

## Rick Gnewuch

Richard (Rick) Joseph Gnewuch, 61, of Orange City, died Friday, June 16, at Ava's House hospice facility in Sioux Falls, S.D. surrounded by family.

Rick was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton.

The family will have a celebration of life gathering at Alton, Roadside Park on Friday, June 23 from 4-8 p.m. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Ava's House Sioux Falls, S.D., in Rick's name.

Rick was born on July 27, 1961, in Sioux City, the son of William and Ella (Dunn) Gnewuch. As a young child he attended St. Michael's Catholic School. In 1970 the family moved to Alton, where he attended St. Mary's Catholic School. He then attended Spalding Catholic High School in Granville, and graduated from Floyd Valley in Alton, in 1979.

Rick enjoyed being outdoors, spending time with animals, woodworking, and landscaping. He loved the mountains and traveling to the beach, especially Hawaii. He loved spending time with his many friends and large family.

Survivors include his brother Thomas and his wife Donna Gnewuch of Birch Bay, Wash., brother-in-law Kenneth Vlietstra of Orange City, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Maryanne Vlietstra and brother Kevin Gnewuch.



## Lynn G. Sorensen Celebration of Life

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, there will be a celebration of life for Lynn G. Sorensen at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Alton, at 1 p.m. A short service and interment will take place at the gravesite behind #5 tee box. There will be a gathering after the service at Sioux Golf & Country Club, Alton, to commemorate Lynn's life in the Alton/Orange City area.

Please join Linda and her family after the service for lunch and refreshments until 4 p.m. and share your stories and experiences with the family and friends.

Linda Sorensen  
Daughter, Stacey Sorensen Wright  
Granddaughters, Megan and Kaelyn

## Furry Friends to meet June 27

LE MARS – "Sweet Hour of Prayer" will be the theme of the Furry Friends prayer group meeting in the new Wet-Nose Rescue Shelter at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 27. The Rev. Pat Roberts will offer prayers for the cats and dogs at the shelter and for the volunteers who work there.

The public is welcome.

The Episcopalian minister will extend prayers for the volunteers who work at the shelter and for the building itself.

Following the prayers, participants will gather for sweet treats in the shelter's front lounge.

Other pastors who have served Furry Friends in 2023 are the Rev. Jan Christensen in January; Tom Munson, Synodically Authorized Minister, in February; chaplain Kitt Mallin in March; Pastor Berth Lundula in April; and Lay Pastor Eboni Sayonkon in May.

Any pastors who would like to help with the monthly prayers of Furry Friends may call 539-0223. The group usually meets the last Tuesday of each month but will not be meeting in July, November, and December.

The shelter is located at 1331 Hawkeye Ave. SW on the south edge of Le Mars near the airport.

Since Nov. 1, 2022, when the shelter opened, Wet-Nose has adopted out over 50 cats and more than a dozen dogs. Volunteers continue to be needed for the many shifts at the shelter.

## OBITUARIES

### Keith Bultena

Keith Allen Bultena, 58, died Monday, June 12, at Aspire of Lake Park Care Center in Lake Park, following over a month's hospitalization at Avera-McKenna Health Center in Sioux Falls.

He was a resident of Hope Haven homes in Spirit Lake, and most recently, in Arnold's Park.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Reformed Church at 1010 6th Street in Sibley, with Rev. Brian Jack officiating. Visitation with the family began at 1:00 p.m. at the church.

Burial will be at the Sibley Cemetery. Arrangements are being made by Jurrens Funeral Home in Sibley.

Keith Allen was born on August 3, 1964, to LuVerne and Donna Mae (Akason) Bultena in Sioux Falls, S.D. At age 10, Keith began life with Rev. Harvey and Angeline Calsbeek in Yankton, S.D. He lived with the Calsbeeks in Yankton and Willow Lake, and in Macy, Neb., and was part of the Calsbeek family for the rest of his life.

He graduated from South Sioux City High School in 1985.

During his adulthood, Keith lived in several cities in Iowa, including Sibley, Orange City, Rock Valley, Denison, Spirit Lake and Arnold's Park. He recently worked at the Hope Haven office in Spirit Lake and at Taco House in Milford.

Keith loved people. He talked and joked with anyone and everyone. He encouraged himself and others with his oft-spoken words, "One day at a time."

He was a fan of many sports teams, and was known to convince



friends, acquaintances and even a local school superintendent to give him rides to his team's basketball or football games. He was a loyal follower of the high school and college teams where he lived, cheered for Nebraska and Iowa teams, and loved supporting the Vikings (and sporting their colors). Rallying behind his teams was a highlight of Keith's life.

Keith participated in Special Olympics, and excelled in running and bowling.

Keith's family was important to him, and he cherished each family member.

Keith was a devout believer in Christ. He trusted God and God's love, and believed that God had a plan for his life. He became a member of a church in every community where he lived. At the time of his death, he was a member of First Lutheran Church in Milford. One of his favorite sayings was, "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch with Jesus." He read his Bible and prayed faithfully.

He was loved deeply by his family and friends.

Keith is survived by sister Glenda (Tim) Hoogland; brothers Greg (Reene) Akason and Scott (Tari) Phares; foster sister Marcia (David) Vermeer; foster brothers Doug (Janine) Calsbeek and Harold (Diane) Calsbeek; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Keith is preceded in death by foster parents Rev. Harvey and Angeline Calsbeek, parents LuVerne and Donna Mae Bultena, sister Cathleen, and grandparents Glenn and Agnes Akason.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts made in memory of Keith to Hope Haven at [hopehaven.org/give/](http://hopehaven.org/give/) or Hope Haven, PO Box 70, Rock Valley IA 51247. Cards and notes may be sent to The Family of Keith Bultena, Doug Calsbeek, 411 4th St NE, Orange City IA 51041.

## GROUP SEEKING ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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sheltering in a basement before leaving for the East.

Sponsored by two women in the Maurice Church, Svetlana was able to leave the country. But Alexi is within the age range of soldiers, and martial law prohibits him from leaving except under special circumstances. Friends of his organized a medical brigade. Now, because he had a large enough car, he volunteered to bring medicine from Transcarpathia to MASH units near the front, a job the government deems more important than being a soldier.

Svetlana has one son, Vladd. For the past three years, he has lived in Connecticut with his wife and now 2-month-old son, working as a tattoo artist. But his work visa is running out, and he may have to return to Ukraine, where he will be immediately drafted as a soldier.

Vita and her 18-year-old daughter Liza came only two weeks ago. For years, Vita delivered milk to farms. Then she took a job in a hospital, working as something like a CNA. To get to her new job, she woke up at 3:30 A.M., walked forty minutes to the bus stop, and then rode for three hours. When asked if there were no jobs closer, she replied, "Yes, but I felt God's leading to be there."

They owned a small farm outside a village about the size of Ireton, with chickens, two dogs, and a cat. The village is above Odesa, above the river, and northeast. The past several months found them fifty kilometers from the front lines of fighting. Every day they watched missiles fly over their heads. They developed the feeling that they never knew if they would wake up in the morning or if they would live or die at any moment. One missile did go off course and hit the village, killing those around them.

Answering a call from Christians in the West, they decided to sell their farm and come to the United States. Although Liza takes classes online from a University (her goal is to be a doctor), they have never left their area before. As Vita tells it, God provided help at every step. A couple of women appeared to help them negotiate the bus system. When they got to the city (larger than anything they had ever seen), a couple provided by the church was there to care for them and show them the sights. When

Maranda (Hulshof) Heytsi (a missionary in Ukraine who grew up outside of Maurice) guided them through the first border crossing, another woman noticed their confusion and guided them across no-man's-land and through the next border crossing. Looking for their next guide, a woman they had never met, among the thousands of people there, they were able to find her. Next, a Ukrainian businessman took them under his wing and guided them from their plane to the right spot in the Denver airport. And finally, when it was discovered they hadn't printed off all the correct documents to get through customs, God (and Martha Hulshof) were able to find a way around it with helpful customs agents. Vita and Liza are currently living in Maurice but will eventually live with their sponsors in Rock Valley.

On June 7, the Nova Kakhovka Dam and the hydroelectric plant were possibly bombed. The dam is currently under Russian occupation and holds back a vast reservoir, which locals called the Kakhovka Sea, as you cannot see the other bank in certain places. When the dam burst, besides the immediate loss of life and environmental issues such as tons of industrial lubricant, there were other problems. The Russians control the west bank while the Ukrainians control the east. The refugees here in Iowa want people to know that when the Ukrainians tried to rescue anyone visible to the Russians, they were shot at, preventing them from saving many people.

Martha Hulshof, coordinator of the program to bring Christian Ukrainians to safety, and working through Bethel Reformed in Sioux Center, notes that they would love to have more sponsors. Or if not able to sponsor, money for airline tickets, travel expenses, and housing is always appreciated. "Just this week, four new families have contacted us," she said. "One family is friends with Liza and Vita: a mom with four children. Natasha lived in the same village as Vita, in the war zone. She has escaped to Germany, near her older son, who is married, but there is no church or support there for her. She is desperate to be around other Christians again and wants to make a better life for her children."

For more information, please contact Martha Hulshof at [Hulshofs@hotmail.com](mailto:Hulshofs@hotmail.com).

## DORDT UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTS NEW APARTMENTS THIS SUMMER

SIoux CENTER — Dordt University is in the process of constructing a new set of apartment buildings, which are on schedule to be in use this upcoming fall semester.

The apartments, known as the "The Squares" or "Every Square Inch Apartments," are located south of Southview Apartments near the new parking lot that overlooks the Dordt prairie. The apartments consist of four new buildings and will house a total of 96 students.

"Students have been asking for more natural light for years," says Vice President for Student Life Robert Taylor. "We've added walls of glass in the Science Building and will do so in the new dining hall, but we also put massive windows in The Squares because they will bring in more natural light."

Each apartment will feature upstairs and downstairs levels. There will be multiple bathrooms per apartment, and there will be laundry located in each apartment. Much of these updates came from student feedback, adds Taylor.

"I appreciate how the apartments will look aesthetically, and we have great partners who've helped us with that," he says.

Dordt President Dr. Erik Hoekstra says Dordt now has 150 more undergraduate students living on campus than the institution did a decade ago. "We're grateful to Vision Builders and our other contractors who are helping us complete these facilities so quickly—and I'm sure

our students will enjoy the new spaces this fall."

"Dordt has become nationally recognized for its high level of student engagement," says Chief of Staff Rev. Aaron Baart. "One significant contribution to that reality is our increasingly unique requirement for students to live on campus all four years. Christianity is an embodied faith and in an increasingly isolated and individualistic world, we strive to create a community that fosters interdependence, not independence."

Living in community nurtures the fruit of the Spirit or, what the broader culture would more readily call "soft skills," adds Baart.

"Time and again, we hear from our alumni the deep friendships formed and the lessons learned from living in community on campus. So obviously, the more intentional the living spaces we can create for our students, the better," says Baart.

How did Dordt decide on the apartment name? Students, faculty, and staff were invited to fill out a survey to share their name ideas; there were 345 names submitted.

"I love the name of the 'Every Square Inch Apartments,' harkening back to the quote by theologian Abraham Kuyper where, at the founding of a new university in 1880, where he said, 'There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'" says Hoekstra.

Laura Grasman, who works as a payroll administrator at Dordt, submitted the winning name to the survey. She will receive a designated parking spot for the 2023-24 academic year as a prize. Grasman says she was surprised and very grateful when she learned that her apartment name idea had been selected.

"We have so many talented people who submitted ideas for the new apartments, and to be chosen was flattering," she says. "Receiving a parking space for a year? That's cause for skipping around the office!"

Grasman says that the new apartments will benefit Dordt greatly. "Living on campus provides community and inclusivity," she says. "Dordt is well-known for student engagement. By building more apartments, we're providing the opportunity for students to build stronger bonds on campus."

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Auction & Picnic**  
The public is cordially invited  
to share a day of fun and excitement!  
**Sunday, June 25, 2023**  
**Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's in Alton**  
Following the Mass will be a picnic at the park.  
**11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Free Will Offering.**  
Menu includes choice of hamburgers, hot dogs  
or brats, baked beans, bag of chips & drink.  
**Auction will begin at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Bouncy houses – Raffle – Games – Bake Sale**  
**Come join us for fun for all ages!!**