



Raymond Vens

MAR 19, 1931 - SEP 8, 2011



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Raymond Joseph Vens, 80, of Clinton, Iowa died Thursday, September 8, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center, North, Clinton. Services will be 10:30am Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Visitation will be from 3pm to 8pm Monday, September 12, 2011 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church with a 7:30pm parish vigil service. The Clinton Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Pallbearers will be grandsons, Raymond B. Vens, David M. Vens, Robert N. Vens, Anthony A.J. Vens, Brian J. McConnell, Kevin M. McConnell, Adam J. Mangan, Aaron M. Mangan, Cameron J. Vens, Joseph C. Vens and Ryan J. Vens. Burial will be in St. Irenaeus Catholic Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. William Killeen, James Timmer, William Lackermann, Thomas Lyons, George Clausen, William Vorheis and Donald Johnson. Ray was born March 19, 1931 in Big Rock, Iowa the son of Rene R. and Germaine (Maes) Vens. He was a 1948 graduate of St. Joseph's Catholic High School and he attended St. Ambrose College. Raymond married Verla E. Fletcher on August 26, 1950 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in DeWitt. Ray had been active in the insurance industry for over 57 years, first being employed as an underwriter and subsequently a field representative, claims adjuster and auditor for Iowa Mutual Insurance Company of DeWitt Iowa for six years and then 50+ years as an Independent Insurance agent. He retired from Core-Vens Insurance on July 1, 2006. Ray, his wife Verla and their seven children moved to Clinton in 1963. At that time, he and Bill Core co-founded the Core-Vens Insurance Agency. Throughout his professional career, Ray had been active in various professional organizations including Past President of the Professional Insurance Agents of Iowa (PIA), Firemark Society and many Company/Agent advisory councils. He was a life member of the Certified Professional Insurance Agents (CPIA). He was named PIA of Iowa Agent of the Year in 1974 and served as the Iowa Delegate to the National Association of Professional



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Insurance Agents in 1975. He had been very active in many local civic organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Mercy Healthcare Operating Board and Foundation Board, Mt. St. Clare College Board of Trustees, Iowa State Savings Bank Board of Directors and Commodore of Riverboat Days. He considered the merger/unification of Mercy Hospital and Jane Lamb Hospital and the building of Central Catholic Auditorium among the most fulfilling projects he had been involved with. Ray was an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, subsequently Prince of Peace Parish. His hobbies included hunting, fishing and golfing. He enjoyed watching his family members participate in school and sports activities and directing the growth of his insurance agency, Core-Vens Insurance. His immediate family include the love of his life, Verla and seven children: Ellen Rae (Dr. Michael) Dehner of Storm Lake, IA, Michael D. (Nancy) Vens of Mt. Pleasant, IA, Diane C. McConnell of Clinton, Jean M. (Mitch) Mangan of Clinton, Jeffrey A. (deceased) (Karen) Vens of Waukee, IA, Christopher D. (Kristine) Vens of Clinton and Randall J. (Brenda) Vens of Clinton, 18 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren, sister, Dorothy E, Strouse of Mexico, MO; and brothers, Marvin A. (Sue) Vens of Mesa, AZ and George C. Vens of Bettendorf, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents and son Jeffrey A. Vens. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society and Prince of Peace Parish .



Tribute Wall

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JC

Jacque Thyne-Cervantes posted:

A fine gentleman has parted our company this dsy. Your father was always kind and friendly with a warm smile to greet you. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God Bless.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

CC

Carol Coulston posted:

With my deepest condolencesWishing you peace and comfort at this most difficult time.Caroll had just chatted with Ray Wed. morning

September 7 at 7:00 PM

LS

Lindsay Simmons posted:

I am so sorry about your loss. May the warm memories you have be of some confort. With love,
Lindsay Simmons

September 7 at 7:00 PM

BM

Barbara & Jack Markel posted:

Such a wonderful caring gentleman. We are so sorry for your loss. We remember the Vens fondly from our years in Clinton. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Much love, The Markels

September 7 at 7:00 PM

KW

Kathleen Mccutcheon Wedin posted:

Jean, and all of the Vens family:Words can be so inadequate to express what only the heart can feel. I am so saddened by the death of this wonderful man. How lucky you all were to have him as a father and husband! I will never forget the visit Trish and I had with Ray and Verla when we were back in town a couple summers ago. I felt as if time had stood still and we were back in high school sitting around the kitchen table on Pershing. Jean...you know we will never forget "Have a nut, Cutch!" He will rest in peace close by to my parents. Much love and peace to you all...Cutch

September 7 at 7:00 PM



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SR

Sarah Ratcliffe posted:

My deepest sympathy to Verla, Chris, Randy and family. Ray was a man to emulate professionally and had a work ethic I so admired. He made a strong impression on my parents in 1973 and again on me nearly 30 years later. He impacted our industry, the community and countless individuals in his lifetime. He leaves a wonderful legacy in the hearts and minds of so many. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Sarah

September 7 at 7:00 PM

DF

Dave Fletcher posted:

Dittos to brother Joel. Uncle Ray was a grounding rod for my brothers and me in '97 after the death of our father. He opened up his home to us that August for our annual 3 day golf event. I'll never forget the roller coaster of emotions experienced as we listened to Ray reflecting on times with Gabby and family. He stayed up with us late into the nights watching Cub baseball and treating us to "banshees." In essence, he provided us our own "Friendly Confines" at 1000 N 11 street. Uncle Ray has been my link to Dad these past 14 years. The words "Ray Vens" puts a smile on your face and a warmth in your heart. Each and every one of us should aspire to affect each other as well.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

CS

Chuck And Jennifer Sigler posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Vens family. Please accept our deepest condolences.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

MH

Mary Schneider Hardin posted:

So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I haven't seen any of you for years, but do think of you often. Take care, Mary

September 7 at 7:00 PM

AF

Angela (Scheckel) Frasier posted:

Dear Chris and Randy, I'm sorry to hear of your father passing. My thoughts and prayer are with you both and your family.

September 7 at 7:00 PM



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Judee (Vens) Ward posted:

Dear Verla and family, I was so very sad to hear of the tragic death of Ray....what a wonderful, kind, soft spoken man he always was. he reminded me of his Dad so much! (uncle Rene) I talked to my Dad today about Ray's passing and he was so sorry to hear.....his one comment was, "I thought he was alot younger than me"! I said Dad, he was 6 years younger..... oh yeah, that's quite a bit.....I'll always treasure the last time I saw you and Ray at our blessed Cindy's visitation...God Bless You all.....sending my love and sympathy...

September 7 at 7:00 PM



D&M Robert C. Simmons posted:

May it help in some way to know that friends are sharing your sorrow. Betty & Bob Simmons P.S. I enjoyed a 15 to 20 mnute chat with Ray, at Medical Associates, on Wednesday.

September 7 at 7:00 PM



John Leonard posted:

Ray will be greatly missed by many. He was a unique individual with a sharp mind and ready smile. I believe he truly loved people, in general, which allowed him to be so successful in his chosen field of business. A good husband, a good father, and a good friend to myself and many, many others. I will miss our talks and his sage wisdom and advice. He was, above all, a very good man who cherished life and gave 100% to everything he did. He will be greatly missed...

September 7 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Randy, Chris & Family ~ Your Father was very similar to my Father! In that, in my opinion they were viewed as the leading insurance brokers in their respective communities. I respected your Father's memory and his service to the community. I always appreciated the privilege and honor to visit with your Father about business. Our condolences to your family during this difficult time. Howard Neese

September 7 at 7:00 PM



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JF

Joel Fletcher posted:

I can't find the appropriate words to express how much I loved and admired Uncle Ray. My brothers and I were very fortunate to have spent a fun day golfing and eating with him in August, and it was incredible. Uncle Ray was one of those guys that everyone wanted to be around. He was positive, enthusiastic, always wearing that special smile and never short on telling great stories. Short of my father (Gabby Fletcher) who passed away years ago, I can't think of anyone I admired and respected more than Uncle Ray. He lived life with an "attitude of servitude." To Aunt Verla and all of the family, I can tell you that I consider myself a rich man for having had Uncle Ray in my life. Now he joins my Father in the magnificent Mansion that Christ promises all believers. Our thoughts and prayers are being sent to you this day. With much love.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

MW

Michael Workman posted:

My thoughts go out to the entire family during this difficult time. He was always smiling when coming out to play golf. I'll never forget when he and Randy invited me over to their condo for a steak cookout while on their family vacation. In fact, everytime I drove by their condo since, I've looked for him to see if he was playing the par three course on their property. Great man!!

September 7 at 7:00 PM

ME

Maureen Thyne Ewinger posted:

I am very sorry to hear of your loss. Your dad was a great, respected man that helped so many people. He will be missed. You will all be in my prayers.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

CM

Cam (Malfait) Marriott posted:

Dear Verla and family, Tom and I were so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I don't have to tell you that he was a kind and gentle man. May God bless you and help you through your grief. You are in our prayers. Love, Cam

September 7 at 7:00 PM



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LT

Linda And Robin Thompson posted:

Jean, Verla and Family, it is always hard to find the words to comfort in this time of sorrow. I thought Ray was a great guy and always had a smile when I would run in to him. I know your memories will comfort you. I am sure it is nice to know how much he was admired and respected in the Community. We wanted to let you know you are all in our prayers. Sincerely, Linda and Robin

September 7 at 7:00 PM

CC

Cathy Crosser posted:

My deepest condolences to the entire family.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

MW

Michael Witt posted:

Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Mike & Sue Witt

September 7 at 7:00 PM

KC

Karen Conzett posted:

Verla, Ellen, and Vens family, I am so sorry to hear about Ray. I always thought of him as a second father. He always tried to take care of others. He was a very kind man and will be truly missed by many in our community. My life is richer for having known him.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

KB

Ken And Karla Burn posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

CF

Cathy And Greg Flanagan And Family posted:

All of us are sorry to hear of your loss. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time. As Caitlyn says "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it." Love to all

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KG

Kathy Griffith posted:

Dear Vens Family, So sorry to hear of your loss. Thinking of you, Kathy Griffith EMC Insurance Companies

September 7 at 7:00 PM

SS

Stephen W. Vorheis D.D.S. posted:

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our dearest family friend Ray Vens. Our heart goes out to the Vens family. Ray's smile was friendly and infectious (before and after my help). My words to Ray: May your golf game thrive on the heavenly fairways and may your aggressive Bridge game flourish---please find my mother to be your card partner---she has been patiently waiting for you. With all our sympathy, Steve Vorheis and Family

September 7 at 7:00 PM

DW

Dave & Mary Wiest posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

JS

Jim & Rose Strickland posted:

Randy, Chris, and all of the Vens family, We are very sorry for your loss. Please try to take comfort in all of the wonderful memories you have of him. He was a wonderful father, grandfather, businessman and overall an amazing human being.

September 7 at 7:00 PM

JC

Joe & Mary Cossman posted:

We are so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. We pray that your pain and sorrow will ease in time with his wonderful memories that you will cherish forever. Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Joe & Mary Pat

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Anonymous posted:

Mike and Nancy and family, We want you to know that you are all in our prayers. We don't know why these terrible things happen but I do believe there is a reason for everything. Please know we are here for you when you return. Ron and Debby

September 7 at 7:00 PM



Bill And Linda Flikkema posted:

Dear Verla and Family, We were deeply saddened when the news came of Ray's accident. Our hearts are filled with sympathy for the shock and grief you are all suffering at this time. Ray was a man of sterling character, a gentleman in every way. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. May the Lord sustain you during these pain-filled days of your grief and shower you with grace upon grace. You are all very much in our prayers. Fondly, Bill and Linda Flikkema

September 7 at 7:00 PM



Stacy McGauvran-Hruby posted:

Dear Jean and family, I had a chance encounter with your Dad, Diane and brothers in spring when home visiting; we talked briefly of the old days on Pershing. One of those fleeting moments, but certainly brought back memories then and again when I heard of his passing. I know such losses are difficult, but you will cherish the memories. All the best, Stacy McGauvran-Hruby

September 7 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Raymond by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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