



Lionel Elbert Baxter

March 9, 1923 - January 22, 2025

Click on the link to watch the funeral service. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMdkSTUWCWk>

Lionel Elbert Baxter (March 9, 1923 - January 22, 2025) passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, six weeks short of his 102nd birthday, with his family by his side. There is no way to describe what he experienced during those 101+ years. His pride in his service, as well as his love of country and his sports teams was eclipsed only by his love of family. Lionel fought for human rights during WWII, culminating in the liberation of a concentration camp. Only in recent years, did he share some of the terror and horror he witnessed as a member of the greatest generation. Stateside, Lionel worked in the family cheese factory and at the Royal Bank of Avoca for many years, positively contributing to the community through work and volunteer opportunities. An active church participant, he loved walking with his children and grandchildren to church when they would visit. He taught his grandchildren the importance of community and to be impeccable with their words because “words matter”. While our family is sad, we are grateful for everything he instilled in us. We will miss his kindness, compassion, and wit. We are very appreciative of the care he received at Pine Valley Community Village and Richland Hospital.

Lionel is survived by his loving wife, Joanne (nee Gobar) of Avoca; beloved

sons Craig of Buffalo Grove, Illinois; David of Oconomowoc; Wisconsin, daughter-in-law; Ronda (wife of David); grandchildren Leah, Ryan, Emily, Jessica, John (JD), Amanda, Rachel, Kelly; 23 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Betty Baxter (Avoca); sister-in-law Marian (Bob); sister-in-law Kate (Fred); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Leland and Thalia; his siblings Lee and Phyllis; his grandchildren Beau Baxter (David); Erik Baxter (Craig); and great-grandchild Graysen.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with a service starting at 11:00 a.m. Following the service, the family will be hosting a luncheon ending with graveside military rites at the Richland Center Cemetery. The visitation and service will be held at Clary Memorial Funeral Home, 26777 Jelland Drive, Richland Center, WI. Pastor Chris Simonson will preside. In lieu of flowers, memorials made to the Avoca Fire/EMT Department and the Frank O'Brien Legion Post would be appreciated. www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com

Click on the link to watch the funeral service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMdkSTUWCWk>

Cemetery Details

Richland Center Cemetery

Richland Center, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 26. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life

APR 26. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Graveside Service

APR 26. 1:00 PM (CT)

Richland Center Cemetery
Richland Center, WI

Tribute Wall

LW

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family.
Love, hope, peace and prayers,
Louis Williams*

Louis Williams - April 22, 2025 at 08:04 AM



“ *205 files added to the album Lionel & Joanne Baxter*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - April 01, 2025 at 02:08 PM

JP

“ *Lionel was the pinnacle of patriotism, community, and service to mankind. Heaven gained an angel. I recall fond memories of his counsel and chats with my father. Our family holds great respect to Lionel and JoAnn and their families. May the Grace of God strengthen us all as we try to emulate the pure humanity of Lionel in our daily lives. God Bless.*

John R. Pechan - February 13, 2025 at 07:50 AM

LG

“ I only lived in Avoca a relatively short time, but it didn't take long to learn that Joanne and Lionel were legend in all the best ways possible. You wouldn't know it by their response to people, even those they hardly knew. It was a blessing to visit with them in their home. A person was always warmly welcomed, the conversation was always stimulating and entertaining, and it seemed, though we tried to be careful with them, that we had each received a deep family hug when we left. My gratitude for Lionel's being, and heartfelt hugs to Joanne and family. Lola Gregg

Lola Gregg - January 24, 2025 at 10:58 PM

SZ

“ Loved that guy. Very witty and sassy but very compassionate. He always made me smile. Lionel had a quick comeback. I remember the day he told me that he thought Joni's was a drive through! Heaven has gained a great one!

Susie Ziebarth - January 24, 2025 at 02:50 PM

LK

“ My sincere sympathy to Joanne and family. He will be missed, you have so many wonderful memories to help you through this difficult time. I always enjoyed assisting Lionel at the eye clinic.

Linda Kleppe - January 23, 2025 at 03:02 PM