



Alvin Schaefer

February 12, 1921 - February 14, 2009

Our most gentle, kind and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather left us early Saturday morning, February 14, 2009 to meet his savior. He was very much a people person as he never met anyone whose company he didn't enjoy. Al was born on February 12, 1921 in Fort Collins to Alexander (Aleck) and Marie (Mary Funk) Schaefer. Al and Edna (Minch) were married on February 9, 1947 at Trinity Lutheran Church and celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on February 9, 2009 with their family. When Al was nine years old, he began working the beet fields in Colorado. At age 17 he joined the Buckeye Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In September 1940 when the National Guard Units were mobilized he enlisted as a one year volunteer in the Army Co. H. 157th Infantry, 45 Thunderbird Division. Al was honorably discharged at the end of his enlistment, returned to Fort Collins in 1941 and began working at the Great Western Sugar Company. In May 1942, after Pearl Harbor was attacked, he was drafted back into the Army Infantry. He fought battles as a Platoon Sgt. (Tech Sgt.) in Anguar, Peleliu, the Southern Carolines and the Philippines in the Southwest Pacific. His division was one of the first to occupy Northern Honshu Island, Japan after the atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Al served 4½ years altogether, a year and a half which were in overseas combat. He was honorably discharged on December 7, 1945. He and his family have always been very proud of his army service. Following the war, Al returned to Fort Collins and trained as an electric motor repairman under the G.I. Bill with McCoy Electric (the first electric repair shop in Fort Collins). He was recruited by his next employers Ideal Cement Company, LaPorte, in 1950 and then Al Ray Electric where he worked from 1951 to 1955. Al owned his own electric repair shop, from 1955 to 1961. Later he was employed as a foreman at the Physical Plant at Colorado State University where he set up the electric motor shop. Twenty years later, in June 1982, he retired from CSU. Al and Edna were blessed with two daughters, Deborah and Nanette. The family enjoyed many vacations fishing and visiting National Parks throughout the Western States. Al loved his chosen occupation as well as camping, fishing, and of course his "childrens." He worked very hard all of his life and performed all of the maintenance on his homes and automobiles. He was truly a self-made man. Even though his education was interrupted at an early age, Al was determined to get his high school diploma which he did in 1966. He

also completed several correspondence courses and went to night school to learn drafting. In his 80s he enjoyed researching World War II on the computer and playing the Free Cell game – the computer didn't seem to scare him. He enjoyed recording music onto minidisks and CDs and enjoyed recording Grand Ole Opry shows on DVDs. Al was preceded in death by his parents Aleck and Mary Schaefer and all of his siblings, Clifton, Edna, Shirden, Mary Ann and Delila. He is survived by his wife, Edna; daughters Deborah Berard (Gary) of Roseville, CA, and Nanette Quarnberg (Rick), of Westminster, CO; two grandsons, Lee Wolfe (Katie) of Laramie, WY and Alex Quarnberg of Fort Collins; two great-grandsons, Rody Lee and Wyatt Alexander Wolfe of Laramie, and two step children, James (and Erin) Berard of San Diego, CA, and Carol (and Michael) of San Francisco, CA. The Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 17th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Stuart, Ft. Collins, where Al was a charter member. Interment, with full military honors, will be at Grandview Cemetery. A reception will follow back at Trinity Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests those wishing to contribute to do so to Pathways Hospice in care of Goes Funeral Care.

Comments



“ A loving tribute to Al, my husband of 62 years:

It had to be love that kept us together for so many years.

Your family will always treasure and love you. Your spirit will live on in our hearts as we remember your kind, gentle, and compassionate ways as husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Yours in love until we meet again,
Edna (wife),
daughters: Deborah (Gary) Berard,
Nanette (Rick) Quarnberg,
grandsons: Lee (Katie) Wolfe,
Alex Quarnberg,
grandsons: Roady and Wyatt Wolfe

Edna Schaefer - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Summer was never complete without a visit to Uncle Al and Aunt Edna's house in Fort Collins! No matter how long between visits we were always welcomed and loved by aunts, uncles and cousins. I am sad so many years passed between visits and other communication and am so glad I got to hear Uncle Al's voice and see him through e-mail and phone the week before he passed away. Hearing his voice made all of the years fade; it was surreal! My love and prayers to Aunt Edna, Deb, Nan and their families. Uncle Al is not suffering with pain anymore and we will all be together again. We love and miss you!

Sandi Aleman - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Al was my mentor in teaching me a trade and he never gave up on me, his mentoring set me up for life he was also like a dad to me. I loved him

Wally

Wally Hostetler - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Is not old wine wholesomest, old pippins toothsomest, old wood burn brightest, old linen wash whitest? Old soldiers, sweethearts, are surest, and old lovers are soundest,
Carry on old soldier till I join thee at the last great battle.

William D. Borum - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Deb & Gary, we are sorry for your loss and just want you to know that we have you and your family in our prayers & thoughts.

Terry & Marcy Hansen - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ It was a pleasure to know Al Schafer! I always remember him saying "Let's get some groceries" when he got hungry. My dad Rody also thought the world of Al. My dad would always call him Schaefer. My dad would send him his skill saws that were broke. Talking about WWII was something that Al shared with my dad. Rody enjoyed having Schafer come so that they could talk about WWII. Al was a wonderful person. My family and I thought the world of him.

KATIE WOLFE - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to all the family. Even though I did not know Al, I am lucky and blessed to be a friend of his beloved daughter Nanette. From all I have been told about him, Al was a remarkable and very loved father and husband. You can be so proud of all he accomplished and for bravely serving his country at time of war. May your many, many happy memories help to comfort you now and in the future. Karen Kocak

Karen Kocak - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My grandpa was one of the most intelligent and inspirational people I have ever known. For someone who had so little when a boy, to a loving and successful husband, father, and grandfather, will always show me how I should look at things and treat other people. I always remember going to Grandma and Grandpa's house and playing the original Nintendo with my grandpa and my brother Lee. I thought it was the coolest thing that a 70 year old man was so into video games. Not only did he play them but he drew maps and found all of the sequences to puzzles/obstacles in the game and put them together to make detailed book. Funny how now-a-days they are made and are called game guides. But that was my

grandpa, he gave great detail to everything, always finished what he started, and never took any short-cuts. Everyday I find something that I could learn from him. He will always be loved and never forgotten.

Alex Quarnberg - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ For someone who had so little when he was a boy, he gave so much to others and his country during his lifetime. He will always be an inspiration to me.

I remember going on trips and there would always be a stalled car on the road somewhere during our journey. Dad would always stop to help a motorist in need. He could fix anything and everything.

If he didn't know something, he had such amazing determination to learn. He could "put the study to" just about anything and figure it out!

He loved animals, and convinced me he knew how to talk a certain type of language for cats, or "kitterns" as he called them. He would put an "ern" on the end of most words, and sure enough, it seemed to me that those cats could understand him.

I got my nickname from a cartoon back in the 1950s called Augie Doggy and Doggie Daddy who were on the Quickdraw McGraw show. Dad became "Daddest-Dad" and I was "Debbest-Deb".

My dad was a kind, loving, and genuine person. And I miss him dearly.

Debbest-Deb - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I loved the times we shared at your home during the holidays...

Playing Super Mario and eating Edna's burnt almonds!

Loved hearing of your daily routine of going to Wendy's for coffee in your 61 Chevy truck.

Much love with fond memories!

Best picture of you I keep visible is with the guitar, cowboy hat and boots!

Happy Trails, my friend!

Nelson

Catherine Nelson-Curtis - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My memories of Al relate to CSU football games. We used to go to them in the late 1970s with Deb and a group of "crazies."

Sometimes we would drop by Al's motorhome after the game. They were so welcoming to a bunch of rowdies like us.

He had to play his country and western music in the camper too as I remember.

I also know he was a great father, husband and family man.

Bob and Rhonda McDonnell - February 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM