

Raymond Bertness, age 99, of Sioux Rapids, IA died Friday, November 15, 2019 at St. Luke's Care Center in Spencer.

Raymond, son of Raymond I. Bertness, Sr. and Ina Scott Bertness, was born on his family's farm south of Sioux Rapids on September 13, 1920. He graduated from Sioux Rapids Community High School in 1938, and received his BA from Buena Vista College in 1942.

Ray served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during WWII and participated in the D-Day Normandy Invasion as a "Deception" Battalion level Radio Operator. He was tasked with providing the enemy with false information about normal army operations while bivouacked in England from the 4th of June, 1944, through the 12th of June while the actual D-Day Normandy troop movements were conducted in strict radio silence. It was a diversion designed to keep the Nazi 15th army out of the Cherbourg area while the June 6th invasion took place.

Raymond was united in marriage with Yvonne Petersen from Linn Grove during WWII. After the war, Raymond and Yvonne were teaching school in Rockwell City when Raymond Sr. suffered a minor heart attack, upon which the senior Bertnesses moved into Sioux Rapids and Raymond and Yvonne moved to the farm where Ray took over farming. In addition to farming, he was a Township Assessor for Buena Vista County, an insurance salesman for Buena Vista County Mutual, and had a 34 year career as a sales rep for Garst and Thomas Pioneer Seed corn, eventually turning that business over to his son Marc. Raymond was active in the community, including First Lutheran Church of Sioux Rapids and the Masonic Lodge, where he served several terms as Worshipful Master.

Raymond and Yvonne were the parents of four children: Scott (Nancy) of Des Moines, Jan (Dave) Becker of Melbourne Beach, FL, Marc (Jacki) of Sioux Rapids, and Kevin (Juli) of Batavia, IL. There are four grandchildren: Allison (Dave) Williams of Plymouth, MN, Emily Wieser of West Des Moines, Lizzie Bertness of Chicago, IL, and Katie Bertness with the Peace Corps in Guyana, South America. There are three great-grandchildren: Katya and Max Williams of Plymouth, MN and Henry Wieser of West Des Moines.

He was preceded in death by his brother Philip during WWII, his parents, his wife Yvonne in 2008, and a grandson-in-law (Sean Wieser) this fall. He is survived by his sister Joyce, of Wisconsin Rapids, WI, and sister-in-law Zoe Petersen of Storm Lake, his children, grandchildren, five nephews, great grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends, and his beloved Jack Russell terrier, Lola.

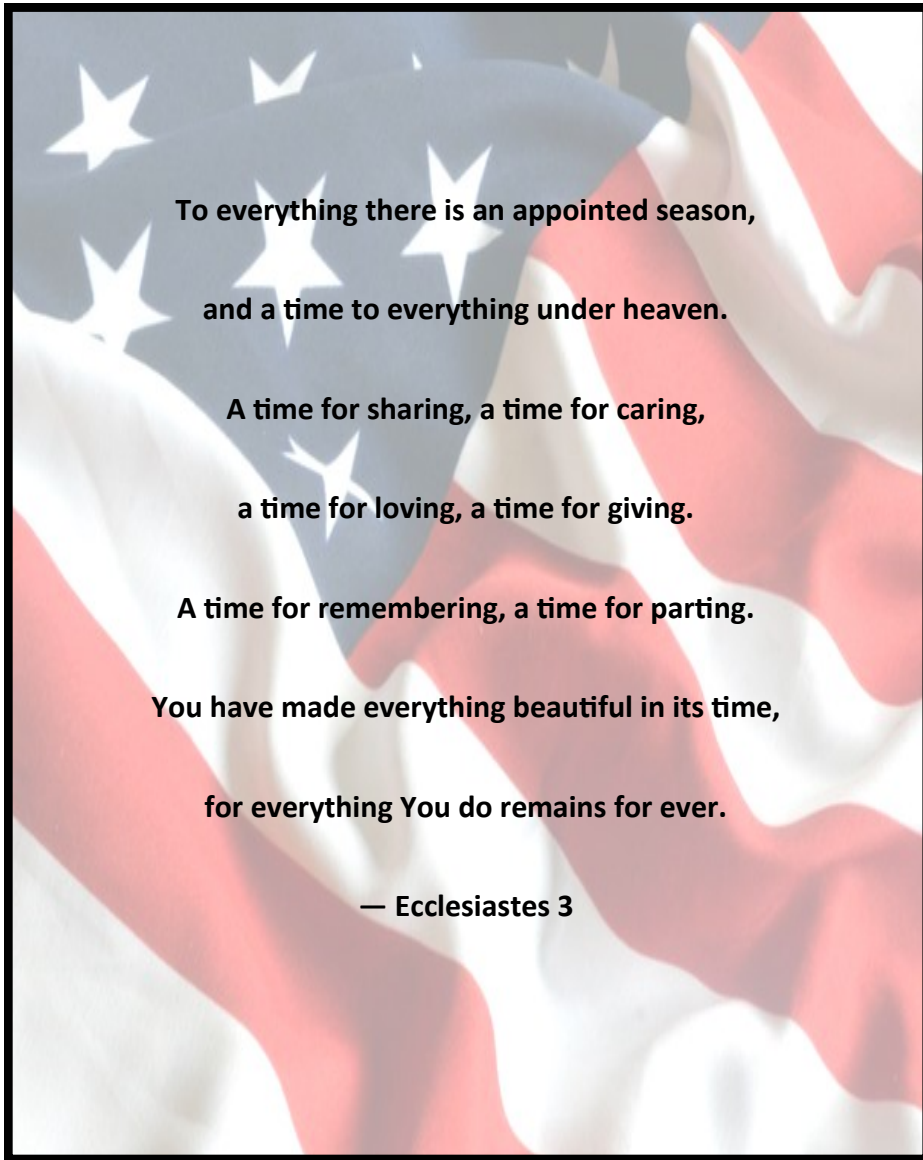
In addition to international travel with Yvonne, he enjoyed time spent at their Arnolds Park cottage and in later years, the Barefoot Bar for lunch. One of his annual milestones, always occurring during his birthday, was attendance at the Clay County Fair, starting when he was three. He only missed four years during his deployment overseas during WWII, so he had attended 92 Fairs, including this past fall on his 99th Birthday.

In Loving Memory



Raymond I. Bertness Jr.

1920 — 2019



To everything there is an appointed season,
and a time to everything under heaven.

A time for sharing, a time for caring,
a time for loving, a time for giving.

A time for remembering, a time for parting.

You have made everything beautiful in its time,
for everything You do remains for ever.

— Ecclesiastes 3

Thank you for the many acts of kindness and your presence at this service. You are welcome to join us for refreshments and a time of fellowship at the church immediately following the service.

— The Family of Raymond Bertness

IN MEMORY OF Raymond I. Bertness Jr.

September 13, 1920 — November 15, 2019

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church — Sioux Rapids, Iowa

CLERGY

Pastor Tonna Parsons

PIANIST

Lourene Vail

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rodd Holtkamp

Rita Schau

“The Navy Hymn”

“The Lord’s Prayer”

“It’s A Wonderful World”

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Allison Williams, Emily Wieser, Lizzie Bertness
Katie Bertness, Katya Williams, Max Williams, Henry Wieser

FULL MILITARY RITES

Sioux Rapids American Legion

INTERMENT

Private family committal services at a later date.
Lone Tree Cemetery — Sioux Rapids, Iowa

Arrangements by

SLIEFERT FUNERAL HOMES

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