



Carlton A. Nebel

October 31, 1926 - September 19, 2022

Carlton Anton Nebel was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri on October 31, 1926. For this Lutheran family, Reformation Day was the perfect moment for God to bring this ten pound pumpkin into the world. His hardworking German parents, Anna --a housewife with only a 4th grade education-- and Reido--a WW1 veteran and electrician-- loved the Lord and their children: Weldon, Norma, and Carlton – lovingly nicknamed Fatty. The Great Depression hit this little family hard, yet Carlton – spunky and smart -- grew up with fond memories of eating mustard & sugar bread, creating his own monopoly board out of scraps, and playing stickball with neighbors. This love of life and sports would follow him throughout his journeys, but everything paled to his love of the Lord. He was a faithful member of Trinity Lutheran Church – where he was baptized. In 1940, he was given 1 Tim. 1:15 as his confirmation verse and held it close to his heart: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.”

And Carlton took that faith with him as he graduated from Central High School (1944), Southeast Missouri State University (1951), and later Washington University with a Masters in History. Always ready to go, Carlton joined the army in WWII and served stateside as a staff sergeant, training soldiers in artillery. In 1947, he hitchhiked to Texas and joined the Austin Pioneers – a minor league baseball team – as their catcher. Over the next four years while attending college, he played Double AA baseball with the Cincinnati Red’s organization in Michigan, W.Virginia, S. Carolina, and Minnesota. Playing

during these Golden Years with legends such as Yogi Berra, “Fat” Nebel was a versatile player who fired up his teammates – for better or worse—and was admired for his game knowledge. He once tried to throw Jackie Robinson out while he was stealing second base and was chewed out by Leo Duroche for trying.

Carlton continued his service to others as a history teacher over the next three decades at several high schools: Hancock, Southwest, Kenard, and Cleveland, where he coached two baseball and basketball teams to state championships. To stay connected to baseball and with a heart to mentor young players, he was an umpire for 52 years, inducted in the Missouri Umpire Hall of Fame in 2016. He also taught driver’s ed. to over 1000 students in St. Louis, scaring generations of teens with his emergency stops, yet encouraging each with a dashboard prayer to say before they started the car.

While this worker bee was buzzing around the city, the Lord provided him with a partner beyond measure. Sweet Bernice Roth – a Missouri farm girl – married the energetic Carlton in 1966 and created a Christ-centered home for her busy husband and children: Mark, Jeannie, Susan, and Mary. Together, Carlton and Bernice lifted each other and everyone around them up with a generous spirit, contagious joy, and a home full of warmth and hospitality. A faithful member of Concordia, Kirkwood, Carlton humbly served in every way possible: choir member, Sunday school superintendent, bus driver and more. He was never without a smile and never without a bulletin or prayer, as he handed them to literally every person he met, using every opportunity to share the hope that he had in Jesus.

His heart for others was what endeared him to his children – Mark & Ingrid, Jeannie & Michael, Susan & Joe, Mary & Chris. His heart for play is what let him shine with his grandchildren: Jocelyn, Katie, Sara, Jack, Justin, Pete, Anna, Ella, Sophie and great-grandson Daniel. Forever a kid at heart, Grandpa Nebel was always ready for a monopoly battle, a game of catch, and a wagon ride. With a twinkle in his blue eyes and a song in his heart, Grandpa

would beat you in a game, then call that it was time for family devotions and an ice cream cone. Pete shared once that when he was young, he thought Grandpa Nebel was the “closest thing to Jesus on earth.” Carlton would heartily disagree, daily reminding himself and his family that he moves only by the grace of God...period. And that for nine full decades of his life --a busy, messy, inspiring, forgiven, unforgettable life -- that only grace sustained, encouraged, and saved him. Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of this man – for his energy, his joy, his example, his heart. And for the gift of your grace to us all. May we all learn to sing it, share it, and live it out loud – with enthusiasm and sincerity – as Carlton did each and every day, until we gather together again.

Donations in Carlton's memory may be made to KFUE Radio- 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood

10301 Big Bend Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 965-8228
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **23**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood
10301 Big Bend Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 965-8228
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Visitation

SEP **24**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 S Kirkwood Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 822-7772

Funeral Service

SEP 24. 11:00 AM (CT)

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 S Kirkwood Rd
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 822-7772

Interment

SEP 24. 12:15 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood
10301 Big Bend Road
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Tribute Wall



“ *Carlton A. Nebel*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *My memory of Carlton is that I never heard him mention a negative word about any person or activity. And he always laughed. He and Bernice a raised an awesome family whom we love very much. His life blessed many, many people. Miss you Carlton, Carol Roth*

Carol Roth - September 22, 2022 at 10:35 PM



“ *Carlton was the pride of the Greater St. Louis Association of Umpires - he was our cornerstone. He was a consummate professional and shared his time and talent for half a century with high school baseball players. We will always miss him on the field - Carlton will be our Hall of Famer forever.*

Bob Frischmann - September 22, 2022 at 12:03 PM



“ *In Christ Forever, Teachshare Mamas purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Carlton A. Nebel.*



In Christ Forever, Teachshare Mamas - September 21, 2022 at 05:57 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Carlton A. Nebel.*



September 21, 2022 at 09:36 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Carlton A. Nebel.*



September 21, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ *Taught me how to drive a car in and out of cement pillars at Crestwood Mall. Saw him ref and ump many games. Mr. Nebel looked and sounded German tough, but was always very friendly whenever I ran into him at church or on the athletic field. He was a great example of a dedicated Church goer. Dave Schoedel*

David W. Schoedel - September 20, 2022 at 11:10 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carlton A. Nebel.*



September 20, 2022 at 09:50 PM

RH

“ I went to visit the Nebels one summer. My family didn't do family devotions. However, Mr.Nebel did and I shared with him how much I enjoyed this, when I was headed back to Texas, he gave me the devotional book he read from and I still have it!!! He was such an inspiration. We will be praying for his family.

rachel harris - September 20, 2022 at 09:40 PM