



Dennis Barkela

October 6, 1951 - October 21, 2022

Dennis Barkela, 71, celebrated entry into his heavenly home on October 21, 2022, at the Rockwell Community Nursing Home in Rockwell, Iowa where he was a resident for several months.

Visitation will be Monday, October 24, 2022 at First Grace Baptist Church, Sheffield from 5-7pm. A private family interment will take place at a later date.

Dennis was born on October 6, 1951 to John and Clara Barkela. He graduated from Sheffield-Chapin High School in 1970 and it was during this time he met his future wife, Julie Rust. He continued his education for a short time at Iowa State University in Farm Management.

Dennis enlisted into the Army National Guard in 1971, receiving his training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

He returned home to farm with his father, John, on the family farm. At this time Dennis and Julie were united in marriage on April 7, 1973, at the First Baptist Church in Sheffield. Their ceremony ushered in the epic April blizzard of '73.

Dennis and Julie started their life together on a farm southeast of Sheffield. Two children were born to this union. He started farming and found nothing more beautiful than a herd of cows grazing in a green pasture. Dennis had

many jobs; farmer, Manager of Two Rivers Forklift, Mason City; Superintendent of Ackley Packing Plant, and owning his own forklift repair business, DJ Lift and Service.

Dennis was a life-long member of First Grace Baptist Church in Sheffield. Here he served as an elder, deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 49 years: Julie, one son: Chad (Deborah) Barkela of Sheffield, Iowa and one daughter: Jenny (Trent) Reicks of Ankeny, Iowa; five grandsons: Brady Barkela, Briley Barkela, Blake Barkela, Tyler Reicks, Owen Reicks; two sisters: Marilyn (Eldon) Grarup of Sheffield, Iowa, and Nancy (Richard) Umsted of Denver, Colorado; sister-in-law: Annette (Justin) Lohrbach; brothers-in-law: Ron (Diane) Rust, Martin Rust. Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, John and Clara Barkela.

Counsell Woodley Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Sheffield is caring for Dennis and his family.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery

Sheffield, IA 50475

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Grace Baptist Church
404 E Gilman St
Sheffield, IA 50475

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Dennis was a great friend with a constant natural smile. Though we did not see much of each other in recent years, I enjoyed spending the years of spiritual, physical and emotional formation with Dennis, usually connected with (First) Grace Baptist Church. The memories are great! We extend our support to and prayers for Julie and the rest of the family left here on earth . . . and we'll see Dennis again!

Dan Schoepf - October 31, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dennis Barkela.



October 23, 2022 at 06:06 PM

BK

“ I have such great memories of growing up with Dennis both in church and school. As kids, he would often invite me to spend time with him at his farm on Sunday afternoons. We would shoot pigeons with BB guns in the barn or play in the creek and have great fun together. I cherish our friendship and am saddened at his illness and passing. I am so grateful for his faith and God's promises that sustain us all as we remember our dear friend and colleague.

Bruce Koenigsberg - October 23, 2022 at 05:50 PM

JW

“ I was so sorry to learn of Dennis’ passing, Julie. I’m sure you have lots of great memories that will comfort you in the days ahead. 🙏

Jan (Alden) Wierson

JAN WIERSON - October 23, 2022 at 01:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis Barkela.*



October 23, 2022 at 10:21 AM

NS

“ *He was a great storyteller ,, so enjoyed laughing with him, he had many adventures in this life. God Bless you my friend.*

Nofrene Schwierjohann - October 23, 2022 at 08:03 AM