

Jack Donald Sylvester, age 84, of Webb, Iowa, died peacefully on Monday, October 24, 2022 at the Accura Health Care Center in Spirit Lake. He was dearly loved and will be missed by many.

Jack was born to Chris and Margie (Mushrush) Sylvester on November 2, 1937 at Spencer Hospital. He was baptized and confirmed at the Baptist Church in Webb where they lived. Growing up Jack was an avid athlete playing basketball, baseball and running track at Webb High School, graduating class of 1955. Always knowing he would go to college, he attended Iowa State University, a member of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and obtained his bachelor's degree in Agronomy in 1959. Jack married Sandra (Brown) Burnett of Sioux Rapids in 1960. They were blessed with three children Janey, Jill and Tim. They divorced in 1976. Jack then married Connie (Welch) Ransom on August 14, 1977. Connie had two daughters from her previous marriage, Kim and Tami. They blended their families and lived on the farm in Webb raising 5 kids together.

Jack was always very community minded. He was a member of the Air Guard serving his country, a Freemason, a member of the South Clay School Board for several years, Webb City Council member, and Mayor of Webb. He was also an active member of the United Methodist Church in Webb, serving on the board.

He was a career farmer through and through, a man of few words, yet strong, incredibly wise and smart (calculating math in his head very quickly). Jack decided to further his agricultural knowledge by getting his Masters Degree in Agronomy through Iowa State University extension courses as a postgraduate student. He loved farming with a passion, as did his father before him. He said often and fully believed *"If you take care of the land, the land will take care of you."* He grew the usual corn & soybeans, always planted tons of sweet corn (his favorite) and contracted with Jolly Time planting popcorn for a little while. Definitely a Chief Beanwalker, waking his employees (also known as his kids) at dawn during the summer months to hit the fields, rain or shine. On a good day, he let everyone knock off at noon to head for the cabin at Lost Island Lake where boating and water skiing were the reward for a hard days' work. Jack was a beautiful slalom skier, a trickster on the saucer and he loved teaching anyone who wanted to learn. Many fond memories of the lake, the cottage and the large oak tree with the rope & gunny sack bag he rigged so his kids could swing out over the water for a thrilling plunge into the lake.

Jack (and his Dad before him) had a well known passion for vintage tractors, collecting several over the years, starting with an M & a B. He was very partial to RED, so International Harvesters were the focus. He loved personally restoring them to their greatness and exhibiting them at the Clay County Fair or entering tractor rides to take them on the road. It was fun watching him and seeing the pride on his face when restoration was complete.

Throughout his life as a father and grandfather, Jack thoroughly enjoyed being a spectator watching his kids & eventually grandkids play sports. He traveled around to all the games, being a quiet observer for the most part, offering his classic recognizable whistle, or a clap of encouragement here and there. If games were lost, he might offer a casual conversation at home later about what went wrong or how to practice in order to do better. Or simply say, you'll get 'em next time...always proud. He also spent a lot of time supporting his ISU Cyclones by watching, or better yet, going to events at the University - especially during Johnny Orr's basketball coaching years.

As he entered retirement, he and Connie spent several winters in Arizona enjoying the warm weather, playing cards with friends and being social with their neighbors at their trailer park resort. Jeeping off road in the desert with friends or visitors was really fun for him. Enjoying some good Mexican food and a margarita at the end of the day was pretty much a perfect winter day in Arizona. Jack enjoyed a good long life rich with family, faith, friends and experiences that he never took for granted...we should all live by his example.

Those left to cherish Jack's memory include his wife, Connie; children: Janey Goodlaxson (Tom) of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Jill Hamilton of San Diego, California; Tim Sylvester (Mindy) of Webb, Iowa; step daughter: Kim Lawler of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and his beloved grandchildren: Jack & Greta Goodlaxson, Christian, Regan and Madison (Hansen) Sylvester, Myles & Avery Hamilton, Morgan Lawler, Luke & Ryan Rempe.

He was preceded in death by his older brother: Garland Sylvester; parents: Chris & Margie Sylvester; in-laws: Harvey & Lucille Welch; and step-daughter Tami Rempe.

May he be driving his Dodge pickup truck on all the beautiful country roads in heaven, checking his crops, stopping for coffee downtown and some chit chat with his farming friends, tinkering on his tractors...coming home to an endless loop of college basketball games, RFD and old western TV shows. We will dearly miss him, until we meet again.

In Loving Memory



Jack Donald Sylvester

1937 — 2022

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me.*

*I wish you wouldn't cry the way you did today
While thinking of the many things we did not get to say.*

*I know how much you love me as much as I love you.
Each time that you think of me I know you will miss me too.*

*When tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand.*

*The angel said my place was ready in heaven far above
And That I would have to leave behind all those I dearly love,*

*But when I walked through Heaven's Gates I felt so much at home
When God looked down and smiled at me from his golden throne.*

*He said This Is Eternity and All I promised you
Today for life on earth is done, but here it starts anew.*

*I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last
And since each day's the exact same way
there is no longing for the past.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me, do not think we're apart
For every time you think of me remember I'm right here in your heart*

Author David M Romano



We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the many kindnesses evidenced in thought and deed, and for your attendance at this service. Please join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the church immediately following the burial.

— The Family of Jack Donald Sylvester

IN MEMORY OF Jack Donald Sylvester

November 2, 1937 — October 24, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday, October 31, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
Webb, Iowa

OFFICIANTS

Kari Etherington & Charlie Gilmore

EULOGISTS

Jack Goodlaxson & Dick Gilmore

SOLOIST

Carol Banks
“Old Rugged Cross”
“In The Garden”

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“Amazing Grace”
“How Great Thou Art”

PRIVATE INTERMENT

Garfield Cemetery
Webb, Iowa

Arrangements by

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