



Allan J. Bell

November 20, 1918 - August 11, 2015

Allan James Bell, 96 of Tomahawk Wisconsin, passed away at the Golden Living Riverview Nursing Home on Tuesday August 11, 2015.

Born in Tomahawk Wisconsin to Harry Garfield Bell and Vinnie E (Reynolds) Bell on November 20, 1918. Allan graduated from Tomahawk High School in 1936

Survived by his son Lance Bell(Karen) of Spring Green, Wisconsin two grandchildren Kjerstin, Spring Green and Siri,

Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Son Dean ,Rhineland Wisconsin. One

Grandson Dan Dietzler, Rhineland Wisconsin. two great-grandchildren, Terry and Jacob Dietzler, Rhineland.

Allan married Dorothy Mae Clark on October 10, 1942.

Allan served in WWII as a Heavy Bomber Pilot, flying 39 missions in the South Pacific. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and seven Air Medals.

After the war, Allan returned to Tomahawk and worked for the Service Drug Store, Raymond Lumber Company, the Tomahawk School system, and the Wisconsin National Guard Armory.

Allan enjoyed hunting and fishing until Camp 10 Ski Hill opened near Rhineland. Every Saturday and Sunday he would load up the Station wagon with young Tomahawk skiers and headed there for a day of skiing. Later in life he started to spend time at the Clearing in Door County photographing nature and bird watching. This lead to lecturing with slide shows on the natural world and eventually writing a column for 30 years called Birch Bark Nature Notes.

After years of service at Treehaven Nature Center he received recognition for his community service and volunteering efforts . He also spent time helping establish the Tomahawk Historical Society where in 2012 the annual service award was granted to and named after him. He volunteered time when the Ice Age Trail was built near Tomahawk. Allan was a member of the Congregational Church and taught Sunday School.

AJ also served in the CCC's after high School to help support his mother after his father died.

Allan was also granted a life membership in the "Quiet Birdmen," a fraternal organization

of pilots with many hours of flying time. He also enjoyed working with their organization at the EAA Fly In every year. He also attended WWII Bomb Group reunions and stayed connected to his crew and their families throughout the years. His B-24 Liberator and crew is featured in many books written about the South Pacific campaign during the war.

Allan's nature columns and lectures of the natural world were aimed at helping people understand their natural environment in hopes that they would be kinder to it and try and live a more peaceful and appreciative life.

Allan was preceded in death by his parents and wife of 14 yrs Dorothy (62).

The Bell family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff of Golden Living-Riverview and the Hospice organization for the kindness and compassion shown to Allan and the other residents during his brief stay at their facility.

Visitation will be from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Krueger Funeral Home on Thursday, August 20th

A Memorial Service with Military honors will be held at 11:00 AM.

Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery

Memorial contributions can be made in Allan's name to the Tomahawk Historical Society, 1614 Riverview Lane, Tomahawk, WI 54487

Cemetery

Events

Greenwood Cemetery

Tomahawk, WI, 54487

**AUG
20**

Visitation

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Krueger Family Funeral Home

101 North Second Street, Tomahawk, WI, US, 54487

**AUG
20**

Memorial Service

11:00AM

Krueger Family Funeral Home

101 North Second Street, Tomahawk, WI, US, 54487

Comments



“ Will lit a candle in memory of Allan J. Bell



Will - August 23 at 10:25 PM



“ Saddened when I checked into the Leader and learned of Allan's passing...he was such an interesting chap and actually, a hero to us youngsters of the class of '51...will not forget his reports on his Sqdn reunions and certainly his weekly columns in the Leader...

God Bless old soldier and our condolences to his family...another of the Greatest Generation moved on...

Will & Barbara Jones
Northbrook, IL

Will - August 23 at 10:34 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your father's Birch Bark Notes with others. I've cut out and saved them all in a binder. His nature articles were told in a manner that gave an everyday awareness of the beauty and wonders around us. May all your memories of your father be as sweet.

Nancy (Taves) Schneider - August 21 at 03:56 PM



“ Sad to hear the news of "AJ"'s passing. We always wonder how long our WWII veteran friends will last. Sharon's father (Bill Goodell) was the bombardier of AJ's B-24 crew. AJ always kept in touch with Sharon's mother, Margaret, after Bill passed away years ago. Margaret always enjoyed this Birch Bark Notes and receiving cards from AJ. She sends her condolences too. Last summer I had the opportunity to visit for a day to hear and videotape his WWII stories. Feel grateful for the day spent with him and Dean, hearing his stories and being able to share them with Sharon through the video. He surely lived a long life, enjoyed it to its fullest and will be missed by all.

Our thoughts and prayers to Dean, Lance and their families,

Bill and Sharon Krause
Margaret Goodell

William Krause - August 19 at 01:40 PM



“ 18 files added to the album WWII Photos



Bill - August 19 at 12:42 PM



“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



Bill & Sharon Krause - August 19 at 12:31 PM



“ The officers and members of the American Legion, Bronsted-Searl Post 93 of Tomahawk, send their most sincere condolences to the family of Allan Bell.



American Legion Post 93 - August 13 at 03:19 PM



“ Allan's passing is a great loss to not only his immediate family, but to his community family as well, and certainly to the Tomahawk Area Historical Society. We personally feel so blessed to have known and worked with him. A gracious, gentle, and gifted man. I've referred to him many times as " a walking history book." He so lovingly shared his pride in Tomahawk and his wonderful memories, as well as his appreciation of nature. He played an integral role in the sharing and preservation of our local history through and for the Historical Society and we thank him for that.

He was one-of-a-kind and will long be remembered.
We send our thoughts and prayers to Lance, Dean and families, and Betty.
Dixie & Andy Zastrow

Dixie Zastrow - August 12 at 08:20 PM



“ Pat & Russ Cottrell lit a candle in memory of Allan J. Bell



Pat & Russ Cottrell - August 12 at 06:39 PM



“ Allan was always a kind & gentle man. He was always willing to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. His thoughts expressed in his Birch Bark column made all who read them realize how blessed we were to live in the Tomahawk area. The loss of Allan Bell is a loss to Tomahawk.
My deepest sympathy's and condolences to the Bell family.

Jack L'Abbe - August 12 at 03:58 PM



“ Oh my, what sad news to hear of Allan's passing. he was a historian on many issues, local history, plants, and birds. whenever I had a question pertaining to those issues, I would give Allan a call and he had an answer. he was always willing to share his information.he often came to my 4-H club with presentation for the youth, and encouragement for them to keep learning. I would look forward to his articles in the leader, and did miss them.
my sympathy and condolences to his family, take a walk in nature, Allan's spirit will be there. ----- Clarice Krueger

Clarice Krueger - August 12 at 06:31 AM



“ Me. Bell was awesome I remember working with him during summer vacation at the High School, he always had a smile on his face. RIP Buddy. Sending prayers to his family.

Jeff Koth - August 11 at 05:29 PM



“ Allan Bell was a very special in so many ways. I remember him from when I was a boy in the Boy Scout troop, seeing him at the Armory when I was in the Guard unit and the many times we talked about history. He will be missed by many and will always be remembered.

Condolences to the family at this sad time.

Gordy Lovsletten

Gordy Lovsletten - August 11 at 04:28 PM



“ Allan truly was "Tomahawk's Historian" condolences to the family.
Debbie Smith Hester

Debbie Smith Hester - August 11 at 02:08 PM



“ I lived next to Allen when I was in high school and a lot of times he would pick me up and drive me to school so I didn't have to ride the bus. He was a good neighbor and I always enjoyed his articles in the paper. He will be missed by many. Condolences to the family. Just remember he will always be in your hearts.

Linda Neumeyer - August 11 at 12:43 PM