

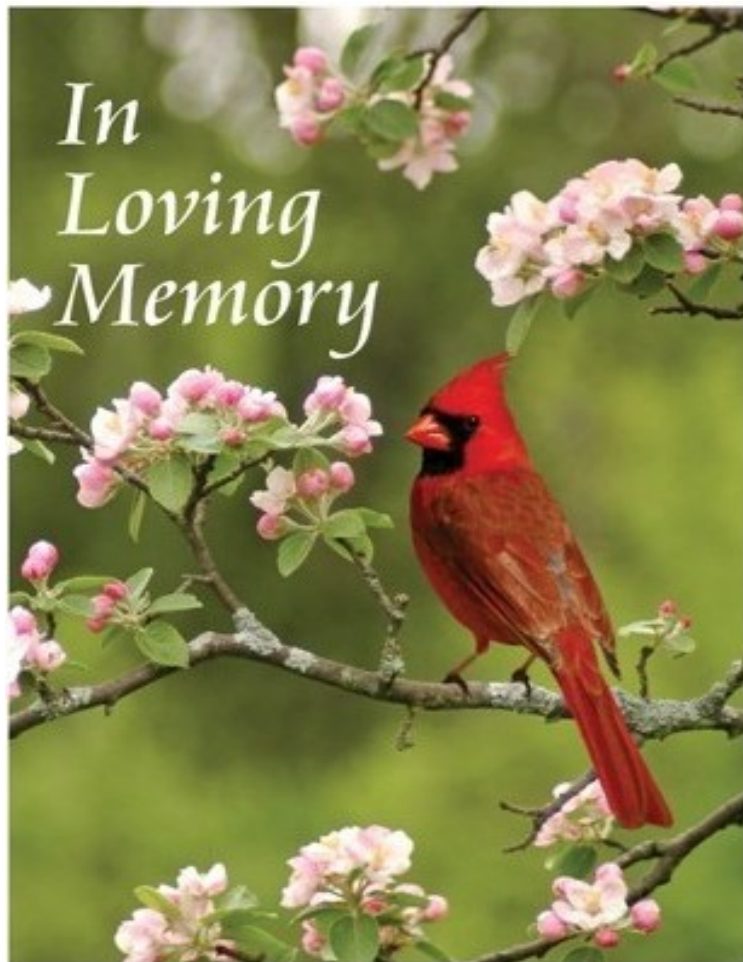
**Paul Conrad Stennes** of New Richland, Minnesota, passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. He was 97 years old. Paul was born on September 10, 1928, on the family farm in New Richland Township to Peder and Clara (Iverson) Stennes. He grew up in the New Richland area and attended country school through eighth grade, where he learned several different national languages. He worked hard on the family farm with his two sisters.

Paul was a lifelong resident of New Richland, knew everything about the community, and helped out any way he could. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church and remained a lifelong member.

He enlisted in the U.S. Marines and served in the Korean War, was honorably discharged, returned to the area, and worked several jobs until he opened his own business, Stennes Garage. On December 22, 1953, he married Blossom Lafayette where he met at the Castletoma Dance Hall in Alma City. Paul started the New Richland Snowbirds snowmobile club in the early 1970s, where he designed, groomed, and repaired snowmobiles. He did custom farm work for years, did lumberjacking, enjoyed stock car racing, Tractor pulling, fishing, and snowmobiling. His final venture was working as a bus mechanic for NRHEG High School until his retirement. Paul attended the Clay County Fair for 67 years, missing only during COVID. He was well known everywhere he went. He was a member of the Waseca VFW Sweet Summers Post 1642 and the New Richland American Legion Post 75. He enjoyed camping and spending time with his family and friends. Paul was outspoken, opinionated, and motivated. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and by those who heard the stories of his life.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Blossom; his children: Roger (Lee) Stennes, Pete (Jane) Stennes, Betty Berg, Chico "Brian" Stennes, and Beth (Rick) O'Brien; grandchildren: Misty (Christopher) Kaiser, Nakia (Janelle) Berg, Sonny Berg, Caitlyn and Ashley O'Brien, Ronald (Carla) Stennes, Steven (Irene) Stennes, Jennifer Thorson, Abraham Smith and Selena Smith; and by several great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren and by other loved ones and friends.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; his sons, Steven and Paul Jr. "Bozo"; his sisters, Isabel (Dick) Frisk and Hazel (Harvey) Thompson; and a baby brother.



## **I'M FREE**

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joy,  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief,  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now; He set me free.*

*In Loving Memory*

## ***Paul Conrad Stennes***

September 10, 1928 – August 30, 2026

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

11:30 a.m. – Thursday, September 3, 2026  
Trinity Lutheran Church – New Richland, MN

### **OFFICIANT**

Pastor Peg Marose

### **ORANGIST**

Samuel Christensen

### **HYMNS**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
On Eagle's Wings  
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

### **CASKET BEARERS**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Nick Berg    | Andrew Stennes  |
| Sonny Berg   | Jarrett Stennes |
| Misty Kaiser | Ron Stennes     |

### **HONORARY CASKET BEARER**

Ashley O'Brien

### **BURIAL**

Saint Olaf Cemetery - New Richland, Minnesota

### **MILITARY HONORS**

Waseca VFW Post 1642

New Richland American Legion Post 75

*All are invited to a luncheon at the church.*

Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home — Albert Lea, MN  
[www.bayviewfuneral.com](http://www.bayviewfuneral.com)