



Carl Burdette Swartz

May 23, 1932 - January 27, 2024

Carl Burdette Swartz, 91, of Laporte Colorado left this earthly life on Saturday, January 27th and went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Carl was born May 23rd, 1932 in Waterloo, Iowa to Spencer John and Eva Bell (Swartzell) Swartz. He was the fifth of seven children. Quite the “grappler”, Carl wrestled at East High School, never letting his size keep him from facing any battle. He kept that same mindset after he was sent a greeting from his friends and neighbors (AKA the draft) requesting his enlistment in the military. He joined the army and served as a radioman during the Korean War. While in that country, he volunteered for a special mission, was wounded by enemy fire, and was awarded a purple heart for his bravery and sacrifice. After his tour of duty was over, he settled in Chicago Heights, Illinois. It was there that he met the daughter of his best friend and married her on October 13th, 1956. He and Nellie (Calkins) began a love story that would last 68 years.

From Chicago Heights, they moved to Roscommon, Michigan. In 1962, the couple packed their car, along with sons Russell and John, and moved to Colorado. There a daughter Carla would complete the family. Carl worked hard to provide for them, at one point even working 4 jobs to make ends meet. In 1969 he was hired by Sterling Sand and Gravel where he was a loader operator and made “little rocks out of big ones” until his retirement in 1997. The company by then was called Western Mobile. Retirement was a challenge because he had always had a job, so he turned to woodworking. He enjoyed

the hours spent in his shop creating things for family and friends. But his greatest hobby would always be simply spending time with his Darlin' Nell. His love for her was strong and unwavering, making a wonderful example for all who knew him.

In 1962, Carl gave his life to Christ and would remain steadfast in his faith for the rest of his life. He lived as a godly example wherever he was, even if it cost him to do the right thing. He loved going and serving in his local church. For over 28 years, he was the greeter at the Free Methodist Church, welcoming everyone who came in the door. He learned everyone's name and did his best to make all feel like they were noticed and wanted. It was this job that he especially treasured. In later years he would attend Timberline Church. Carl's family was so important to him. He loved his children and was proud of the people they grew up to be. He welcomed their spouses as his own. When grandchildren arrived, his heart grew even softer. He would often fill his pockets with candy and make trips through any drive through if he thought one of them was hungry. In the days when boys still favored close cropped hair, Carl served as the barber for extended family, giving many a crew cut in his kitchen. He would reward their patience and ability to sit still by giving them all a sucker, and they all in turn loved "Carl Fella".

Though dementia would descend on his life and take away dreams of travel and togetherness, Carl's easy smile and teasing nature was never lost. Nellie cared for him at home until his final weeks when he went to stay at Aspens Memory Care. The loving staff there looked after him until the end. The family appreciates everyone at Aspens and with Bristol Hospice who were so kind and helpful during the most difficult time.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Charles, Bernice, Beverly, Leroy and Darryl. He is survived by his loving wife Nellie; his children Russell (Francine) of Kansas City, Missouri, John (Sheila) of Laporte, and

Carla (Mark) Swihart of Fort Collins; a sister Georgia Secor; 10 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren (with 3 more on the way).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 31. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

KK

“ *Carla and Mark, you and your family have been in our thoughts and prayers! We are so sorry for your loss and that we were unable to be present for you at this difficult time. Sending love 💕 to you all.
Karen and Cecil*

Karen Koehn - February 04, 2024 at 01:25 PM

CH

“ *This obituary for Carl is so sweet and wonderful. A man I literally knew all my life and I learned more about him.*

I'm so sorry for the great loss you feel but what a life well served. No one could ask for more.

Nell, my heart is with you. I love you and pray for God to help you through these days. I'm with you in heart and mind. I love you all.

Cheryl - January 30, 2024 at 07:36 PM

KC

“ *Carl was the greeter at the Free Methodist Church there in Fort Collins. But Carl was so much more to me. My parents divorced and I grew up without a father in our home. Carl stepped up and became that wonderful, Christian, Father figure to me and my sister. He helped form me into the Christian woman that I am today. Carl even checked out my future husband, and gave his approval for dating and marrying him. Carl was always greeting and guiding other teens as well. I know that he is in heaven and I will see him again. He may be the one to greet me as I enter through those pearly gates of glory. I loved him and I will truly miss him.*

Kenda Colman - January 29, 2024 at 04:36 PM