



## Clair Snyder

October 2, 1930 - February 1, 2022

Clair Bernard Snyder, age 91, of Breda died Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Visitation will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Breda. Face coverings are required for those in attendance. A private family Funeral Mass will be held at St. Bernard's Church with burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Breda. Military honors will be conducted by the Breda American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, the Snyder family asks that donations be made to St. Bernard's Church through <https://www.kuemper.org/donate>. When making a donation, please specify in the comment section that the donation is being made in memory of Clair Snyder to St. Bernard's Church.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Breda and online condolences may be left for Clair's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Clair was born October 2, 1930 in Breda, Iowa to Anna (Grote) and Cyril Snyder. He attended country school, starting first grade at age 4, and St. Bernard Catholic School, graduating high school in 1947. He worked on the family farm with a purebred Duroc hog business until drafted into the Army in 1952. After basic training at Ft. Knox, he was deployed to Korea, and served

as a tank operator with the 223rd Regiment of the 40th Infantry Division in the Heartbreak Ridge combat area from August of 1952 to July 1953. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Carson, Colorado. After service Clair attended the Electrical Institute in Des Moines and was employed in highway construction.

Clair grew up two miles from the love of his life, Myrna Boes. They dated briefly before he left for Korea, but the real love affair unfolded through the beautiful letters they exchanged while they were half a world apart. They were married on May 17, 1955. In 1956 they began farming in the Manning area where Clair established his Snyder TV & Electrical Business. They returned to the family farm at Breda in 1971.

Clair and Myrna had four children, Catherine, Margaret, John, and Rebecca. He was an exceptional role model who taught his children to love reading and knowledge, the importance of hard work, the strength of family and community, and that a sense of humor is essential to live life well.

Clair had many professional accomplishments. He was a seed salesman and served on the Pioneer Sales Advisory Council. He was also a member of the Carroll County Beef Producers, Pork Producers, Farm Bureau and Legion Post 607 where he held various offices. In 1963 he received the Carroll Jaycees "Outstanding Young Farmer Award." He spent 6 years on the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and National Feed Grains Council, actively pursuing the establishment of the ethanol industry in Iowa.

He also shared his diverse talents in service to his community--contributing his beautiful tenor voice and perfect pitch to church choirs and the Elks Chorus, acting as eucharistic minister and lector for St. Bernard's Parish, assisting with many church fundraisers, helping write the history of Breda for the Centennial book, running electricity for the stands for Breda July 4th

celebrations, and setting off fireworks.

Clair retired from farming in 1995. In 1998 he and Myrna built their present home in Breda, doing most of the finish work themselves.

After retirement he became an active wood carver and received awards for duck decoys and fish displays. He was an avid outdoorsman and went on African safari twice. Most of all, Clair loved his family and friends, fishing, hunting, golfing, playing Pitch and Euchre, and enjoying winters in Florida at the Lazy River Village.

To the delight of his grandchildren, Clair was an inspired storyteller with a sharp wit and a charming smile. In the last year of his life, he told family and friends, "I've had a great life—been to the county fair, the state fair, four continents, and even Red's a few times."

Survived by his wife Myrna Snyder of Breda; his daughters: Catherine (Dan) Pudenz of Lincoln, NE, Margaret Snyder (Michael Mortensen) of Seattle, WA, Rebecca Snyder (Dwight Lawson) of Oklahoma City, OK; 7 grandchildren: Kristen Pudenz (Pablo Maurin), Lauren Pudenz, Alex Pudenz, Max Mortenson, Drew Mortenson Sam Snyder, and Rory Lawson; 1 Great grandchild, Eleanor Maurin Pudenz; his brother, Julius Snyder; his in-laws: Janice Snyder, Duane Boes, Dennis (Jan) Boes, Ardel (Mary) Boes, Fr. Clair Boes, Eldon (Joan) Boes, Carol Malone, Merlin (Connie) Boes, and Susan (Dennis) Schreier; as well as many nieces, nephews, other extended relatives and many friends.

Clair was preceded in death by his parents, Cyril & Anna (Grote) Snyder; his son, John Snyder; and his siblings, Vera Kennebeck, Elaine Wiese, Kenneth Snyder.

# Tribute Wall

WK

“ *Myrna and family: You have our sympathy in the loss of your dear Clair. We admired his woodworking when we saw it on display at the Carroll Library. What a talent from such a gentle and kind man. You will be in our thoughts. Wes & CJ Niles*

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**Wes & CJ Niles** - February 06, 2022 at 12:45 PM

KH

“ *Clair was my uncle and I am incredibly blessed to have known him. He was kind, respectful, witty, patient, inquisitive, and charming all at the same time....amazing! He was always present and engaged when he spoke to you. Somehow he always found your heart and left his mark.*

*I will forever cherish all the holidays spent with him and remember fondly my "vacations" to the farm when I was younger. My Two Size shoes will always live on in my memory.*

*I love you Uncle Clair*



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**Kelsey Hixson** - February 06, 2022 at 11:20 AM

TM

“ Clair was many things. Loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle, farmer, veteran and for one very lucky nephew..... godfather. But if I had to use just one word to describe him it would be warm. He was just a warm person. When I think of Clair all of the pictures in my mind are of him laughing, teasing, teaching, and most of all smiling. He taught me countless useful things like how to properly shoot pool. But the most important thing I learned from him was how to love your family and be a good person. Rest easy Clair all of your hard work is done.

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**Todd Malone** - February 06, 2022 at 08:50 AM

SB

“ I’m sorry for the loss of one our favorite uncles. We loved the visits to the farm. The animals, mischief and taxidermy provide some of my fondest memories. Love to all.

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**Steve Boes** - February 05, 2022 at 02:55 PM

BM

“ Myrna & family, my sincere sympathy for your loss. What a larger than life person Clair was. He was a wonderful man and has the most wonderful family. May all the precious memories you share give you peace in this time of sorrow.

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**Bonnie Malm** - February 05, 2022 at 01:01 PM

BM

“ Bonnie Malm lit a candle in memory of Clair Snyder



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**Bonnie Malm** - February 05, 2022 at 12:57 PM

BA

*“ I was saddened to hear of Clair's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with Myrna, Becky, and the rest of the family.*



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**Bridget (Villeneuve) Allman** - February 05, 2022 at 10:55 AM

CB

*“ Bob, I and our kids are sorry to hear about the passing is Clair. Sending hugs and prayers to all of you. Bob's biggest memory is being on the farm hog skiing and playing in the hay loft. Bret's memories are at the farm and when the mouse trap went off in the drawer and then the cats got a treat.*

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**Chris Boes** - February 04, 2022 at 07:33 PM



*“ On my last visit with Uncle Clair, I remember being in his basement looking at some of his carvings, planes, etc. I told him that I had recently returned from Washington D.C. having never been there before. I shared with him that, out of all the Memorials I saw, that the Korean War Memorial spoke to me the most. He then proceeded to share a few stories and some information on the tanks he was in, etc. I loved listening to him!  
I am so sorry for the loss of your husband, father, grandfather....but I am so happy for Clair! I can only imagine the immense joy he must be experiencing. May God bless you all. Julie Wiese Derrig*

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**Randy Derrig** - February 04, 2022 at 12:46 PM

JK

“ Cathy and family so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. You are in my prayers.

Joyce (Steinkamp) Kenney

Joyce Kenney - February 04, 2022 at 12:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Clair Snyder.



February 04, 2022 at 11:19 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clair Snyder.



February 04, 2022 at 09:39 AM

KA

“ Kristen, Lauren, and Alex purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Clair Snyder.



Kristen, Lauren, and Alex - February 03, 2022 at 10:30 PM

JE

“ *Jean lit a candle in memory of Clair Snyder*



**Jean** - February 03, 2022 at 08:24 PM

JE

*Great neighbor to Fred and I for the past 18 years. Jeanne B*

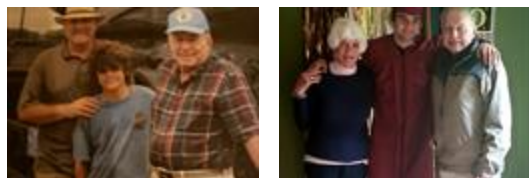
**Jean** - February 03, 2022 at 08:27 PM

SS

“ *My best memories of Clair are watching his eyes light up as he told stories, working on his amazing wood carving art work, his joy of just sitting watching his family as they gathered together, but most of all I will never forget him walking across the room to hug me right after John passed.*

*I am so grateful for his love for my Son, his grandchildren, Sam Snyder. He showed us both what acceptance and strength was in times of grief. He will forever in our hearts.*

*Sheryl and Sam Snyder*



**Sheryl Snyder** - February 03, 2022 at 07:42 PM



KT

“ *Cathy and family, So sorry to hear that you lost your dad. He lived a great life and shared many years shared with your mom. They shared many years together and raised a great family. Teasure your memories. Kathy Nieland Tasler*

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**Kathy Tasler** - February 03, 2022 at 06:42 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Clair Snyder.*



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February 03, 2022 at 06:08 PM

MB

“ *What a wonderful obituary to a life well lived. I loved Uncle Clair's stories as well. I'll never forget the fun we had on the Snyder family farm as kids. I'm sure Uncle Clair breathed a sigh of relief as he saw our car headed out the driveway and back to Urbandale! Sorry for running weight off those hogs Uncle! ... kinda*

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**Mike Boes** - February 03, 2022 at 06:02 PM

AB

“ *I have many fond memories of conversations with Clair and think of him as one of the most talented persons I have ever known.*

*Ardel Boes*

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**Ardel Boes** - February 03, 2022 at 04:47 PM

BH

“ *Our sympathy to Myrna, Catherine, Dan and the rest of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Mark & Barb Hoffman*

Barb Hoffman - February 03, 2022 at 03:14 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Clair Snyder.*



February 03, 2022 at 09:49 AM

JL

“ *Clair was absolutely one of my favorite people! I loved his stories, and he loved that I loved his stories! My deepest sympathy to Myrna and his family. He will be deeply missed. Jean*

Jean Ludwig - February 03, 2022 at 08:54 AM

LM

*So sorry to hear of Clair's passing. He was always a great neighbor and friend. Loved his stories! Leon and Denise*

Leon Muhlbauer - February 03, 2022 at 02:56 PM

TT

*I didn't live in Breda but on weekends as a kid I grew up in Breda by our visits to my grandparents who lived there (Matt and Philomena Thelen and Charles and Mary Schelle). A kid couldn't ask for any more on a weekend visit - half in town and half in the country. These visits imprinted me on what life was like in Breda over many discussions around the house with aunts, uncles, and many others. I feel like I learned how good life can be by these interactions and the people I met as a kid in Breda.*

*Clair was one of those people who was a friend of my father, Leny, for a very long time. They did a lot together and really enjoyed each other's company. It's people like Clair who have set the benchmark for me early in my life about how good life can be if you treat people right, have good friends, and live a life of integrity.*

*One time I needed help on a project and my father and Clair offered to help me. I needed to build a box for a gift I was giving someone and Clair drew up a plan and built the finest box possible - complete with detailed carvings, a beautiful stain, and hardware that made it look like it was deserving for a king. He even lined the inside of the box with felt. It was the perfect solution. He and Dad made it in Clair's garage. Watching those two take on this project left an impression on me about how good friendships can be.*

*The world needs more people like Clair and I am so happy he and my father were friends. Even though I didn't spend time with him like my father did he helped me grow up in such a positive way by the example of his life. I'm grateful for that and my thoughts and prayers go out to Myrna and his family.*

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**Tony Thelen** - February 04, 2022 at 07:40 AM

SN

*Clair was a fishing buddy for my dad, Leny Thelen, and Myrna was a good companion to my mom, Jean Thelen, when they came to Spirit Lake and Okoboji to visit. It was good to read of Clair's life, and learn more about this great man! Myrna and family, you have my sympathy.*

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**Shirley Neary** - February 04, 2022 at 11:12 AM