



Drew J. Pattee

February 24, 1929 - November 4, 2020

Drew J. Pattee, 91, of Fond du Lac, died on November 4, 2020. He grew up on the family farm and he was a farmer-at-heart his entire life. As a young man he served in the US Army in Germany. Upon his return to Wisconsin, he met and married Verabelle Dilts on August 5, 1953. Together they raised three children. His family meant everything to him.

Drew could always be found outdoors with a dog by his side tending to his garden or his many Arabian horses. As his children became involved in 4-H, he volunteered his time, ultimately becoming the 4-H Horse Project Superintendent during the FDL County Fair. He was a volunteer fireman for the Town of FDL. He was a longtime member of Pilgrim UCC Church.

He began married life working for Haentze Floral Co. He left there to become co-owner of Derco Mfg. Co. All three of his children worked for him at one time or another.

Drew and Vera loved to travel and they could often be found in their camper traveling the country. They spent their winters at Hawaiian Isles Resort Park in Ruskin, FL. He happily enjoyed many hours in the sun driving his golf cart, shuffle boarding, and playing cards. His specialty was chatting with everyone he knew.

He is missed by his wife, Vera; his three children, Gordy (Carol), Margie (Jim) Dichraff, and Glen (Becky); and his beloved grandchildren Sean (Nicole), Eliot (Jamie), Aaron, Alyssa, and Christina (Jared). A precious great-granddaughter, Anna, was added to the family this year.

Preceding him in death were his parents, John and Agnes (Merrill) Pattee; Vera's parents, Earl and Ida Dilts; his grandson Joel; his sisters Laura (Milton) and Hazel (LeRoy); and his brothers-in-law Lyle (Audrey) and Lloyd (Donna).

There will be no visitation. The family has chosen a private graveside ceremony. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Town of Fond du Lac Fire Dept.

Cemetery Details

Estabrooks Cemetery

Esterbrook Road
Fond du Lac, WI

Tribute Wall

EP

“ My tribute to Grandpa, read at his service:

I consider myself incredibly lucky to have known Grandpa for over 30 years. He was a kind man and always welcoming. He showed the same love he gave his kids to those they married and us grandkids who followed. At birthday parties or other gatherings, he could always be found laughing with and charming our family friends or my mom's siblings - one of my aunts once told me that he just had that "It" factor and people naturally gravitated toward him. And he secretly loved the attention.

Grandpa was in no way what our generation calls a "foodie", yet a lot of my memories with him involve eating. I still can't fathom one of his favorite lunch items - an onion sandwich - but that was always a staple. So were mid-morning cookies, especially when Grandma made chocolate chip. There was also the Sunday night popcorn or pizza...or both...and of course we loved it.

Grandpa's favorite pastime was being outside. He loved mowing the lawn, working in the barn, but most of all, he was proud of his garden. I remember having corn on the cob or carving pumpkins that came straight from his patch. He was always sending us home with tomatoes, cucumbers, or squash. But the thing that we've always had the strongest bond over was strawberries. It's no exaggeration to say that Grandpa's strawberries were the tastiest I've ever had. I let it be known - and he listened. At the end of the season I somehow always found myself getting a bucket full of strawberries after his last picking. He would say something like, "You know, they'll go bad if we don't eat them by tomorrow and you're the only person I know who will make sure that won't happen." Needless to say, I never let him down.

My true celebration of Grandpa is yet to come- the first strawberry bed I plant will be in honor of him. For now, you just might find me sitting down with a full carton of strawberries - and while they definitely won't be as good as Grandpa's, I will still eat every last one of them.

Eliot Pattee - November 17, 2020 at 08:03 PM

SP

“ *When I think about my grandpa, I remember a family man who loved his country and community but most of all, his family. Ive never seen someone brighten a room like he did or put so many smiles on people’s faces. No matter where we were, or what we were doing, everybody seemed to love my grandpa.*

Growing up, my brother and I loved nothing more than spending weekends at the farm. Whether we were picking strawberries, climbing on fire trucks and pretending to be firemen or relaxing late at night with homemade popcorn, just being able to spend time with our grandma and grandpa were some of the best memories of our childhood- Not to mention the famous Pattee rule.

Once we got older and our time was spent gathered around in the living room for a holiday get together or sipping Mountain Dew and cookies in the garage for break time, I loved hearing the stories of all his life’s adventures. Listening to stories about travel and various business endeavors, I always felt inspired to go out and live life to its fullest.

Although his great granddaughter was not able to meet him before he left, she will undoubtedly get to know him through the stories of his greatness and happiness- Everyones life that he touched, will always have an example of what it means to be truly happy and live life to its fullest.

Sean Pattee - November 15, 2020 at 09:24 PM

AP

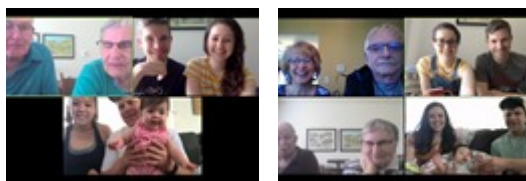
“ *We are so sorry about the loss of your dad and Grandpa. We have fond memories of getting together at Gordy and my sister Carol’s house for celebrations. He always had a big smile and hug when he saw us, and good stories to tell. He will be dearly missed, but memories of him will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.*

Annette and Brian Porter

Annette Porter - November 13, 2020 at 11:05 AM

EL

“ *2 files added to the album Drew and Family*



Eliot - November 12, 2020 at 08:54 PM

AM

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your father and husband. I have wonderful memories of Drew through the horses. You got Star and I got Sugar on the same night. The fair was such a highlight and Drew enjoyed it as much as we kids did. Before a cart class with Sugar he told me keep those reigns off his butt. I did and I got 1st place. Drew was a wonderful leader for the community.

Annie Muthig Murray - November 12, 2020 at 07:01 PM

GP

“ 1 file added to the album Drew and Family



Gordon D Pattee - November 09, 2020 at 08:58 PM

AP

What a beautiful tribute to your dad. Wonderful memories throughout his years with his loving wife and cherished family.

Annette Porter - November 11, 2020 at 11:17 AM

MM

Very nice tribute to your father, and a selection of those cherished memories you hold dear. Thank you, for sharing a video.

Marilyn M. - November 18, 2020 at 05:35 AM



“ "Dennis and I are so sorry for your loss. He will be greatly missed." Dennis Dilts and Leona Ebert



Leona Ebert - November 07, 2020 at 01:07 PM

DM

“ My husband and I send our deepest condolences to the Patee family. We purchased the house they called home and raised their family in. We are grateful for the beautiful home and are raising our family there also.

Dawn & Jacob Minger

Dawn Minger - November 05, 2020 at 02:15 PM

LG

“ First, sorry for your loss. Drew was a very important person in my life. We worked together at Haentze's flower shop. Back in 1976-1978. He managed the greenhouse and I worked in the flower shop. I was blessed to meet Gordy and Carol when I did the flowers for their wedding in 1977. I was a newly wed back then. And Drew and I became friends right away. I loved cards and the greenhouse crew played Sheepshead every lunch hour. I grew up playing cards but never Sheepshead. So I always hung around and watched. That was 44 years ago. We were family back then and we are family today. One more thing, we bought a Derco trailer back then and we still have it and use it. Just put two new tires on it and the mechanic said it was very well made. Rest in peace, Drew. I love you and your family. Blessings to Verabelle and the rest of the family.

Syl and Linda

Linda and Syl Groeschl - November 05, 2020 at 09:07 AM

ND

“ Drew and Verabelle were the best neighbors anyone could ask for. Because of Drew we started planting pumpkins. They were always there if we needed them. Drew and Verabelle put up with our accumulating of outside items, piles of wood and even our dandelions. Rest in peace Drew. I will keep in contact with Verabelle for you. John & Noreen

Noreen Dux - November 05, 2020 at 08:26 AM

JA

From far away and a very long time ago..I want to offer my condolences. ..As a very young neighbor, I attended Drew and Verabelle's wedding with my family. Verabelle's family, especially her mother Ida and father Earl, were our most beloved neighbors.

Jim Abbs

Jim Abbs - November 07, 2020 at 05:10 PM

CK

Thankyou for the memories you shared with us. Drew and Vera are very special to us. We are sorry to know of Drew's passing. he truly was a great friend to everyone at Hawian Isles. our thanks to you Margie. We will keep in touch with Vera for sure. John and Cathy Kelsey

Cathy Kelsey - November 10, 2020 at 06:54 PM

GP

Last week we lost our Dad...what a wonderful 91 years he had. All the great vacations (winters in FL), Arabian horses, huge gardens (he had a green thumb), a wholesale manager of a green house, co-owner of a manufacturing plant, volunteer fireman, card games and more. Growing up we always had some project going at the Pattee house. He will be missed.

Gordon Pattee - November 12, 2020 at 08:09 AM

MH

I have always remembered Drew Pattee fondly, since meeting his family and himself at 4-H Horse Project events, including the highlight of the Fond du Lac County Fair. What a true genuine, kind, and fair-minded person as our 4-H Horse Project Leader. One of the finest mentors in 4-H. My condolences to his wife, and children who are exceptional people too! And condolences to all the other people in his family. God Bless You Drew Pattee, and Peace Be With You, Always!

Marilyn (with the White Horse). - November 18, 2020 at 05:17 AM