

Remember Him

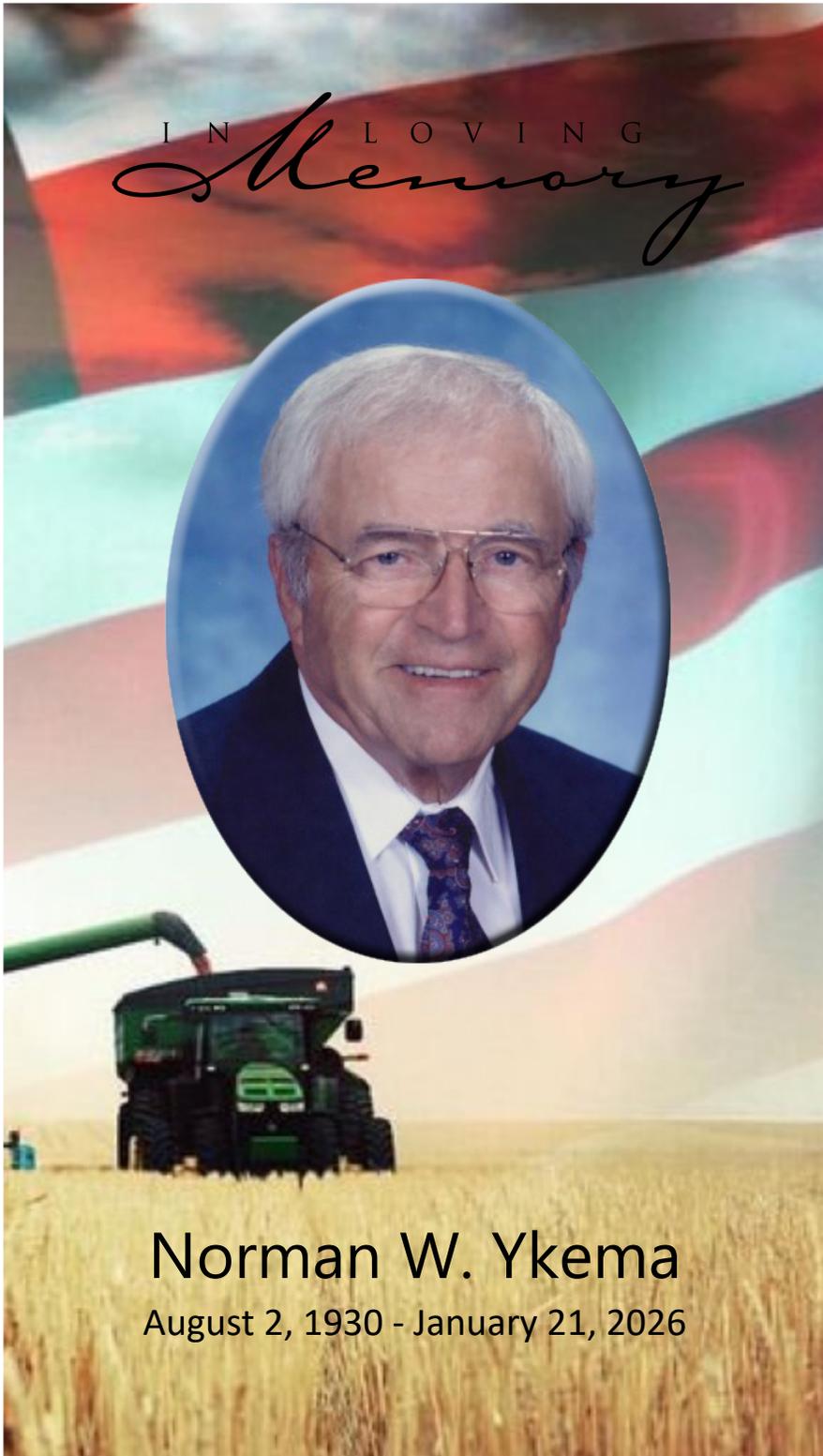
Remember.... with a smile today
He was not one for tears.
Reflect instead on memories
Of all the happy years

Recall to mind the way he spoke
And all the things he said
His strength
His stance,
The way he walked
Remember these instead.

The good advice he'd give us
His eyes that shone with laughter.
So much of him will never die
But live on ever after

As we loved you so we miss you.
In our memory you are near
Loved,
Remembered,
Longed for always
Bringing many a silent tear.

Arrangements Entrusted To
Hartquist Funeral Home



IN LOVING
Memory



Norman W. Ykema

August 2, 1930 - January 21, 2026

Norman "Norm" Wesley Ykema was born August 2, 1930 to Henry and Jennie (Hoekstra) Ykema on the family farm in Sioux County, Iowa. He was raised 9 miles northeast of Hawarden, Iowa and attended Pleasant Hill Country School through the 8th grade. Norm went to work on the family farm with the crops and livestock. On October 19, 1951 Norm married Evelyn Van Egdome at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. The newlyweds rented a house a couple of miles from his parents' home place. On November 20, 1952 Norm was drafted by the United States Army and reported to Camp Gordon near Augusta, Georgia. He served two years during the Korean War attaining the rank of Private First Class and spent the last 8 months of his service stationed in Germany. Norm was honorably discharged on November 1, 1954 and returned to Evelyn and worked for a local farmer for a year before striking out and farming on his own. After 8 years of farming the family moved to Luverne, Minnesota and Norm began working at MID (Minnesota, Iowa, Dakotas) Packing Co. which later became Iowa Beef Packers (IBP). During his 30-year career there he worked in nearly every department. Norm retired from IBP in January of 1993. Being a farmer at heart, Norm then went to work part-time on the farm of Milo Fodness. In 2005 Milo died and Norm went to work for Greenview at the Adrian rest area where he worked until 2014. On February 25, 2021 Evelyn preceded Norm in death. Norm passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne, at the age of 95 years, five months and 19 days.

Norm was a member of the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne, Minnesota and the Dell Hogan American Legion Post 123. Traveling was of huge interest to Norm. In the earlier years, he and Evelyn traveled through much of the United States and explored the National Parks. In their later years, they enjoyed sitting back and letting someone else drive as they took bus trips. Some of his favorite vacations were their Hawaiian cruise, visiting Niagara Falls and taking in the history of New York City and Washington D.C. Above all else, Norm loved spending time with his family. He relished birthdays, holidays and any and all reasons to get together as a family. Norm also liked to attend small town performing arts programs and his grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's musical performances and sporting events.

He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Brenda and her husband Gary Barrett of St. Joseph, Minnesota; five grandchildren, Jennifer (Shawn) Groen, Sheryl (Kyle) Remme, Brian (Jody) Moss, Micah (Jeanine) Barrett, and Jordan (Morgan) Barrett; nine great-grandchildren, Jonathan (Hannah) Moss and Mya Moss, Emma and Sophie Groen, Blaycie and Emersyn Remme, Roger and Nora Barrett, and Mara Barrett. Norm was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn; parents, Henry and Jennie; infant son, Norwyn; daughter, Noreen Moss; five brothers and their spouses, August (Hermina) Ykema, Tony (Wanda) Ykema, Bernard Ykema, Lawrence (Lois) Ykema and Melvin (Wilmina) Ykema; and three sisters and their spouses, Joyce (John) Feenstra, Madelyn (Paul) Wallinga and Anita (Henry) Van Maanen.

In Loving Memory

Norman "Norm" W. Ykema



Funeral Service

Monday, January 26, 2026 - 10:30 AM
Christian Reformed Church - Luverne, Minnesota

Officiating - Pastor Joe Steenholdt

Scripture Readings

Philippians 4:8-9 Isaiah 28:26, 29
Deuteronomy 11:13-15 II Corinthians 9:10

Organist

Phyllis Vos

Congregational Hymns

"Abide with Me" - Psalter #470
"How Great Thou Art" - S.O.P. #54

Special Music

Micah, Jeanine, Roger & Nora Barrett

"Call It Dreaming" - As recorded by Iron & Wine
"Homeward Bound" - As recorded by Marta Keen

Casket Bearers

Shawn Groen Kyle Remme
Brian Moss Micah Barrett
Jordan Barrett Jonathan Moss
Roger Barrett

Interment

Maplewood Cemetery - Luverne, Minnesota

Following the committal service, friends are invited to join the family in the church's fellowship hall for food & fellowship.