



## Dean A. Harfst

May 14, 1939 - March 11, 2023

Dean Allen Harfst, 83, of Mason City, IL passed away on March 11, 2023 at the Mason City Area Nursing Home. He was born May 14, 1939 in Easton, IL to John and Frieda (Dierker) Harfst. Dean was a faithful member of Christ Lutheran Church in Mason City, IL.

Dean is survived by his wife Cheryl (Krusemark) Harfst of Mason City, IL, his children Gina (Scott) Schwader of East Peoria, IL, Robby (Danette) Harfst of Sheridan, WY, and Jonathan (Jessica) Harfst of Battle Creek, MI, his grandchildren Austin (Bridget) Harfst, Mitchell Harfst, Jon McCann, Sara Harfst, Kaytlyn Harfst, and Easton Harfst, and his first great-granddaughter due in June of 2023. He is also survived by a brother, Roger Lynn (Pearl) Harfst of Easton, IL and several nieces and nephews.

Dean's passions have always been farming and sports. Dean graduated from Easton High School in 1957 where he was a star basketball and track athlete. He attended the University of Illinois and was a walk-on member of the Fighting Illini Basketball Team. After a semester at U of I, he felt his calling back to the family farm. During his farm tenure, he raised numerous crops, many species of livestock, custom farmed, and even broke his hip getting bucked off a horse. This diversified background led him to a focus on crops and his love of purebred Hereford cattle.

Dean loved to mentor youth. Over the years he was the “Voice of the Easton Hawks” as announcer and scorekeeper for High School basketball, a little league coach, a state advisor for the Illinois Jr. Hereford Association, and a national advisor for the National Junior Hereford Association.

After retiring from farming in 2004, his passions turned to watching his grandchild in their many endeavors, 2-cylinder John Deere tractors, and the fast-paced world of antique tractor pulls. He’s hauled tractors to the Mackinac Bridge in northern Michigan as well as across the nation to Oregon with his red Chevy trucks. He also had a big passion for the St. Louis Cardinals and Illini basketball.

Dean was a stranger to no one. His friendly demeanor and big ole’ grin was warm and welcoming wherever he went. Dean was well-known for his humor and his famous one-liners. He truly loved the relationships he had with his family and friends.

A Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Christ Lutheran Church in Mason City, burial to follow at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Havana. A visitation will be held on Friday, March 17, 2023 at Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City. A Celebration of Life will be held after the services on Saturday at the Fire House in Easton from 4:00 -7:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Lutheran Church or Illinois Jr. Hereford Association. Online condolences can be left at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com). Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City is in charge of the arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Mason City  
603 East Chestnut  
Mason City, IL 62664  
(217) 482-5959  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Funeral

MAR 18. 1:00 PM (cst)

Christ Lutheran Church  
114 E Walnut St  
Mason City, IL 62664

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the entire family. In my years working with Gina at State Farm, who spoke often of her dad, I understood him to be a man of honor who was well-loved by his family and community. I know he will be dearly missed, but the many whose lives he touched will forever re-member (and, hopefully, pay forward) the goodness Dean invested in them.

Susan Namboodiri - March 20, 2023 at 08:17 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.



March 17, 2023 at 08:24 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.



March 17, 2023 at 07:26 AM

KB

“ I didn't know Dean before I started tractor pulling with him, but for the years I did know him, he proved to be such a fine man. I enjoyed our talks at the pulls so much, and I will sorely miss him. Condolences to all of his family and friends. You were all blessed to know him.

Kevin R Bergman - March 16, 2023 at 10:02 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.



March 16, 2023 at 02:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.



March 16, 2023 at 01:57 PM

RQ

“ RON BARB QUINONES lit a candle in memory of Dean Harfst



RON AND BARB QUINONES - March 15, 2023 at 03:09 PM

LH

“ *Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Dean Harfst*



Larry and Mary Hundt - March 15, 2023 at 08:45 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.*



March 15, 2023 at 06:25 AM

LT

“ *Lisa Thompson lit a candle in memory of Dean Harfst*



Lisa Thompson - March 14, 2023 at 11:21 PM

RK

“ *We loved seeing Dean at the tractor pulls. He did well this day!*



Randy and Sue Kline - March 14, 2023 at 09:37 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.*



March 14, 2023 at 09:36 PM



“ *Thinking of you all during this difficult time. Cherish the memories. Dean was a great individual, I was blessed to know him.*

**Lynn Gordon** - March 14, 2023 at 07:12 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dean A. Harfst.*



March 14, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for Dean---we will all keep your family close to our hearts and in our prayers.*

**Mason City Area Nursing Home** - March 14, 2023 at 02:49 PM



*Our thoughts and prayers with all of you during this difficult time. Remember all of those great family memories of showing livestock.*

**Diane Harfst** - March 14, 2023 at 10:04 PM

LD

“ Cheryl so sorry to hear of your loss...sad times they are. Keep your heart and memories open.

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**Lynnea Dowell** - March 14, 2023 at 02:19 PM