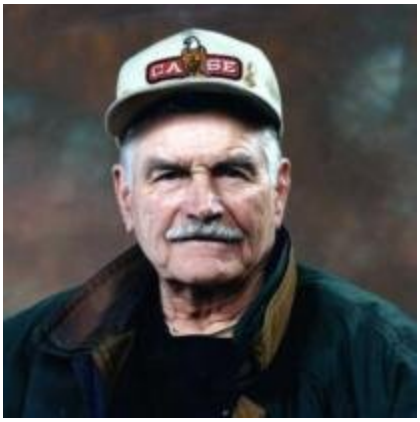


Harry "Mr. Case" Kline

May 30, 1917 - January 31, 2012

Harry Kline
“Mr. Case”
RACINE-Harry Edward Kline, 94, passed away at his residence on Tuesday January 31, 2012. Harry was born on May 30, 1917 in Madison Lake, Minn, a first generation American from German born parents, Peter and Anna (nee: Schneider) Klein. The family left the German settlement near Odessa and arrived in Philadelphia with their four children; Katherine, Jacob, Karl, and Anna on the steamship Main in 1910. Traveling first to Kansas and Minn., the family moved finally to Wisconsin where they had eight more children; Peter, John, Fred, Ben, Emma, Rose, Harry and Clara. With an eight-grade education, Harry was hired by J.I. Case Co. in 1934. Working primarily as a Service Technician, Harry helped to develop, troubleshoot and market some of the earliest self-propelled combines, hydrostatic and 4WD tractors as well as the emerging construction equipment lines the company produced. As a result
Harry traveled extensively throughout the country including the 48 contiguous states, also working in every country in Central and South America as well as traveling to England, France and the Middle East for J.I. Case in the mid 60’s. Harry attained his pilot’s license and was appointed a First Lieutenant with the Civil Air Patrol in 1949.
Harry’s relentless devotion to preserving the unique and diverse history of the J.I. Case Company has been a labor of love that has touched many lives, as

evidenced by the receptions he receives at farm machinery collectors' events throughout the country. An unofficial curator of the Case Company museum from the late 1970's until the late 1990's it was not uncommon for Harry to receive phone calls from around the world requesting knowledge of Case equipment that only a select few know….or ever knew.

Harry was always happy to oblige any collector truly interested in preserving Case history. As a result, his legion of friends range from lifelong farmers in the furthest regions of the world to casual Case equipment collectors to lifelong Case dealers, parts manufacturers and shipping contractors, as well as many high-ranking past and present Case executives.

In 1939 Harry married Loretta Davis in Racine at Epiphany Lutheran Church celebrating 72 years of marriage.

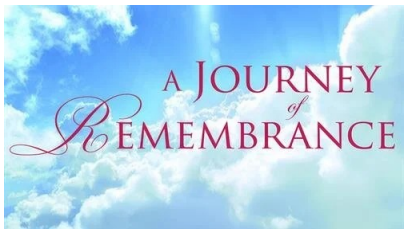
Harry is survived by his wife Loretta, four children, Barbara Adams, Ann (Doug) Hale both of Colorado, Jane Steben of Racine, Harry (Betty) Kline of Minn. He is furthered survived by 14 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, one sister, Clara Simonsen of Wisconsin in addition to nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends.

A celebration of life will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Sunday February 5, 2012 from 1p.m. until 3 p.m. Harry will be laid to rest in a private ceremony. In lieu of flowers, contributions towards the Harry Kline Museum & Scholarship Fund would be appreciated. Pleas make all inquiries to Jerry Sanders, at 119 West St. Fairwater, WI 53931.

A very special thank you to Dr. Shimshak and staff at Wheaton Franciscan for their fine care and devotion to our father, also to Home Health Care Nurse "Heather" who's humor and kindness to our Dad was much appreciated.

Tribute Wall

Sturino Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harry "Mr. Case" Kline



Sturino Funeral Home - January 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

1 file added to the album New Album Name

Mandi Maddux - February 29, 2012 at 08:57 PM

CA

I was one of those fortunate children that got to ride in the cart behind Grandpa's tractor, and later was able to drive them. How much fun we had exploring the nooks and crannies of the old homestead while playing hide-n-seek between tractors, gigantic eagles, and whatever else populated the lot at the time. He was always kind, always into something interesting, and we loved him very much.

Craig Adams - February 14, 2012 at 04:19 PM

JP

Dear Harry,

I am sorry to hear about your father's passing. May God be with you during your time of mourning, and may good memories remain.
John (JP) Peterson

John L. Peterson - February 11, 2012 at 08:09 PM

MM

Mandi Maddux lit a candle in memory of Harry "Mr. Case" Kline

Mandi Maddux - February 09, 2012 at 12:07 AM

ML

I started my career with JI Case in 1968. At that time the name Harry Kline was synonomous with intellegent, no-nonsense trouble shooting on Case equipment. I wanted to meet him some day. As years progressed I was able to be a product support rep for JI Case in Iowa and Nebraska. I was able to meet and work with Harry at Farm Progress shows in Iowa. What a pleasure it was to work with someone who treated you as an equal. Harry was one of few who used common sense to fix issues quickly.

My condolences to the family.....

Mike Langner

Mike Langner - February 06, 2012 at 08:34 AM

JM

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all in honor of Harry's life. A life well lived.
Gods peace. The family of Tom and Evelyn Borglin

Joyce Malko - February 06, 2012 at 08:00 AM

JE

Our deepest sympathy to the family and especially to our good friends, Harry and Betty Kline and their children. Please find solace in your good friends and peace and grace from our father above. We love you guys!!!

The Erdman Family

Jeni Maday Erdman - February 03, 2012 at 04:36 PM

KD

My deepest sympathy to my sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Harry Kline Jr. and their family - McKenzie, Alex, and Abbey, as well as to Loretta, Barbara, Jane, and Ann and their families. Our Dad, Leland, had a life-long passion for farming and he especially enjoyed and appreciated talking with Harry Sr. about farming and tractors. Blessings to Harry's family.

Kim Doebbert - February 03, 2012 at 09:50 AM

Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Harry "Mr. Case" Kline.

February 03, 2012 at 03:17 AM

TA

Blesings to my good friend, Harry Jr., and his family. May our Phantom Spirit support you. Love, ted

Ted V. Anderson - February 02, 2012 at 09:47 PM