



# LaVern L. Hanke

SEP 28, 1932 - DEC 9, 2017



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AJ   
HOLLY & SONS

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## **LaVern L. Hanke**

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**L**aVern Leroy Hanke died on December 9, 2017 at the Wisconsin Veterans Home - King, WI where he received care for the prior two years at Ainsworth Hall 1. LaVern was born September 28, 1932 on the Hanke family farm in rural Marathon County, WI, the son of William and Elsie (Haehlke) Hanke. He attended grades 1-4 at Mitchell Grade School near the family farm. His parents moved to the Little Chicago area and he attended the LaFollette School for Grades 5-6. After the death of his mother, Elsie in 1944, his family moved to Wausau and he attended the Trinity Lutheran School for grades 7 and 8 where he was Confirmed in 1946. He attended Wausau East High School and graduated in 1950. He worked at the Curtis Wood Co. in Wausau from 1950-51. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in February 1952 and served honorably for four years including time served in North Africa as a payroll clerk for his unit as a Staff Sergeant. LaVern began his post high school education with financial assistance from the GI Bill at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and graduated in 1959 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. While a student at the university, LaVern met his future wife, Janet Louise Woller; they were married August 6, 1960 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Berlin, Marathon County, WI. After graduation, he worked as Probation and Parole Employee in Eau Claire County. LaVern continued his Education at the University of Wisconsin -Madison, moved to Beaver Dam and worked part time at the State Prison in Waupun and graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Work. In 1962, they moved to Waupaca, WI where LaVern continued work as a State Probation and Parole Agent in Waupaca, Shawano and Waushara Counties. In 1966, LaVern accepted a position as the first director of social services at the Wisconsin Veterans in King, WI. Lavern and Jan's first son, Paul, was born October 16, 1961 in Beaver Dam, WI. A daughter, Rebecca, was born on December 5, 1962 and a second son, Aaron, was born on May 8, 1964 in Waupaca, WI. The family first rented a home on Shadow Road and



## Obituary

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then purchased a home located at 1206 Royalton St. In 1972 they purchased a home located at 111 E Junction St. They moved for a period of time to a staff home located at the Wisconsin Veterans Home after LaVern's promotion in 1978 to the position of Deputy Commandant. After renting the home for a period of some years, the family moved back into the home on Junction St. where Jan currently resides. LaVern served on the Waupaca City Council, Police and Fire Commission and Lions Club where he received the Melvin Jones Fellow and Birch-Strum Fellowship awards. He was a long time member of Trinity Lutheran Church, a charter member of the German Club, Pommerscher Verein, the American Legion, the VFW and Amvets. LaVern was a long time member of the Waupaca Curling Club and enjoyed 'bonspieling' in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Canada. He also liked to fish, golf, play softball and hunt; he was one of the original members of the Buck Horn Hunting Lodge in the northern woods of Lincoln County.

He is survived by his wife, Janet (Jan), oldest son, Paul, Eau Claire, WI, Daughter, Rebecca Austin (Dean Postings), Freedom, WI and son, Aaron (Denise) Hanke, Waupaca, eight grandchildren, Alex (fiancée, Brittany) Hanke, Tyler Hanke, Brett Hanke, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hanke, Michael Austin, Holly Austin, Ryan Austin and Logan Austin-Postings and brother-in-law, Emil Braatz. He is preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother Flora (Stuplich) Hanke and sisters JoAnne (Dorian) Schmidt and Verona Braatz.

A special thanks to the staff and Pastor Wayne Schwanke at the Wisconsin Veterans Home for their exceptional care and spiritual guidance, Holly's Funeral Home and the Trinity Lutheran Church.

A visitation will be held at the Holly Funeral Home located at 526 S Main St, Waupaca, WI 54981 on Sunday, December 17, 2017 from 1- 4 pm . A funeral will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 206 Badger St, Waupaca, WI 54981 on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 11:00 am with viewing at 10:00. Military rites will follow the services. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in LaVern's name.



# Events


**LaVern L. Hanke**

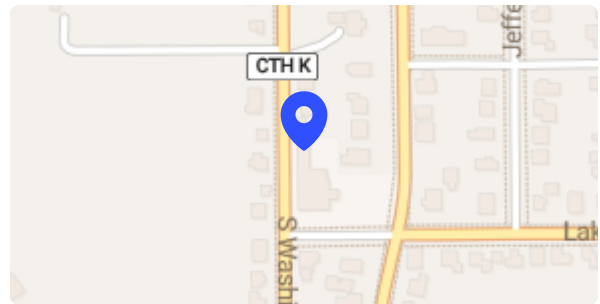
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## Visitation

 **Sunday**, December 17, 2017

 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT


 **A. J. Holly & Sons (Waupaca)**  
526 S. Main St, Waupaca WI 54981



## Visitation


 **Monday**, December 18, 2017

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT

 **Trinity Lutheran Church**  
206 East Badger Street, Waupaca WI 54981


## Funeral Service

 **Monday**, December 18, 2017

 11:00 AM CT

 **Trinity Lutheran Church**  
206 East Badger Street, Waupaca WI 54981

## Cemetery Details

 **Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery**  
N2665 County Road QQ, King WI 54946



# Tribute Wall

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**Phil Voights** posted:

Vern's love for our Veterans was evident in the way he conducted his job. It was a pleasure to be a part of the great team he helped put together. RIP Vern. Phil Voights, retired LPN

December 18 at 4:18 AM



**Bill Crowley** posted:

Vern Hanke was a great man. And great friend to me and to many. The positive impact he had on the quality and enjoyment of life for his fellow veterans, and their families, was priceless. Just a great great man. Bill Crowley 18th Commandant Wisconsin Veterans Home at King

December 16 at 4:11 PM



**John Stratton** posted:

Truly one of the nicest persons I have known. I know where he is now Hope Jan is doing ok! I will sign off with In turn, out turn, Sweep sweep sweep! John

December 16 at 7:58 AM



**Dave Adamczyk - Michigan Claims** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Hanke family.



December 15 at 8:03 AM



**Joan Pogrant** posted:

We are so sorry to hear of Vern's passing. He was a very friendly caring man. Since we are now in Arizona we will be unable to attend his services. Please accept our condolences and know he is in a better place. Dave and Joan Pogrant

December 14 at 4:32 PM



**Julie Motiff** lit a candle in honor of LaVern.



December 14 at 9:21 AM



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DS

**Dennis Salter** posted:

Our sincerest love and sympathies to you Jan, and your family. Vern was a man of love and honor. We are praying that Jesus will surround you and embrace you with His tender mercies and love as you say goodbye to Vern. Dennis and Bette Salter

December 14 at 6:24 AM

PS

**Paula Selvig** posted:

Jan and family, My sympathy to you as you say goodbye to this man you loved so much. May God's peace be with you as you celebrate a life well lived - making a difference in the lives of many. Paula (Salter) Selvig

December 14 at 4:10 AM

RS

**Ron & Marion Snyder** lit a candle in honor of LaVern.



December 14 at 12:45 AM

MS

**Marion Snyder** December 14 at 12:58 AM

So sorry to hear about my step cousin LaVern. Our deepest sympathy to Jan and the Family. He was a good example of kindness. Prayers for the family - Marion S.

TW

**Todd Woller** posted:

Aunt Jan, So sorry for your loss. We are praying for you and your family for comfort. Had a lot of memories of you and uncle Vern at all the yearly reunions and Christmas's. It was a lot of fun for me when I was a youngster to come visit your home for a week in the summer month's to play with my cousins. We will miss him a lot! He was a great man! Love Todd and Lana Woller

December 13 at 10:45 PM

BS

**Bob Scott** posted:

To Jan and family, our hearts are with you at this time of sorrow. I have fond memories of my curling adventures with Vern and Paul. Bob Scott, Eau Claire.

December 12 at 10:24 AM



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**Dennis Boll** posted:

A man I tried to emulate. Kind, thoughtful, caring, fair minded sensitive to others needs. He will be missed. My condolences to Jan and family!

December 12 at 7:09 AM



**Bill Neuman** posted:

Jan;So sorry to read of Vern's passing. I had so many wonderful times with Vern fishing, golfing, Nomads activities. He was just a very kind, decent wonderful person, I'm so happy to have known him over the years. He will be fondly remembered.Nancy & Bill Neuman

December 12 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Hanke family.



December 12 at 3:40 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring LaVern by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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