid was such a kind man who could convince you to volunteer for his latest project that he was working on. You always knew Sid was working on something to better the Cedar Valley or the City of Cedar Falls, I finally figured out his routine to get you to volunteer...he always carried an expandable brown envelope with everyone of his projects in it!*

One day Sid and my brother cornered me to become an American Legion member and next thing i knew I was the Commander! Sid was an amazing man dedicated to his family, his community, his country and to making our lives so much better. Thank You Sid!

Tom Hagarty - May 19, 2021 at 03:36 PM

BS

“*Sid was a tremendous man, a friend, and a mentor that taught me the importance of getting involved in our community. His tireless volunteerism and advocacy for Cedar Falls will never be matched. Rest in peace Sid and you have left a tremendous legacy that will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers go out to Alvira and the entire Morris family.*

Bob Seymour

Bob Seymour - May 19, 2021 at 01:16 PM

WJ

“ Sid Morris was my friend and a brother Mason in every sense of the word. We worked together on many projects, and I always felt that if you wanted to get something done right, get Sid involved. He was always good to his word, and he went out of his way to make things right. I wrote a 75 year history of El Kahir Shrine that was a promotion with a publisher. There was a problem, and I didn't get paid. Sid said he would make it right, and he did.

Sid understood what it meant to be a Mason. He was instrumental in getting the Scottish Rite UNI rite care program going in all its aspects. He knew how important it was for handicapped children to get help to be able to learn. As a fellow educator, I was proud to see his personal commitment to making things better for all concerned.

It was always a pleasure to be with Sid whenever we could be together. I join in celebrating his life as we are all better because he was here. A man of his word, he remains an example we all can emulate. I am better because I got to know Sid Morris. A kind and gentle man.

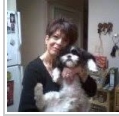
William C. Jacobson 33rd. Degree Brother Mason.

william Jacobson - May 19, 2021 at 11:02 AM

LH

“ He was known as Uncle Jr to a few of us. A fun and loving uncle who always had a smile and hug for his nieces and nephews. He was the oldest of 7 children born to G'pa and G'ma Morris and the last one to pass. My mom (Joanne Morris Scroggie) and Jr always joked that they were twins born 10 years apart. Their personalities, laugh and smiles were identical. I know they are having a great time reuniting with each other. Hugs to Aunt Alvira and the rest of the family. RIP Uncle Jr!

Lea Ann (Sissy) Scroggie Huckins - May 19, 2021 at 10:41 AM



Sid was a dear friend. He always had a hug and a smile. If my memory serves me right I believe my Aunt Mary Kay Wright worked for him downtown Waterloo.

Susan McCoskey - May 19, 2021 at 02:26 PM



My name used to be Sue Wright. Knew Sid since a little girl when my Aunt worked for him downtown Waterloo.

Susan McCoskey - May 19, 2021 at 02:28 PM

JH

“*Sid was a pillar of our community. It is a great loss. I will miss seeing him around town. He was a servant leader who quietly and relentlessly accomplished great things. My condolences to Alvira and the rest of the family.*”

Jeff Hassman - May 19, 2021 at 09:08 AM