



Darrel Upton

September 10, 2012

Darrel Dean Upton, age 77, of Darwin, died Monday, September 10, 2012, at the Harmony River Living Center in Hutchinson. A funeral service will be held on Friday, September 14, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with the Rev. Steven Olson officiating with the eulogy by Rev. Raymond Haugland. The interment will be held at the Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth, Michigan on a later date.

There will be a visitation on Thursday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel and one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday morning.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be sent to: Connect Care Home Care and Hospice, 211 Fremont Ave SE, Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, P.O. Box C, Dassel, Minnesota 55325. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 17444, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.

Darrel Dean Upton, the son of Perry & Inez (Bohnsack) Upton, was born on August 14, 1935, in Marietta, Minnesota. He grew up in the Marietta area and graduated from Marietta High School. Darrel was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith and was a member of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church at the time of his death.

After high school Darrel farmed for a year in Marietta. On October 15, 1955, Darrel was united in marriage to Joyce Eidem. From 1957-1966 he was enlisted in the Army National Guard of Minnesota. Darrel and Joyce lived in Minneapolis where Darrel was employed with Minnesota Rubber Company in 1966 as a Salesman. In 1968, his territory was changed and they moved to the Detroit, Michigan area where Darrel had resided until 1999.

On April 9, 1999, Darrel was united to Sheri Smith at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel. Together they made their home on Lake Stella near Darwin and enjoyed wintering in Arizona.

Darrel loved spending time with his family and spoiling his grandchildren. He was always busy and especially enjoyed mowing the grass and trimming his trees and bushes. He was an avid golfer who always had time for another 18 holes. He was a member of the Paul F. Dille American Legion, the Darwin Lions Club and the Mens Club in Fountain Hills, AZ. He was a sincere and easygoing gentleman who always took the time to visit with friends, family and loved to meet new friends. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Darrel is survived by his wife, Sheri Upton of Darwin, MN, daughter, Laurie (Art) Davis of Northville, MI, step-children, Rory (Peggy) Smith of Dassel, MN, and Tracy (Andrew) Lawson of Loretto, MN, 8 grandchildren, Ryan Davis, Julie Davis, Becky Davis, Adam Smith, Courtney Smith, Kelly Lawson, Will Lawson and Drew Lawson, one sister, Marlyce (Ed) Hoium of Madison, MN, and a niece Holly (Gary) Meyer of Reville, SD.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce on August 9, 1991, and his parents.

Tribute Wall

“ Dear Mrs. Upton, Lori, & the Upton family:

Karen and I are saddened to hear about Darrel's passing. Please accept our condolences and prayers in your time of grief. We all hope Darrel is no longer suffering and is at everlasting peace.

I have known Darrel since 1974. He was definitely one of the "good guys" I've been fortunate to know during my life and career. I affectionately called him "Big D!"

He was mentor and friend during our time together at Minnesota Rubber. I was always impressed by his ability to maintain his sense of humor in the Detroit sales "pressure cooker". Whether it was at Bendix or GM, good and bad, I have been amazed how kept his cool in the face of "automotive adversity" (most of it blustering and positioning by customers) ... but he did it! When I was young I was so impressed how cool he was.

I have many Darrel stories, but I will address those in a separate letter to you Sheri, and you can share my thoughts with your family.

Two things that stand-out in my memory were business related (of course). In the early 90's we decided to introduce our sales force to the magic of computers and set up computers at our 1992 sales meeting (Point Clear, AL), for the sales people to play around with. At the hospitality room we were all wondering where the heck Darrel was ... he was in the "computer demo room" fooling around with the computers ... mostly playing Solitaire. I suspect Darrel was pretty good with the computer, even in retirement. He adapted well ... and quickly.

I was surprised when Darrel seriously took up the sport of golfing ... Darrel and I were probably the poorest golfers in the MRC sales force at the time ... but when "Big D" decided he was going to improve his golf game, he approached the game with the same intensity and determination that he approached his family and

business life... I took up golf four years ago, and I am sure Darrel would whip my tail, but at least I know I would have a great time while I humiliated myself.

During this difficult time, please "keep the faith". As I mentioned earlier, "Big D" was one of the "good guys"... The Lord has a peaceful place for Darrel ... and the lawn, hedges, and bushes will be maintained to standards only God (and Darrel) can appreciate.

*God Bless,
Kenn & Karen Nordstrom*

Kenn Nordstrom - March 29, 2013 at 09:08 AM

KA

“ So sorry to hear of your loss.

KathyGrensberg - March 29, 2013 at 09:08 AM

JD

“ Sherri and family, Sorry for your loss. I just heard the news. Darrel was a great guy and always a joy to talk to. I didn't realize he was sick. Take care, Jim

James Danner - March 29, 2013 at 09:08 AM