



## Theodore Victor Lilja

December 16, 1931 - June 5, 2016

Theodore V. "Ted" Lilja, age 84, of Amboy, died Sunday, June 5, 2016, at University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison. He was born December 16, 1931, in Kittson Co., Minnesota, the son of Edwin and Olive (Oaks) Lilja. He was a farmer in Minnesota, then was an agent for Rockford Life Insurance Co. In 1971, he founded and was co-owner of Lilja Tiling Service in Amboy. Ted was a veteran of the Army during the Korean War.

He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Amboy, Past Master and 50 year Member of Illinois Central Masonic Lodge #178, Past Member of the Lee County Board, Past President of the Amboy Area Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Amboy Lions Club, Member of the Amboy American Legion Post #453, the Mendota Moose Lodge #714, Dixon Elks Lodge #779, Rockford Shrine Club, Scottish Rite Valley of Freeport, and Star of Rochelle Chapter OES. He also enjoyed fishing, boating, hunting, and Four-wheeling.

Ted married Gladys Kirkeide in Greenbush, MN, October 26, 1957.

He was preceded in death by 1 sister Marjorie Desch, and 1 brother Larrie Lilja.

Survivors include his wife of Amboy; 1 son Edwin M. (Francine) Lilja of Amboy; 1 daughter Lori J. (Tim) Sondgeroth of Dixon; 4 grandchildren Jeffrey (Lisa) Lilja and Nicole Lilja, Trevor and Brittney Sondgeroth; 2 sisters Esther Underburg of Karlstad, MN, and Lettie (Leroy) Larter of Lancaster, MN; 1 brother Ronald (Rita) Lilja of Mendota; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 10:00 AM in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Amboy with Pastor Barbara Otten, officiating. Burial will follow in Woodside Cemetery in Lee Center, with Military Honors by the Amboy American Legion. Visitation will be held on Friday, June 10, from 2:00 until 4:00 and 6:00 until 8:00 PM in the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy with a Masonic Rite at 7:30 PM, and also on Saturday from 9:00AM until time of service in the church. Memorials have been established to Amboy American Legion, Amboy Fire Department, and Amboy Lions Club.

# Cemetery Details

## Woodside Cemetery

Lee Center, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy  
303 East Main Street  
Amboy, IL 61310  
(815) 857-2611  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Visitation

JUN 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy  
303 East Main Street  
Amboy, IL 61310  
(815) 857-2611  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

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JUN 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
960 US Rte 52  
Amboy, IL 61310

# Tribute Wall



“ *Theodore Victor Lilja*

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October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Theodore Victor Lilja*

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December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Brian McLindsay lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja*



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**Brian McLindsay** - July 06, 2016 at 07:12 PM

BM

*Thinking of most of my good childhood memories, Ted and Gladys were either there or were soon informed of the experience, being our closest friends. I have fond memories of the countless hours where Ed and I played together, at their home or at ours. The family trips remain some of my best memories and none of us will forget the boat trip to the three sisters at Lake of the Woods and the storm and waves we encountered or the day we fought the wind and waves to get back into Zippo Bay. The retelling of that story alone has created some family folklore with my boys, as I have tried to repeat it just as Ted has told it so many times. I will never forget the look on his face the day he saw me soaking in the bathtub after being drug by a horse, the unequivocal statement that I need to be in the hospital and the lousy jokes and conversation he used to keep me awake while in the back of his car on the way to the Dixon hospital. If not for the tears right now I would be laughing about the pheasant he shot out at the forty, at about 3 foot from the end of his new shotgun...not a lot of good meat from that bird! Ted's love of watching the dogs point and of a good Belgium Browning. So many memories I can hardly believe it. The fishing in a swimming pool while he watched the living room painting be made in Chicago and the excitement he showed when telling me about the record we set for most tile in one day using 100 foot rolls.*

*As time has passed and I have gotten further away from Amboy our conversations became fewer and fewer, however he continued to maintain a warm and genuine relationship when our paths crossed. Always asking about my life and openly discussing his, letting me know how Lori, Ed and the larger family was doing and never forgetting to mention Aunt Gladys.*

*Ted shall remain a part of me and my family.*

*We wish all the Lilja family peace and comfort as they remember this good man.*

*-Brian*

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**Brian McLindsay** - July 06, 2016 at 07:13 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Theodore Victor Lilja.*



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June 09, 2016 at 11:10 AM



“ *Deepest sympathies to the entire family. I just lost my own dad a couple of years ago and know the pain. Thrive on the wonderful memories you have of this wonderful man!*

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**DAVE FOX** - June 09, 2016 at 09:36 AM



“ *I was sure glad he made the Honor Flight. My Condolences, Ed.*

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**John Sloter** - June 09, 2016 at 08:09 AM



“ *Sherie McCullough lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja*



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**Sherie McCullough** - June 08, 2016 at 07:32 PM

SV

“ Sue Tolbert Vilmont lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja



Sue Tolbert Vilmont - June 08, 2016 at 06:53 PM

SV

*I remember all of you coming to Lawton's years ago for milk, bread or ice cream. Thinking of all at this sad time but always treasure fond memories.*

Sue Tolbert Vilmont - June 08, 2016 at 06:57 PM

JE

“ I came to know Ted through the tiling business, as I saw him practically every day during the work week. I can't think of a single person who loved visiting, conversing with folks, and socializing more than he did. Friends, family, complete strangers...he didn't care. He just wanted to know all about you and what was going on in your life. He'd always ask me, "So, whad'ya know?" I never knew what the proper answer to that question was. Nothing? Not much? I don't know? Well, today I have an answer for you, Ted. I know that you were loved by many and will be missed greatly. ❤️

Jamie Eller - June 08, 2016 at 01:54 PM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Theodore Victor Lilja.



June 08, 2016 at 10:08 AM



“ *Deepest sympathy. Thoughts and prayers to all of you.* ”



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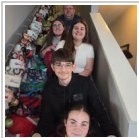
**Kathy Jones** - June 08, 2016 at 06:28 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Ted's passing. He was a great guy. We'll keep him in our prayers.* ”

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**Gene and Dianne Osowski** - June 08, 2016 at 05:35 AM



“ *Josh Hintz lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja* ”



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**Josh Hintz** - June 07, 2016 at 10:44 PM



“ *Our condolences Gladys and family. What a legacy Ted left behind with his family, military service, business and community service.* ”

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**Diane Stewart** - June 07, 2016 at 06:52 PM

MB

“ When Ted sold ins. he would always come to our big house on Metcalf street and were just small kids. It was usually dinner time and at first we would be like oh know I am so hungry but we would all sit and visit with Ted for a long time and we all enjoyed it. The time went by fast because Ted was fun to visit with for each one of us! He was always so kind to everyone his whole life. Always enjoyed visiting with Ted. R.I.P. Ted! Margie Becker

Margie Becker - June 07, 2016 at 06:43 PM

KB

“ Karen Blaine lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja



Karen Blaine - June 07, 2016 at 06:34 PM

DR

“ Dave Reubin lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja



Dave Reubin - June 07, 2016 at 05:54 PM

Vicki Kessel

“ So many memories, so much love shared. I will miss you.



Vicki Kessel - June 07, 2016 at 05:26 PM

PM

“ I have been in the Legion for about a year and have known Ted only during that time. But I thoroughly enjoyed listening to his stories and visiting with him. While we were waiting to perform a ceremony at Woodside last winter, I sat in the truck with Ted while it was raining a sleet and not looking forward to stepping outside in the cold and sleet. Ted was proud of his truck and showed me all the bells and whistles which were impressive. I will really miss him at the table in AmFam while we were chatting prior to going to a cemetery for Legion rites. He was a great guy ,very enjoyable to be around and I only wish I had known him a lot longer. He is now with a lot of his old buddies and still sharing the stories.

*Phil Morris*

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**Phil Morris** - June 07, 2016 at 05:25 PM

JE

“ Jeff And Sharon Edmunds lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja



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**Jeff and Sharon Edmunds** - June 07, 2016 at 12:33 PM

JB

“ Jim And Marilyn Braida lit a candle in memory of Theodore Victor Lilja



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**Jim and Marilyn Braida** - June 07, 2016 at 12:30 PM