



Orville Ray Kooistra was born to John and Fannie (Kempema) Kooistra on January 23, 1944, in LeMars, Iowa. He was raised in rural Rock Valley, Iowa and graduated from Rock Valley High School.

Orv met his future wife, Una Kay Shefstad, in Orange City, Iowa, and they were married on March 23, 1964, at Peace Lutheran Church in Marcus, Iowa. Together, they raised two daughters, Tamara and Lynn in Rock Valley.

Orv spent more than 56 years as a machinist at Total Component Solutions in Rock Valley, formerly Kooima Machine Works and Hayes-Albion, before retiring in 2020. He was a faithful, loyal employee who considered many of his close work friends to be family.

Outside of work, Orv enjoyed riding his motorcycle along country roads with Kay by his side and taking short trips with cycle friends. He loved spending time with his three grandsons, giving them rides, attending their music and sporting events, and listening to his record collection. Grandpa always had music playing, especially Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Waylon Jennings. And, of course, Dad was always ready with a good joke and a smile. He often said, "You gotta have fun, and you gotta laugh!"

Orv's red Thunderbird convertible was one of his favorite hobbies. Proud of "The Bird," he cared for it lovingly and enjoyed giving rides to neighbors and family.

Those who knew Dad will remember his hilarious sense of humor and quick wit, generous spirit, and wisdom. He showed remarkable courage, strength, and deep faith, especially during his health challenges later in life. He was a true fighter and a lasting example of perseverance, hope and peace. Dad was a man of much contentment and knew Jesus gave him everything he needed in this life. He was a true man of God.

Orv and Kay were members of First Christian Reformed Church and later Faith Reformed Church.

Orv will be lovingly remembered by his family including two daughters, Tami (Mike) Elbers of Rock Valley, Iowa and Lynn (Michael) Lutz of Bucyrus, Kansas; Three grandsons, Ryan (Josie) Elbers and their children, Alejandra, Brandon and Dempsey; Matt (Jackie) Elbers and their children, Jaylee and Laina; and Nate (Paige) Elbers and their children, Piper, Paisley, Navey and Crew; sister, Mary Van Zanten; brother, Erwin (Alma) Kooistra; sisters-in-law, Linda Shefstad and Carol Kooistra; and many nieces, nephews and wonderful friends.

Preceding Orv in death were his parents, John and Fannie; wife, Kay; brothers, John and Ken Kooistra; sister-in-law, Jeanette Kooistra; and brothers-in-law, Berdene Shefstad and John Van Zanten.

# *Remembering the Life of* **Orville Ray Kooistra**

*January 23, 1944 ~ July 26, 2026*

## **FUNERAL SERVICE**

11:00 AM, Saturday, August 1, 2026  
Faith Reformed Church  
Rock Valley, Iowa

## **OFFICIATING**

Pastor Chris Van Beek

## **PIANIST**

Vicky Kooistra

## **CONGREGATIONAL SONGS**

*"Amazing Grace"*

*"It is Well with My Soul"*

*"Victory In Jesus"*

*"Til We Meet Again"*

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Peace in the Valley"*

Elvis Presley

## **CASKET BEARERS**

Mike Elbers ~ Michael Lutz

Ryan Elbers ~ Matt Elbers ~ Nate Elbers

Brandon Elbers ~ Dempsey Elbers

## **HONORARY BEARERS**

Orv's Great-Grandchildren

Alejandra Elbers ~ Jaylee Elbers ~ Laina Elbers

Paisley Elbers ~ Piper Elbers ~ Navey Elbers ~ Crew Elbers

## **INTERMENT**

Valley View Cemetery  
Rock Valley, Iowa

*Orv's family would like to invite everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the Family Life Center at Faith Reformed Church following the committal service at the cemetery.*

# *When Peace, Like a River*

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;*

*When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;*

*Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,*

*“It is well, it is well with my soul.”*

*And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,*

*The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,*

*The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend;*

*Even so it is well with my soul.*

— Horatio G. Spafford



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