



## Cletus Windschitl

March 28, 1932 - October 24, 2020

Cletus Windschitl, 88, of Carroll died peacefully at home on Saturday, October 24, 2020.

A private family visitation followed by a private family Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. John Paul II Parish – Holy Spirit Church in Carroll on Friday, October 30, 2020. The Celebrant will be Fr. Andrew Windschitl (grandson). Music will be arranged through Rebecca Windschitl (daughter-in-law). Casket Bearers will be Cletus' grandchildren. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carroll.

Memorials may be directed to Cletus Windschitl Family, c/o Sharp Funeral Home, 226 W. 8th St., Carroll, Iowa 51401.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll, and online condolences may be left for Cletus' family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Clete will be greatly missed by numerous family members, friends, neighbors, former colleagues and past students from Kuemper High School and members of the St. John Paul II Parish – Holy Spirit Church.

Clete was born March 28, 1932, on a farm in Mulligan Township of Brown

County, Minnesota, the son of Carl and Leonora (Groebner) Windschitl. Clete graduated from Comfrey High School in 1950. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science Education from St. John's University of Collegeville, Minnesota in 1954. He received his Master of Education degree from Wisconsin State University of Superior in 1962. He continued with graduate work at Iowa State University from 1963 to 1970.

On July 23, 1955, Clete married Valerie Uldrich in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Windschitl family began shortly afterward. From 1955 to 1957, Clete served in the United States Army. He trained at Fort Carson, Colorado, and was stationed in the Adjutant General Corps at the Headquarters for US Armed Forces Command near Tokyo, Japan. Valerie joined Clete in Japan, which is where their first child was born.

After the Army, Clete transitioned into a long and distinguished career in education, starting at Cathedral High School in Superior, Wisconsin in 1958 as a teacher of American and World History and coach in summertime basketball and baseball. In 1962, he began working at Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll, Iowa as a counselor and teacher, and continued to serve there as a counselor, guidance director, and administrator until 1999. After 1999, he served as a consultant at Kuemper for two years before officially retiring. He was active in the Iowa School Counselors Association, American Personnel and Guidance Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals Association, Iowa Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and National Catholic Education Association.

Clete was recognized by receiving a City of Carroll Humanitarian Service Award, Diocese of Sioux City Young Educator's Award, Outstanding Educator Award for the City of Carroll, Governor's 1991 Volunteer Award for work in alcohol and drug treatment and prevention programs, and was nominated for the National Catholic Education Association Award for Outstanding Work in

Catholic Schools. He was a member of the Carroll United Way Board of Directors, and member and president of the Area XII Alcohol and Drug Treatment Unit. He also found time to coach Little League Baseball and Football (as a boy he loved baseball and played for both high school teams and county teams).

During his “retirement” years, Clete continued to use his administrative skills by serving as the Director of Ministries for Holy Spirit Parish of Carroll from 2000 to 2017. He served as a member of the parish board of directors for Holy Spirit, serving as director of training and scheduling of the lay ministers for the parish. He was chair of the building committee for the Bishop Greteman Center, chair of the Diocese of Sioux City Pastoral Council, and chair of Holy Spirit Parish Liturgy Committee. With Valerie, he was a member of the Cursillo Movement, Marriage Encounter, Pre-Cana, and the Peace and Justice Committee.

For many years, Clete was an occasional golfer at the Muni, usually playing near the crack of dawn. His serious hobby, however, was maintaining a thriving garden in the back yard. This garden included raspberries, tomatoes, peas, garlic, asparagus, and many other vegetables. He was known for training his butternut squash vines to climb up the surrounding honeysuckle bushes where his harvests were high in the sky! He was a skilled furniture refinisher, with a house of beautifully redone family heirlooms.

Clete would take his small children and later his grandchildren to the parks on warm sunny days. The older children helped to make sure young ones did not fall into the creek in the park. The grandchildren have great fondness and respect for their Grandpa. A grandchild recently told him, “The ‘kids table’ on holidays is never truly complete without a seat for you, Grandpa. Even when we were very young, you made all of us little kids feel listened to, respected,

and understood. If everyone in the world had even an ounce of your patience, wisdom, kindness, and levity, the world would be a much better place.”

Another grandchild said, “Whenever I think of what it means to live a good life, in the moral sense, and what sort of man I want to be one day, you always come first to mind.” Grandpa (Clete) took copious notes in a little notebook kept in his shirt pocket, and told the grandkids his notebook was a “poor man’s iPod!” Grandpa was a big hit at Christmas time with adults and children alike, churning out rum balls, peanut brittle, and spritz cookies.

Cletus is survived by his wife, Valerie Windschitl of Carroll, his children and partners: Dr. Mark (Dr. Pam Joseph) Windschitl, Seattle, Washington; Dawn Windschitl (married to son John), Des Moines, Iowa; Stephen (Rebecca) Windschitl, Arcadia, Iowa; Martha (Mark) Royer, Ames, Iowa; Chris (Jody) Windschitl, Lake City, Iowa; Gretchen (Roy) Janssen, Ames, Iowa; Dr. Paul (Tricia) Windschitl, Iowa City, Iowa. Clete and Val also have twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Clete is survived by his brothers and sister Dr. Harold (Shirley) Windschitl, Maggie Manion, and Paul Bartl (Gayle) Windschitl. He was preceded in death by his parents Carl and Leonora Windschitl, son John Gregory Windschitl, and brother-in-law Dr. Jim Manion.

Cletus was a good and gentle man, and he will remain loved, treasured, and remembered by all who knew him.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Air Force brought me to New Mexico, yet, I never forgot Carroll, Iowa. Niece kept me in touch with what was happening. Sorry, can't believe it. I graduated from Kuemper, '79. Then left for the Air Force. He was firm and yet very polite. Great neighbor and I would like to think a friend. I reckon God had other plans for him, as he did with my dad and my son. Go figure. My best go out to his family. A very great loss. Hold on to friends and family, they at times, may help you move on.* ”

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**Jeff Johnson** - November 05, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ *Mark Windschitl* ”

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**Mike Klaus** - October 30, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ *The entire Windschitl family is in our thoughts & prayers. Many sympathies to all of you. Bill & Karen Kurth* ”

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**Bill & Karen Kurth** - October 30, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Oh Windschitl family,  
*I was so sorry to hear this news this morning when Maggie shared it. I have passed it on to my siblings as well.*

*Clete-y (as my Ma and Pa, Mildred and Bill Groebner always referred to him) was just such a great guy. I'm sad that I didn't get to see him more recently, tho I do fondly remember a long phone chat we had one night when he and Van were either out here in WA visiting or about to come/just back from a visit. It's so hard to stay connected in such a busy world.*

*My memories of him, and your whole family are nothing but stellar tho. I remember the visits at the farm and so much great conversation and laughter, or at Leonora's farm, or even those occasions when the Groebner's would trek down to Carroll usually to attend a wedding. I was always so shocked by how many people were always around as it was so very different from my reality, kinda growing up as an only child cuz I was so much younger than my sibs. And there was Gretchen, my same age, but just enmeshed in this big beautiful loving fun family that Clete and Van built. (Yes, there was some envy on many part). I'm sure your sense of loss is immense, and I'm sure even more so in this crazy pandemic time.*

*This weekend (and this winter) my hopes are to dig thru family pics as well as diaries and calendars and I know I'll uncover lots of Clete and Van-related items (I'm picturing your wedding photos even as I type this as well as other activities - like the work on the farmhouse, or Stephen holding my niece Becky as an infant in our kitchen).*

*Please know that my heart is there with all of you, and will be thinking of you and holding you all in my heart in the days to come as well. So very very sorry for your loss - and knowing it is all our loss cuz the world needs more people like that, not fewer.*

*Mary Groebner*

**Mary Groebner** - October 29, 2020 at 08:03 PM

KW

“ *On behalf of my parents, Edwin and Ivona I wish to extend our condolences to the friends and family of Clete. My parents held Clete and Val in the highest esteem and they they genuinely liked them. My parents often pointed to Clete as an example of a rural farm boy becoming a respected leader of people. He was well known and highly regarded. If I can be regarded as successful it is partly because of the example he set for our family.*  
*Dr. Ken Windschitl*

**Ken Windschitl** - October 29, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cletus Windschitl.*



October 28, 2020 at 03:22 PM

BM

“ *To the family of Cletus,  
A voice from the past wants to express deep sympathy for your loss. From a distance, thoughts of a time gone bye, losing touch, but treasuring memory of the wonderful influence he brought to my family while we lived in Carroll. This appreciative voice belongs to Bev Morrissey. Where did the years go so quickly? His legacy is one far reaching and lasting. I will not forget the calm stability he brought to wherever he was. My love to you, his family, along with prayerful thoughts and many regards. I am thankful for being able to have been a small part of the valuable time in life he shared, and being one of the lives he touched.*

**Beverly A Morrissey** - October 28, 2020 at 02:22 PM

MG

*Thoughts,love and prayers*

**Margaret Gronstal** - October 29, 2020 at 07:07 AM

LD

*Clete was one of the reasons we moved to Carroll. What a wonderful man he was. I feel blessed to have known him.*

**Lloyd DeMoss** - October 30, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Cletus Windschitl.*



October 28, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Cletus Windschitl.*



October 28, 2020 at 01:16 PM

MM

“ *1 file added to the album Windschitl*



**Michael Manion** - October 27, 2020 at 09:54 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Manion - October 27, 2020 at 09:18 PM

CT

“ Clete was a rock. Appeared to always be in control. You treated every Kuemper family with such respect. With great pride I will always call you friend. Prayers for your family at this time. Thank You for being part of my families life.

Cecelia Thelen - October 27, 2020 at 08:35 PM

BG

“ Clete Mr. Windschitl was at Kuemper when I was in high school and was always helpful. When I returned to Carroll to work at my home town radio station he was one the first people to say welcome back. I could always count on him for encouragement in life. When I retired and moved to Kansas City to be near our grandson he told me I would be missed in Carroll.  
RIP Clete



Bob Grote - October 27, 2020 at 06:34 PM

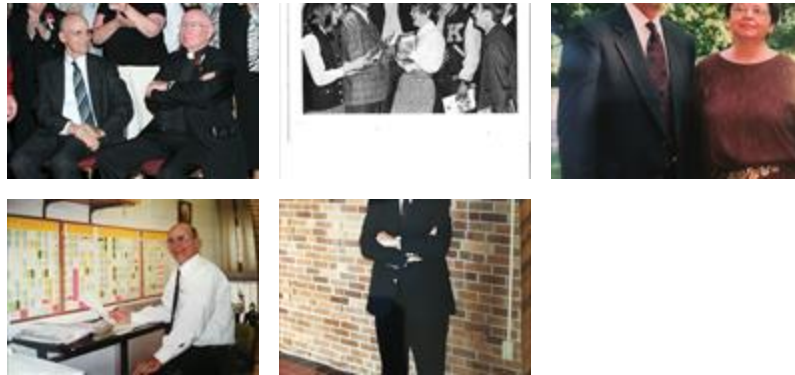
CF

“ Valerie and family we were so sorry to hear of Clete's passing. I always enjoyed our visits and your encouraging thoughts. We are sending you our prayers and thoughts. Know we care.

Connie Foval - October 27, 2020 at 05:51 PM

SO

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Sharon Olerich - October 27, 2020 at 05:04 PM

CN

“ Windschitl family: We were saddened to learn of Clete's passing. He did his job well, was a friend to many and treated others with respect at all times. He will certainly be missed by the Carroll Community. Our thoughts are with you as you face the days ahead. Wes & CJ Niles

CJ Niles - October 27, 2020 at 03:06 PM

JS

“ clete left always a lasting influence on us and so many , a wonderful man ❤️

jean and bill snyder - October 27, 2020 at 02:58 PM

KH

“ Clete was one of the first people I met when I moved to Carroll. He was the true definition of “faithful servant”. He gave so much of his time to our parish in so many ministries. What a wonderful model of faith for all of us!

Kathy Hansen - October 27, 2020 at 11:11 AM

DB

“ *Doug&Doreen Bender lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl*



**Doug&Doreen Bender** - October 26, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ *Cletus was a great neighbor and support to me. He was thinking of the kids and their well being.*



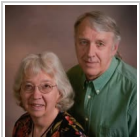
**Nancy Reynolds McCarville** - October 26, 2020 at 04:54 PM

SZ

“ *Sheryl Zimmerman lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl*



**Sheryl Zimmerman** - October 26, 2020 at 12:56 PM



“ *Clete was a mentor to me during my formative years as an educator at KHS. He saved me from myself on more than one occasion, so thank you and RIP, old friend. (David Koester)*

**Mary Koester** - October 26, 2020 at 08:51 AM

AL

“ Amy Daiker Larrington lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl



Amy Daiker Larrington - October 26, 2020 at 06:24 AM

KJ

“ Kristie Schuler Jorgensen lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl



Kristie Schuler Jorgensen - October 25, 2020 at 10:20 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Cletus Windschitl.



October 25, 2020 at 07:10 PM

LS

“ Lisa Snyder Siepker lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl



Lisa Snyder Siepker - October 25, 2020 at 05:27 PM

MS

“ *Michelle Schuette lit a candle in memory of Cletus Windschitl*



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**Michelle Schuette** - October 25, 2020 at 03:53 PM

BF

*To the Windschitl Family: I am SO sorry about Clete. What a terrific person. At the Easter Vigil at Holy Spirit, Clete was the one who did the Genesis readings. I was entranced because he sounded like God! Will miss him very much. But he's with God now and will surely help us here on earth if we need it.  
Bless You Clete-Lovingly: Barb Nagl Frost*

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**Barb Frost** - October 28, 2020 at 04:39 PM

KS

*Thankful for the many associations over the years - Kuemper and Carroll Community. May Clete enjoy Eternal Rest, with sympathy and prayers for the Windschitl family.  
Kaye Stock Arndorfer*

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**Kaye Stock** - October 28, 2020 at 04:57 PM