



Valentine Zadnik

February 14, 1934 - December 5, 2021

Valentine (“Val”) was born Valentine s Day, February 14, 1934. His actual and “true” birthday is February 13th. This error carried forward for many years of pre-schooling and many years of professional employment, military service, and even through recent years of retirement.

Valentine attended a country school, Auburn, in Auburn, Ohio, for the full 12 years and was class president in his Senior year.

After high school, he entered the Benedictine St. Meinrad Catholic Seminary in southern Indiana for one year before returning to the family farm and enrolling with Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, to study geology and geophysics, earning a Baccalaureate degree with honors.

In 1957 Val decided to seriously study geology. He began his studies at Western Reserve University under special scholarship to study glacial geology and earned his PhD degree at the University of Illinois under the Air Force

ROTC Program.

Val started his military career in the summer of 1960 with the Air Force Ballistic Missile Commission. He was a key element in a small group of engineers and scientists to select 21 sites for deployment of ballistic missile silos in northern United States and Alaska. When he finished his three years of active duty, he stayed on in the Air Force Reserves for 28 additional years.

After leaving active Air Force duty, he worked at Esso Research and Engineering in Houston, Texas searching for drilling sites for oil and gas and switching to problems associated with deep well drilling. He continued in the research field at the Army Research Center in Arlington Virginia and continued his career at the Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia until his retirement in 1999.

Val married his Auburn, Ohio, teenage sweetheart, Donna Starr, in 1958. They had four children. The oldest son was killed in a motorcycle accident working on an engineering degree at the University of Illinois in 1984. The other two sons and a daughter also earned engineering degrees, got married, and gave Val sixteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Val's hobbies included driving from Arlington, Virginia, 365 miles on weekends, to the old family farm in Auburn, Ohio. The second love of his life was working on a 1931 Model A Ford. He had bought this rusty old car at age 16 and restored it to factory finish many years later. It now resides in his son's garage.

Note 2021: Val wrote this obituary himself in April of 2020 and now has two more great grandchildren. In 2016 Val and his wife Donna had moved to an apartment in Westminster at Lake Ridge retirement community, as Val was challenged with a type of Parkinson's disease which eventually left him in a wheelchair. He was active in Men's coffee, regular exercise, and enriched his faith by participating in Men's Bible Study. He died peacefully in his sleep on a Sunday morning, having told his family that he placed his trust in Jesus.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Westminster Supporting Fund, 12191 Clipper Drive, Lake Ridge, VA 22192.

Previous Events

Viewing

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM (ET)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
12805 Valleywood Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Tribute by Family

DEC 13. 10:50 AM (ET)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
12805 Valleywood Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
12805 Valleywood Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Tribute Wall



“ *Valentine Zadnik*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *I'll always remember Val as a family man. Kind, loving and sensitive to other's, he showed his Slovenian spirit by staying in touch and remembering everything to do with being Slovenian and the country of Slovenia becoming an independent country. It was great to see him and Donna at the annual Christmas parties down the street from their home at my husband's colleagues home on South Park Drive in Alexandria. It was great to catch up with the Zadnik's at these gatherings. May Val's zest for life and family shine on in our hearts and a candle be lit in his honor and memory. With sincere sympathy, Bernadette and Tim Fitzsimmons*

Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons - January 11, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Val and Donna were always to gather and so very happy when Daniel and I would see them at the GW Model A events. Val was such a friendly and out going member of the club when we were active members. He just glowed with the love of the hobby. We enjoyed seeing his family gathered around him. He and his knowledge of the Modal A will be missed.*

Daniel & Donna Lyon - December 13, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Valentine Zadnik.*



December 12, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Valentine Zadnik.*



December 11, 2021 at 09:46 PM

“Below is the Christmas Story that I would like to share with everyone. It is special because I shared it with Dad during his last week with us.

The Christmas Story - Christmas Blessings to You

There is a special blessing in the Christmas message that is frequently missed by many. The birth of Jesus is not simply an interesting fact of history wholly unrelated to your present life, but rather it has direct bearing upon it.

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, the personal importance of His coming was emphasized. The angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

Have you ever thought that it was for you the Savior was born? Do you realize that when God sent His Son in to the world, He sent Him to become your Savior? Listen to the word of the angel, "I bring you good tidings of great joy for unto you is born... a Savior. Yes... it was for you that Jesus came, for we are all sinners in need of One who can save us from the consequences of our own sins.

He did not come to be the inspiration of sacred art, nor to be the theme of Christmas carols, much less to be merely a good man and a great teacher. No, Jesus came to be the Savior, and as such He was born to you.

Bound inseparably together are the Savior's birth and His death. He came to save, and to save He must die...die in the sinner's place, bearing the full penalty of God's punishment for mankind's sins. This too was personal - it was for you. "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree...the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 2:24,3:18).

And such a very personal message of God's love and grace demands a personal response. The Savior who was born was God's gift to you and He wants you to receive that gift. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

To receive the gift of God by faith you must believe that Christ actually was born to be your Savior and that He died for your sins. Because He arose victorious over death, He offers you abundant, ever- lasting life.

Won't you receive the gift of God this Christmas? It can be your best Christmas yet!

Janelle Watson - December 11, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Valentine Zadnik.*



December 11, 2021 at 04:23 PM

BS

“ About a decade ago, I was returning from the Fairfax Station open house in my Model A when I got a flat tire just as I was driving around Fort Myer. I knew Val lived close by, so I called him on my cell phone. He and Donna were there in minutes and helped me change the tire (I had no jack) and get me on my way. I knew I could count on Val to help me out.

Also, as the editor of the Ford Script, he and Donna trained me for several months on putting The Script together back in the cut-and-paste days. He and Donna had lobbied me for years to take over The Script before I finally succumbed. I've been doing it ever since.

Bill Sims - December 11, 2021 at 04:10 PM

JS

“ Jack & Donna Strater purchased the Rose Romanesque Bouquet for the family of Valentine Zadnik.



Jack & Donna Strater - December 11, 2021 at 03:58 PM

TF

“ The Watson Family and Martin Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Valentine Zadnik.



The Watson Family and Martin Family - December 11, 2021 at 11:43 AM

FF

“ *From your SEPI-Parsons Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Valentine Zadnik.*



From your SEPI-Parsons Family - December 10, 2021 at 02:38 PM

YF

“ *Your CACI Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Valentine Zadnik.*



Your CACI Family - December 10, 2021 at 12:35 PM