



Celebrating THE *Life* OF
Vernard L. Brown

MARCH 20, 1930 – FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Services At:

Evangelical Free Church - Morris, Minnesota
Monday - February 16, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Officiating Clergy:

Pastor Hector Franco, Pastor Mike Sager

Readers:

Scott Brown

Family Remembrances:

Josh Love, Ashley Brant

Musician:

Sue Gartland

Soloist:

Gary Strei, *Accompanied by*, Lois Strei

Pallbearers:

Vern's Grandsons:

Scott Brown, Tyler Nelson, Brandon Brown, Chris Nelson
Adam Love, Jordan Brown, Josh Love, Braden Brown

Honorary Pallbearers:

Vern's Granddaughters:

Stephanie Mestery, Amanda Kieper, Ashley Brant, Brooke Nelson

Interment:

Summit Cemetery - Morris, Minnesota

If these walls could talk,
They would speak of a man
Who has worked with *great heart*
To accomplish his plan.

They'd speak of the times
That he's prayed in the night
For the strength to go on
And to **DO WHAT IS RIGHT**

They'd speak of sweet moments,
Of laughter and fun,
The times with his children,
His *love* for each one.

Oh, if they could talk,
It would be just the start
Of a story of love,

A GREAT MAN & HIS HEART

Vernard Lee Brown, 95, of Morris, MN, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 5, 2026, at Skyview Plaza, surrounded by family. He was born on March 20, 1930, one of eight children, to Erschel and Helen (Brown) Brown on a farm near Hancock, MN.

Vern attended high school in Hancock, where he excelled in his studies and met the love of his life, Barbara Schmidgall. The two were married in December of 1950 and together, they were blessed with five children: Kathy, Gary, LeAnn, Dale, and Mark. In 1963, the couple settled in Morris where Vern began working on the maintenance staff at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Having grown up on a farm, Vern was no stranger to hard work and eventually moved up to the position of Director of General Services, until his retirement in 1996. While work was an important part of Vern's life, even more important to him was family, plus always staying active and busy.

Vern had the mind of an engineer and needed to understand the "how's" and "why's" of everything. He was a man of significant intelligence, able to fit a square peg into a round hole. Besides this he was a calm, gentle, nurturing man to both family and friends. He was sought out by many for his guidance, always listening calmly, often sharing his personal experiences, and humbly offering support and advice.

Vern leaves behind many cherished memories in the hearts of his family and friends; such as the week-long vacations at Alexandria lake cabins, trips to Branson, and being present for his grandchildren's activities and milestones. He and Barb hosted many elaborate holiday gatherings where the table was filled with food and everyone felt welcomed and cherished. Vern and Barb took on many home remodeling projects which utilized his vast carpentry and handyman skills and problem-solving abilities. Vern was also a man of great faith; he loved studying the Bible and enjoyed volunteering at the Evangelical Free church where he assisted with the sound system, pitched in on special events, and served as a Deacon.

While Vern may no longer be physically on this earth to guide his family and friends, he leaves behind the legacy of his example: respectfulness, kindness, patience, humility and faith.

Vern's wife, Barb, passed away in February of 2024 and Vern remained at Skyview until his passing where both were loved by staff and residents. We find peace in knowing Vern and Barb have been reunited and just as they walked through life together, the couple's remains will be laid to rest at the same time at Summit cemetery in Morris at a later date in the Spring.

May God Bless the Memory of Vernard Lee Brown.

Left to mourn Vern's passing are his children: Kathy Brown (Judd Nelson) of Wayzata, Gary (Julene) Brown of Fargo, ND, LeAnn (Jermaine) McGee of Brooklyn Park, Dale (Michelle) Brown of Normal, IL, Mark (Tami) Brown of Minnetrista; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; siblings: Don Brown, Carol Lundebrek, Janice Swenson, Lorraine Hanson, and LuVerne Brown; brother and sister-in-law's; as well as many other relatives. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Brown; his parents Erschel and Helen; brothers, LeRoy and Raymond; and numerous other family members.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Skyview for their amazing care, and additionally the staff of Vivie Hospice who filled his last days with comfort and peace.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation made in honor of Vernard to Skyview Plaza, to Vivie Hospice or a charity of your choice.



Please use this QR Code to access
Vern's online guestbook and tribute video.

Pedersen
Funeral & Cremation Service

