



Virgil Stephen Sancken

September 28, 1927 - January 17, 2023

The mortal life of Virgil S. Sancken, Kankakee, ended on January 17, 2023. He is survived by his son, Gregory S. Sancken (Lynne) of Tolono, Illinois; his daughter Sara L. Luse (Steve) of Decorah, Iowa; and his brother, J. Marshall Sancken of Pontiac, Illinois. In addition, he is survived by 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. His wife of 68 years, Irma Jean (Hogle) Sancken, died in 2017. The family wishes to thank his caregiver and associate, Mrs. Melissa Brown, for all her help over the years.

Virgil was born on September 28, 1927, in Emington, Illinois, to John and Florence (Greuter) Sancken. He farmed during the 1940s and 1950s, attending college as an adult at Olivet Nazarene University in the 1960s. Upon graduation, he was employed by Public Aid of Kankakee County for 11 years, eventually serving as the superintendent. He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. As a believer in the "ministry of the common life" he sought to respect each individual, regardless of race, origin or gender. Through his relationship with Quaker theologian D. Elton Trueblood, and the Yokefellow Institute, he became convinced of his need to do volunteer service. He was a Boy Scouts of America adult member for 31 years and received the Honor of the Key award. He also served as a trustee at Evenglow Health Center in Pontiac for 28 years. He and his late wife traveled to McCurdy School in New Mexico for many years to volunteer. They also served as representatives in Japan at the Asian Rural Institute. He was a 75-year member of the Illinois

Farm Bureau.

In his later years, Virgil put down his reminiscences of people he knew in a book he called Flashbacks. He had copies printed for his friends and family. Virgil believed in up-to-date farming practices, knowing that “you can’t use the time behind you.” He believed in Matthew 11:29-30 (Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.) and kept the mottos “Be of good cheer” and “Keep looking up.”

Donations in Virgil’s memory can be made to Riverside Medical Center Foundation, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau Foundation, or St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Kankakee. His remains were donated to medical science.

Arrangements by Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Tribute Wall



“ *Virgil Stephen Sancken*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Virgil and his wife were not only my next door neighbors for many years but he was also my boss at DHS. He was always a kind and caring man with a smile and a wave for everyone. Rest in peace dear friend.*

Wendy Clodi - January 22, 2023 at 12:53 PM



“ *Ellen Tierney lit a candle in memory of Virgil Stephen Sancken*



Ellen Tierney - January 21, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ *I had the honor and pleasure of serving Virgil at Riverside Sr Living! He and I became friends and I always loved the times we were able to sit and visit. He NEVER forgot a thing and was always concerned about my well being. Whenever he'd see me he'd say "well theres the Buckleyoanion!" I never got tired of hearing it. I know he's missed by many!*

Jean E Rousey - January 21, 2023 at 03:34 PM

DC

“ *Mr. Sancken lived down the street from (all of us neighborhood) kids in Oak Dale Acres for many, many years. I remember seeing exercise equipment in his garage whenever the door was open. The stretch of road in front of his house was prime real estate for our antics with bicycles and ramp jumping. We always could count on a smile and wave from both Mr. and Mrs. Sancken. Everyone on Nancy Drive admired them both. Rest well Mr Sancken. We'll miss you !*

David Cooper - January 20, 2023 at 10:54 PM

PV

“ *I am a nurse at Miller. I am so sad to hear of Virgil's passing. He always had. Kind word and smile* ❤️

Patty Visinaiz - January 19, 2023 at 09:42 PM

JG

“ *Joseph L Giacchino lit a candle in memory of Virgil Stephen Sancken*



Joseph L Giacchino - January 19, 2023 at 11:49 AM