

Victor Wendel Wilcke

GH-R 1-10-2019



Victor Wendel Wilcke, 66, of Spirit Lake and formerly of this area, died Dec. 16, 2018.

Private graveside services were scheduled at the Clinton Memorial Cemetery in Clinton, Iowa, beside his father and his father's parents. No formal services were scheduled. Arrangements are under the direction of the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be sent to www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com. Memorials in his name may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church, the Northwest Iowa Humane Society, and Lutheran World Wide Relief.

Victor was born in Des Moines on March 20, 1952, the son of Ernest W. Wilcke and Elaine M. Hillmann Wilcke. He attended school in Malcom and Grinnell until he moved to Spirit Lake, where he graduated from high school in 1970. He then attended Wartburg College and while there did further study at the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterey, Mexico, and at the Alliance Française in Paris, Drew University in New Jersey and The United Nations; and spent eight weeks in Ghana, Africa, receiving credit thru the University of Massachusetts. He served as president of the Honor Society for two years at Spirit Lake High School and two years at Wartburg. Victor also studied at Harvard University and then the University of Chicago for study in economics. He gained degrees from Wartburg and from the University of Chicago.

Various jobs filled his summers and about 1988, he started helping his father by driving on long road trips. His hobbies included a lifelong interest in stamps and coins, and he also enjoyed chess, fishing and hunting. He was a valued helper for Lutheran World Relief, lifting 3 ton plus 680 pounds four times for the next shipment. He also briefly did tutoring at Lakes Community College.

Victor was a member of Grace Lutheran Church from 1953 to 1956 and from 1961 until his death. During that time, he was confirmed by the Rev. Fred Peters.

He is survived by his mother, Elaine Wilcke of Spirit Lake; other relations, including his Aunt Agnes Ruth Mikel of Grinnell and Mesa, Ariz.; and his kitty, Sophie, who visited him on Dec. 14, 2018.

He was preceded in death by his father and grandparents.