



Stanley "Stan" Darwin Fitz

October 7, 1929 - November 23, 2019

Stanley "Stan" Darwin Fitz, 90, of Rockford, IA passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 from 5-7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 805 E Main Ave., Rockford. A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. with a one hour prior visitation on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at the church with Reverend Robert Scheurer officiating. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Rockford.

Stan was born on October 7, 1929 in Rowan, Iowa to Dean Reading Fitz and Ida Caroline (Oehlerking) Fitz. He was raised and attended school in Rowan. After graduation Stan enlisted in the United States Army as a military policeman and served during the Korean War. He was later honorably discharged. On June 26, 1954 he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Corlyss Marie (Quinsland) Fitz.

Stan and Corlyss moved to Rockford after Stan enrolled at Hamilton Business School in Mason City. After obtaining his degree, he began working for First State Bank in Rockford, which he later purchased the majority shares and became president. Stan was very involved in the Rockford community, both through the bank's community events, and many other programs. Stan earned his Master Gardener Certificate through Iowa State University Extension and

was extremely proud of his garden named the Fitz Reading Garden, which attracted over 2,000 tourists annually. There have been many articles and publications surrounding his beautiful garden which consisted mostly of flowers but some vegetables, including 18 tomato plants he had last year. Stan also enjoyed woodworking in his earlier years and did anything and everything from remodeling homes to more intricate woodworking such as constructing cutting boards, butcher blocks and duck carving.

Stan was a long-time member of Zion Lutheran Church and also a member of the American Legion and Masonic Lodge.

In expression of sympathy memorials may be directed to Rockford's Fossil and Prairie Center; which Stan helped establish and was very fond of.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Corlyss Fitz; two daughters, Pam Fitz of Denver, CO and Lori Fitz of Somerville, MA; many very special nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and one great-great niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Audriann Winters.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Rockford, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
805 E Main
Rockford, IA

Visitation

NOV **27**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
805 E Main
Rockford, IA

Funeral Service

NOV **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
805 E Main
Rockford, IA

Tribute Wall



“ Stanley "Stan" Darwin Fitz

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Corliss, Pam and Lori

So sorry to hear of Stan's passing. When visiting mom and dad, I always had to visit the Beautiful Garden. He didn't forget the desert either. Daughter Laurie and husband Kevin always made a trip to the Garden when in Rockford. They acquired some of his plantings because they both have a flower garden at their home. Both Corliss and Stan enjoyed visiting with many who visited their Beautiful "backyard". Gods Blessing

Sharon Ginther - November 30, 2019 at 01:05 PM



Hi there Sharon, Thank you for the very kind note and remembrance. He did NOT forget the desert :) Lori and I are happy to see that Laurie has some of that Fitz Reading Garden at her place. His gardening community is long lasting and widespread and that's the best! They both loved to visit with anyone in the garden, you got that right. We hope you are doing well and thank you for the nice thoughts. Pam and Lori

Pam Fitz - December 01, 2019 at 09:35 AM



My condolences to the family! Truly a great loss and he will be greatly missed!

Christine M Mackiewicz - December 23, 2019 at 11:38 AM

PF

“ 2 files added to the album Fitz Reading Garden



Pam Fitz - November 30, 2019 at 08:18 AM



“ Knowing Stan was a joy for both Rod and me. We loved visiting Stan and Corlyss, in their beautiful gardens. You are in our prayers.

Ruth Searle - November 27, 2019 at 09:52 PM

AB

“ Knowing Stan has been a great gift to us. It's one for which we are most thankful. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is to never die.

Al & Gail Batt - November 27, 2019 at 08:55 PM

Kim Popp

“ Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers at this very sad time. Our deepest sympathies go out to you . Dennis and Kim Popp, Adam, Joe, Ben

Kim Popp - November 27, 2019 at 09:08 AM

BS

“ Our family loved to visit Stan's gardens. He gave North Iowa a beautiful gift. Prayers to all of you.

Bill and Lorna Schutz - November 26, 2019 at 05:39 PM

JB

“ Jonathan And Kristy Brooks lit a candle in memory of Stanley "Stan" Darwin Fitz



Jonathan and Kristy Brooks - November 26, 2019 at 12:57 PM

SH

“ Stan and his gardens will be greatly missed. A couple of times a summer my mother and I would go and visit the gardens. It was special when Stan was there as he educated us on the variety of flowers he had and was so pleasant to visit with, so calming and peaceful. He was a great asset to the community and the surrounding towns. He is probably turning heaven into a colorful scene as well. Thank you for the beauty you created, Stan.

Shirley Brodersen, St. Ansgar

Shirley - November 26, 2019 at 10:59 AM

PF

He loved visits, visiting and sharing his passion with those who loved learning! I'm sure he's rearranging some gardens right now :) Thank you for your kind message of remembrance. Pam Fitz

Pam Fitz - November 30, 2019 at 07:58 AM

JB

“ Grateful that I had many summer opportunities to visit Stan in his garden. Good memories! Sending love and sympathy to the family.
Judy Sebern Beachy

Judy Sebern Beachy - November 26, 2019 at 10:56 AM

MB

“ Stan was one of a kind. So sweet and kind. You could truly see the love he and Corlyss had for each other. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. God Bless.

Molly Bohlen - November 26, 2019 at 10:07 AM

WA

“ Stan was a senior in high school when my husband and I were freshmen...freshman initiation will be long remembered! In later years after he was discharged from the army, I believe he worked for my dad, constructing houses. We enjoyed many trips to Rockford to see his fabulous flower garden and our grandchildren really liked trips to the fossil Prairie to explore and find fossils....thanks for being part of our lives, Stan.

Wilma Whitten Aldrich - November 25, 2019 at 11:10 PM

PF

Wow, what a great memory, and thank you! I know that Aldrich name over the years. Yes, his passion for woodworking was life long as he remodeled many homes in Rockford, and later carved many ducks, built shelves, and other creative wood items. The Fossil park in town is a rare gem and I'm thrilled your grandchildren have experienced it. We'll continue to tribute him there. Thank you for the note, his daughters, Pam Fitz and Lori Fitz

Pam Fitz - November 30, 2019 at 08:01 AM

CL

“ Stanley was so gracious to share his beautiful gardens with anyone who wished to see them. He was a good teacher and had very high standards. It was a treat to visit with him when we made the trip to admire the gardens.

Carol L.Miller - November 25, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Stanley "Stan" Darwin Fitz.*



November 24, 2019 at 09:05 PM