



Alvin Haase

MAY 23, 1918 - JUN 13, 2012



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Alvin H. Haase, age 94 passed away peacefully with his family by his side on June 13, 2012 in Madison, Wisconsin. Alvin was born on May 23, 1918. His early days were spent on a dairy farm overlooking a lake in northern Wisconsin. When his parents lost the farm during the Great Depression, Alvin relocated with his family to a logging camp in Michigan's upper peninsula. Alvin graduated from Iron River High School in 1937. He was athletic and fast, and excelled as a cross-country runner. After high school, with the depression on-going, Alvin worked where he could, from a grapefruit orchard and cannery in Texas, to door to door selling in the upper Midwest. It was while selling in the Worthington, Minnesota area in 1940 that Alvin received his draft notice. While serving with the U.S. Army in Memphis, Alvin met his future wife, Mary Alice Sweatt. They were married on April 4, 1942. After the birth of their daughter, Betty Ann, Alvin was deployed to the Pacific Theater. He served with distinction in New Guinea and the Philippines and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy. After the war, Alvin returned to Memphis where he owned and operated a restaurant, and later, a cab company. Subsequently, he held jobs in sales and in the newspaper business before settling into a 25 year career with the Crittenden Publishing Co. in West Memphis. He became the first circulation director of the company's Evening Times newspaper. Throughout his life, Alvin took seriously his Lord's command to "love your neighbor as yourself", and was a friend to many, always willing to "go the extra mile" to help someone. Monetarily, he gave freely and joyfully of what he had, even when he had little. It was a trait instilled in him by his parents. Alvin was a positive influence for the many young newspaper carrier boys and girls who "threw" papers for him. He was known as a compassionate and caring person, and for being a great mentor to the carriers. He instilled a strong work ethic in the carriers and encouraged them to be all they could be. He was also a leader in



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his profession when he integrated the newspaper's carrier corps in the 1950's. Even up to the time of his death, Alvin regularly heard from many of the former carriers, and the many other friends he made along life's way. Although Alvin was very proud of his military service, and extremely proud of the careers and successes of his carriers, he was most proud of the in-home care he provided to his beloved wife, Mary Alice, who was homebound due to a heart condition the last 20 years of her life. Alvin was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Memphis for over 60 years. In the congregation's early years he helped establish Immanuel Lutheran School, and along with the pastor, provided transportation to school for a number of students. He was an active member of Immanuel, holding a number of offices in the early years and ushering and greeting at the early Sunday worship service in later years. Alvin is survived by his loving and devoted daughter, Betty Ann (James) Bolitho of Verona, Wisconsin, nephews and nieces and their extended families, including a special grandniece, Angelia Kleinschmidt of Bellevue, Nebraska. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Alice, his parents William and Minnie, brother Herman (Ethel), and sister Elnora (Norman) Jensen. Funeral service will be held in the Fireside Chapel at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Avenue, beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, with Pastor Dennis Bartels of Hialeah, Florida officiating. Family and friends may call before the service beginning at 1 p.m. A visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. the evening before the service at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery. Interment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, Tennessee, or Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, Madison, Wisconsin. A gathering to celebrate Alvin's life, share memories of Alvin and renew old friendships will be held in the Memphis area at a later date. To all of the family and friends who remembered Alvin in different ways throughout the years, thank you! The family will always be grateful. Alvin's zeal to be a friend, and to offer a helping hand to others, and their friendship in return was a true symbiotic relationship. For Alvin, it was the fuel that energized him in all facets of life. Memorial Park Funeral Home, "Behind the stone wall", 901-767-8930. Condolences may be offered at www.MemorialParkOnline.com



Tribute Wall

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WT

William F. Taylor posted:

Hasse I miss you everyday. Love you !! Bill Taylor

September 22 at 1:12 PM

MB

Malinda Burton posted:

Mr. Haase was a great inspiration in my life. Working with him in circulation at the Evening Times and the many visits, letters and phone calls after I left, have been treasure. A true gentleman for a friend, full of wisdom. Below is how I and many of

June 21 at 10:13 AM

EH

Elisa Osborne Hastings posted:

Mr. Haase as I have known him all of my 35 years was a wonderful man to me and my entire family – The Odoms. He was a father figure for my mom for many years and like the grandfather I never had to my sister Michelle and I. I know heaven is lucky to have

June 20 at 3:38 PM

AK

Angelia Kleinschmidt posted:

My great Uncle Alvin made every moment of his life count. He has blessed the life of many, including my own. He treated me like a granddaughter, and I will always hold our time and conversations together near and dear to my heart. Gone but not forgotten,

June 20 at 11:01 AM

VB

Vicki Behrenshout posted:

Uncle Alvin was such a special person to myself and my daughter, Angel. He was like a surrogate grandfather for her. Loving him was always easy because of his giving heart. He will be kept in our hearts always.

June 20 at 10:59 AM



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CS

Chris And Jamie Scholik posted:

Betty, When we were first married about 15 years ago and lived in the apartment on Graham, we were Al's friends – what a privilege! and we got to know you a little when you visited, Betty – what a sweet daughter~ We are so glad that the Lord put him in

June 20 at 6:53 AM

MT

Maria Siano Turman posted:

Betty Ann I am so sorry to hear your father passed away. You and the family are in my thoughts and prayers.

June 19 at 2:48 PM

DF

Deborah Shappley Feldman posted:

I have many fond memories of Mr. Haase as I grew up on Grahamwood Cove. He was always there with his sweet smile & kind words. My sincere condolences.

June 19 at 9:38 AM

BW

Betty Waldrep posted:

Betty Ann, I am sending my love to you and your husband. I loved your Dad very much. I am so sorry I can't be with you Wednesday, but my thoughts will be. If nothing happens, I will see you in November. Haase was a wonderful man and Carl, our kid

June 18 at 1:37 PM

DC

David H. Cook Iii posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Mr. Haase touched many lives during his time. He was a true friend and having worked with him for a number of years, I will always cherish our friendship. David Cook

June 18 at 8:48 AM



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Ernest Byerly posted:

Please accept my sincere condolences on Haas's passing. We first met in 1956 when we both worked for the WM Morning Sun. He was always upbeat and one of the friendliest and most outgoing people I have ever met. He will certainly be missed.

June 17 at 12:32 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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