



## Joel Louis Lamke

July 2, 1934 - October 5, 2024

Joel Louis Lamke, 90, passed away on Saturday, October 5, 2024, with his wife of 66 years by his side. He was born on July 2, 1934, to Elroy and Florence (nee: Krause) Lamke in Coon Valley, WI. Joel was united in marriage to Patricia Ellen Browe in August 1958.

Joel is a graduate of UW Stout. He was employed by Racine Unified School District as an industrial arts teacher (as he would say, wood butcher/tin bender) at Mitchell School, retiring in 1990 after 33 years. Joel also coached the basketball team and was a drivers-ed instructor. He served in the Army National Guard.

Joel was an avid volunteer in the community. He was always there to help others. He belonged to an extensive list of organizations and was also the first to show up and the last to leave. One of the things Joel was known for was taking all the “junk” as potential treasures to reuse and make the world a better place.

Joel is survived by his wife, Patricia of Racine; son, Thomas (Michelle) Lamke of Caledonia; daughter, Jodi (Gordon) Gladstone of Richmond, CA; grandsons, Gefen and Nitzan Gladstone of Richmond, CA; sisters, Elaine Hanson of Cupertino, CA, and Geraldine Schults of Grove City, OH.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents, Elroy and Florence; brother, Richard; sisters, LaVerne Ness and Vivian Strong.

Thank you to the staff and aides at Brightstar Home Care, Lakeshore at Siena Center and Vitas Hospice for your care and guidance.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of life to be held on Friday, October 18, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N. Green Bay Rd., Racine, WI in the Main Cabin. A toast and tribute will be made at 6:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, pay it forward and do something kind for someone else today. Joel would be pleased if we follow his example of helping others in need.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

River Bend Nature Center Lodge  
3600 N. Green Bay Rd  
Racine, WI

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Mr. Lemke was the 7th grade B squad basketball coach when I first attended Mitchell. Both he and later coach Obert were instrumental in laying a foundation of the value of hard work and perseverance in approaching life. Both were tough minded men for whom I have always had a great deal of respect. Rest in peace Mr. Lemke...a life well lived.*

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**David Hanson** - October 23, 2024 at 06:28 PM

NM

“ *I first met Joel as a rookie teacher at Mitchell in 1971. He became a friend, car pool buddy, and mentor, teaching me life lessons from proper picket line behavior to finding ways to reuse bread bags in the early days of recycling. He believed in practicing what you preach, and gave generously of his time and talents to help others. I am sorry to lose him, but I am grateful for the opportunity I had to know and work with him. My sympathy to Pat and his family. Norah McCue*

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**Norah McCue** - October 21, 2024 at 10:04 AM

JO

“ My dad, Joel always spoke fondly of his time growing up on the farm in Coon Valley. Joel lost his father in a plowing accident when he was nine years old. His uncles cousins and neighbors took him in during the summers and school breaks to help on their farms. His time spent working the land made a big impression on him about the necessity to be a guardian of the earth. He instilled this value in me.

Joel also became a teacher and taught me the importance of an education that what we learn can not be taken away. He will always inspire me to be curious, creative, kind, and help others. Joel was a unique individual and a collector of characters. I will miss his stories and I will miss him dearly



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**Jodi** - October 19, 2024 at 01:52 PM

JS

Mr. Lamke was one of the greatest teachers ever. I had him as a teacher and coach in the mid 1970s at Mitchell. I had the pleasure of interviewing him for a Racine Area United Way video in the 1990s. At the awards program I had a chance to tell him in person what an influence he was on me. I have great admiration, respect and gratitude for him. - Jim Stroschein

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**Jim Stroschein** - October 25, 2024 at 01:38 AM

WH

“ Pat sorry to hear of Joel passing. We had some good times with you folks and the kids. Always welcome you and him in the office to talk.  
Wayne Hejny

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**Wayne Hejny** - October 15, 2024 at 02:27 PM

JK

“ Jukka K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joel Louis Lamke.

Jukka K. - October 15, 2024 at 05:16 AM

PK

“ Paula Knaack lit a candle in memory of Joel Lamke



Paula Knaack - October 14, 2024 at 06:14 PM

PO

“ Uncle Joey, as our family called him, was my Godfather and close friend of the Olbert family. A teaching and coaching colleague of my father his wife "Patsy," son Thomas, and daughter Jodi were like a second family. Although we moved away in 1969, we always looked forward to visiting the Lamke's in Racine and having them come to our neck of the woods for deer hunting season in November. A unique personality who was a great story teller, his love of life and his joy of teaching rubbed off on me, a fellow educator.

paul olbert - October 10, 2024 at 11:01 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joel Louis Lamke.



October 10, 2024 at 09:18 AM

KL

“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Lamke's passing. He was my homeroom teacher at Mitchell Jr. High. I always hoped I'd run into him through the years. I would have loved to have shared some humorous tales with him! RIP

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**Kathy (Rogers) Loomis** - October 10, 2024 at 08:09 AM

MN

“ This brings back funny memories of my time at Mitchell Jr. High School. It was perhaps 1962/63 that I had my Metal Working class taught by Mr. Lamke. I was that fun kid, that every teacher dread the thought of teaching (try) but TRY he did, and actually was quite sucessfull. I was a HEAVY kid, REALLY heavy, and we were going somewhere on a school bus. I have no idea now WHERE, but we were boarding the bus, and I was a bit slow, and he said to me "Come on Tons Of Fun" which I sometimes use to this day, as a school day's funny. I figure he was In a good mood, because you otherwise got poked with two fingers In the chest, OUCH. I would guess you boys In the family are familier with that one. I somehow managed to get through Jr. High, and High School, and not hurt anybody. It Is sad to see he has left us, as It Is always sad to lose a loved one. May you find this funny, as I often do. I am sorry for your loss, and BOY'S I hope your chest Is OK. Perhaps one of them can show you how it's done?

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**Michael T. Nelson** - October 09, 2024 at 08:49 PM

MI

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall

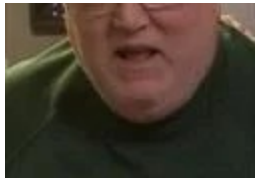


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Michelle - October 09, 2024 at 03:25 PM

MI

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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Michelle - October 09, 2024 at 03:21 PM

HW

*Dear Pat, dear Tom, dear Jodi,*

*I would like to express my deepest condolences to you on the death of your husband and your father. What a pity that I was not able to see him in person when I was in Racine this summer.*

*Joel was a special person! Not just for you, but also for us - Luise, Susanne, Hans-Peter, Jukka and myself. - who came to Racine in 1977 to work in social institutions as part of an international exchange program.*

*Joel was an open minded and committed person with a big heart. He invited us to participate in his family life, shared his friends and contacts with us, always had an ear for our little problems and helped us to find our way in the new surroundings. In many conversations he gave us an insight into his thoughts, beliefs and actions.*

*Today I would say he was the Benie Sanders of Racine. He saw the many small and large social problems and was steadfast in his belief that he was responsible and had to do something to make things better. That made a big impression on us young people and is still a lasting memory today.*

*I will remember him with great respect!*

*Joel, thank you very much*

*Pat, Tom and Jodi, thank you very much*

*May he now find the peace he wished for us on earth.*

*Farewell*

*Hellmut*

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**Hellmut Wolf** - October 22, 2024 at 09:49 AM

LA

*The Alfson family has very special memories of our times with the Lamke family. May God be with you and yours.*

*Lois Alfson*

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**Lois Alfson** - October 30, 2024 at 03:13 PM