



William A. Horst

March 4, 1934 - February 10, 2026

William “Bill” A. Horst, age 91, of Johnson Lake, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Hilltop Estates in Gothenburg.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 14, at 10:00 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, with Pastor Steven Peeler officiating. The service will be livestreamed on the Messiah Lutheran Facebook page. Visitation will take place Friday, February 13, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at All Faiths Funeral Home. In honor of Bill, guests are encouraged to wear their favorite red attire. Interment with military honors will follow at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.gjallfaiths.com.

Bill was born on March 4, 1934, on the family farm outside Doniphan to William and Emma (Hamann) Horst. He attended the Doniphan country school and fondly recalled riding his horse to school each day. In 1947, the family moved to Grand Island, where Bill would build lifelong roots and friendships.

A lifelong member of Messiah Lutheran Church, Bill was baptized, confirmed, and married there. His faith remained an important part of his life.

In June of 1956, Bill was drafted into the United States Army, serving as a mechanic in Germany. He was honorably discharged in May of 1958.

On October 5, 1962, Bill was united in marriage to Sharon Ganow. The couple made their home in Grand Island, and following Bill's father's passing, they assumed ownership of Horst Insurance Company. Bill and Sharon successfully operated the business for 27 years before retiring and moving full-time to Johnson Lake, a place Bill truly loved.

Bill was a member of the Platt-Deutsch, Liederkrantz, and the Eagles Club. Known for his sense of humor and love of fun, he had a special gift for making people laugh—whether by wiggling his ears, telling a joke, or simply enjoying the moment. He lived life with joy and brought people together wherever he went. Bill especially enjoyed fishing and spending time at Johnson Lake with family and friends.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Sharon Horst; sons, Dennis Horst of Grand Island and Dean (LaVay) Horst of North Platte; sister, Margie Thomssen; brothers-in-law, John and Kevin Hickey; sisters-in-law, Jackie Luth and Gay Geeson; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; siblings Opal Steinbeck, Betty Vanosdal, Merle Horst, and Ellen Goerl; and brothers-in-law Don Ganow and Clyde Ganow and his wife Betty.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Messiah Lutheran Church
7th and Locust St.
Grand Island, NE 68801

Graveside Service with Military Honors

FEB 14 (CT)

Westlawn Memorial Park
3826 West Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, NE 68803

Tribute Wall

MP

“ *This is not a memory as I did not know Mr. Horst but I wanted to leave my sympathies with his son Dennis. I don't know how to get a hold of him any other way, but Dennis, I am so sorry for your loss. You're in my thoughts and prayers*

Marcia Pointer - February 20 at 09:48 AM

JC

“ *Jackie, John and Kathy, Kevin and Cathy purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William A. Horst.*



Jackie, John and Kathy, Kevin and Cathy - February 13 at 11:56 AM

JC

“ *Jackie, John and Kathy, Kevin and Cathy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. Horst.*

Jackie, John and Kathy, Kevin and Cathy - February 13 at 11:56 AM

JN

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce (Ganow) Nunnenkamp - February 12 at 10:03 PM

DS

“ Donna Sinor purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William A. Horst.



Donna Sinor - February 12 at 08:14 PM

DS

“ Donna Sinor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. Horst.

Donna Sinor - February 12 at 08:14 PM

JN

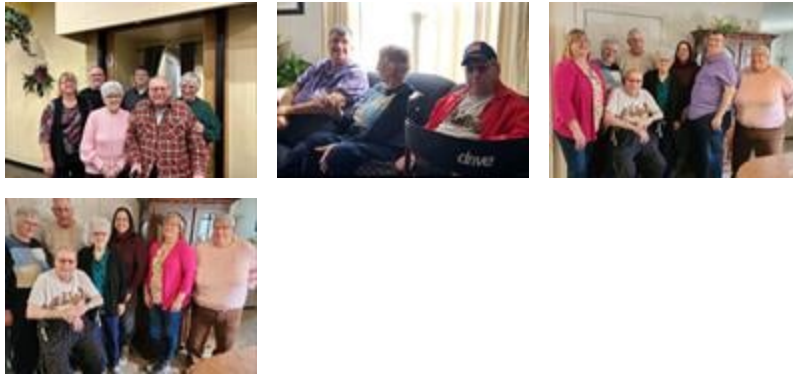
“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce (Ganow) Nunnenkamp - February 12 at 05:49 PM

JN

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce (Ganow) Nunnenkamp - February 12 at 05:43 PM

JN

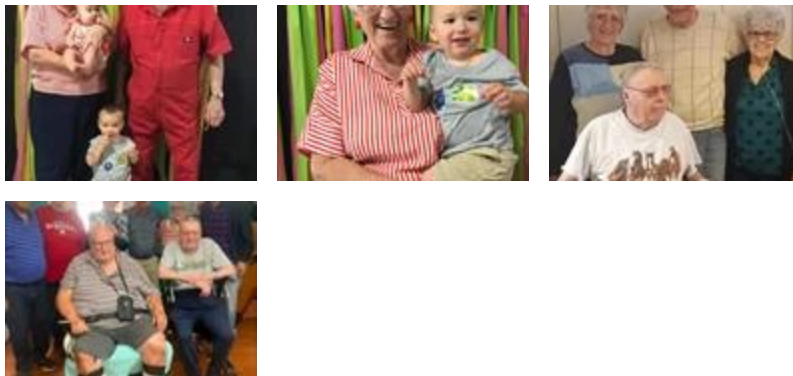
“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joyce (Ganow) Nunnenkamp - February 12 at 02:45 PM

JN

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Joyce (Ganow) Nunnenkamp - February 12 at 11:38 AM

PE

“ As a young child, I remember when Uncle Bill was in the military, we waved at every airplane that flew over our farm. We'd wave and holler just knowing that was Uncle Bill flying over us. 🇺🇸❤️👤💙 He was a joyful fella, teasing us by wiggling his ears. His nickname for me was "big butt"!!! 😳 I never quite knew how to take that. I didn't think my butt was big 🙄👤♀️😂 We were all so happy for him when he met Sharon. Then made her his wife. ❤️🔥❤️🔥 They were so great together ❤️🔥❤️🔥

Pat Epp - February 12 at 10:13 AM

LH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



LaVay Horst - February 11 at 04:34 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of William A. Horst.



February 11 at 11:51 AM

PL

“ Perch Bay, Johnson Lake, Nebraska planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. Horst.

Perch Bay, Johnson Lake, Nebraska - February 11 at 11:51 AM