



Wilbur J. Kienstra

July 31, 1918 - December 11, 2011

Wilbur J. Kienstra, 93, died at 11:40 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2011 at No. 1 McKnight Place in Ladue, Mo. He was born July 31, 1918 in Alton, the son of Joseph C. and Myrtle (Trampe) Kienstra. In 1916 his father, Joseph, founded Kienstra Brothers Coal, Feed, and Ice Company. In high school he delivered coal after classes. In 1940, Wilbur joined his father in business and subsequently transformed the company into a successful ready-mix and concrete block enterprise. He retired as President and CEO of Kienstra, Inc. in Wood River in 1986. He married Ruth L. Hoehn on August 13, 1941 in Mitchell, IL. She preceded him in death on February 6, 2011. He is survived by a daughter; Ann Rita Cooper and her husband Tim of Alton, two sons; Chris Kienstra of Alton and Dr. Randy Kienstra and his wife Jan of Brays Island, S.C., seven grandchildren; Dr. Matthew Kienstra (Kristie), Christopher McNeill (Alisa), Dr. Andrew Kienstra (Kirsten), Carrie O'Brien (Chris), Ryan Munro (Tory), Cam Pope (Jason) and Mady Kienstra, thirteen great grandchildren, and one sister; Kathleen Kienstra of Alton. Wilbur thoroughly enjoyed all facets of life. He was fortunate to maintain his autonomy and independence for most of his 93 years. He was a great family man, father, grandfather and friend. As a father his unconditional love was obvious placing our needs and welfare as his highest priority. He had the innate desire to provide us the means to not only succeed, but excel. We knew there was nothing he would not do for us. As a grandfather, he may be matched, but never surpassed. His caring and playful approach was sensed by all of his grandchildren. They

would look forward to seeing him and would actively seek his companionship. There was never reluctance but only great anticipation to pay him a visit. Wilbur had a dynamic personality, wonderful sense of humor, charisma, and a real and genuine enjoyment of people. He was a “fun” companion, easy to like, and great to engage in conversation. These attributes combined with his loyalty and sincerity enabled him to develop and sustain life-long friendships. Wilbur lived a distinguished and exemplary life. He was a member of SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Alton where a private family mass will be held with Father Steve Pohlman to officiate. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Marquette Catholic High School or the 5 A's Animal Shelter.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Wilbur J. Kienstra*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Wilbur J. Kienstra*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *my sincerest condolences to the Kienstra Family, Wilbur was the best boss I have ever worked for in my life. He never looked down on us as a lesser class butt rather a part of the co.may he rest in peace with God now.*

George Foraker - December 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Kienstra family: please accept my condolences. This year has been a difficult one for you. I always appreciated your father waving to me - and sometimes stopping to talk with me while I was working in my mother's yard. I shall miss Mr. Kienstra. My prayers will include him and all of you.*

V.J. Dickson - December 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Wilbur was always a good friend and counselor to us at the airport, Premier air center He loved flying.*

SUSIE & RICK MRKACEK - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Our sincerest condolences to the Kienstra Family..A great business man and a very good friend ...I missed seeing him at 10:00 mass on Sunday mornings

Jim Hernandez & Family - December 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Good by old friend, I'm so glad that I got to know you over the years. You are just one of those special people that have touched my life; you will be for every missed. Doug Buehl, Pequot Lakes, Mn.

Doug Buehl - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Our deepest sympathy. There was never a better gentleman . Wilbur was like a second father to me, He will surely be missed by all.

Milton Kupferer - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. We feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to know Wilbur. A wonderful down-to-earth man has taken flight on new wings. God bless your family during this difficult time. You are in our prayers.

Tim, Cheryl & Zachary Reynolds

Tim, Cheryl & Zachary Reynolds - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *Rita, Randy, and Chris: So sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I have fond memories of your family.*”

Jan Martin (Filardo) - December 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM