

Allen L. Colligan, age 83, passed away at his home surrounded by his family under the care of Red River Valley Hospice on Monday, February 17, 2025.

Al was born in Bagley on October 20, 1941, to Thomas and Adeline (Rotzien) Colligan. He was raised on a farm south of Bagley. He attended grade school at the Nora Township Country School and graduated from Bagley High School in 1959. Allen was active in basketball, baseball, and track for the Flyers. He graduated from Bemidji State College.

Al arrived in Mahanomen in 1963 and soon after married Rose Riewer on January 23, 1965. Together they raised three daughters, Susan, Karen, and Ann. Al spent 35 years teaching English, speech, psychology, and motivation to the students at Mahanomen High School. Sports were a big part of his life and his many years as the head track coach was where he thrived and touched many students lives. Al's 30 years as student council advisor and his leadership of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle group also opened many opportunities to impact the school community. Al became the unofficial "Voice of the Indians" through his football game announcing and being the MC at many school events. Officiating high school basketball was one of his passions. He and Ken Baumann worked many games throughout Minnesota during their career together. Al was an active member in the Mahanomen community. He and Rose owned two businesses. They were the original co-owners of the Burger Hut that opened in 1970 and were also co-owners of the Midtown apartment building. He also served on the Mahanomen Hospital Commission for over 25 years.

Upon retirement Al and Rose made the move to Star Lake by Dent, Minnesota. It was here that they found themselves continually surrounded by family as the draw of swimming, fishing, boating and spending time with family was the highlight of their life together. Al always fancied himself a farmer and the wide-open lot at Star Lake gave him the garden of his dreams. Many hours were spent producing the fresh vegetables that were a treat on "family" weekends.

Al was passionate in his support of his grandkids and their endeavors, especially in extra-curricular activities. Elementary band concerts, grandparent days, and sporting events were seldom missed. Viking orange, Spartan blue, and Jacket yellow all looked great on Al, and you could not convince gramps that his grandkids weren't some of the best to do whatever it was they were doing. Al did not neglect his love of deer hunting and was also able to share that with his family. He was in his little bit of heaven-on-earth when he started bringing his sons-in-laws and the grandsons up to Bagley to hunt the old farmstead. The tradition of having morning coffee with the round table of men who could "solve all the world's problems" did not end after he left the Red Apple in Mahanomen. Al had a gift of finding these "intelligent groups" in the cafés of Dent, Pelican Rapids, and Vergas. Al just had a knack for starting conversations and fitting right in with almost any group.

Preceding Al in death were his parents Thomas and Adeline Colligan, brother Lyle, brothers-in-law, Gerald Riewer and Peter Riewer, sister-in-law, Eileen Riewer Lewis, nephews Ken Colligan and Jeff Riewer, and great nephews Ryan Colligan and Sam Riewer.

Al is survived by his wife, Rose; children – Susan (Doug) Bruggeman, Karen (Troy) Weist, Ann (John) Kostynick; grandchildren – Casey Bruggeman, Ryan Bruggeman, Drew (Liza) Weist, Joey (Megan) Weist, Elly Weist, Colton Kostynick, and Connor Kostynick; great grandchildren – Wyatt and Waylon Weist and his bonus foster grandchildren.

Suggestions for memorials to go to Calvary Lutheran Church ministries or Hospice of the Red River Valley.



## **TO THE GOOD MAN**

By Susy Pavlish, 1982

**To the good man that faithfully arrived  
in the dew of the morning,  
To give the best of all he had  
in spirit and mind.**

**To the good man that taught  
so graciously of English and beliefs,  
so life's beauty we all may find.**

**To the good man that felt for the soul  
Of a young one that could not believe  
Of a rainbow but in the words of a book.**

**Oh, I pray for the good man,  
That smiled at my hurting heart  
With words of kindness and compassion,  
For an existence that was bursting apart.**

**What a good man that gave so much  
But looked for no return.  
Of no reason he took: but gave moments of time  
To warmly love a hurting soul as me.**

**As the years have come and gone,  
Though I still may not know life's song,  
I find these moments of time to share  
The memories of a good man.**

**That took the time to care.**

**Allen Leroy Colligan**  
**October 20, 1941 - February 17, 2025**

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, the righteous Judge,  
will award to me on that day-  
and not only to me, but also to all who  
have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4: 7-8



## **Memorial Service**

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
Perham, Minnesota

### **Officiants**

Pastor Erin Bovendam  
Pastor Eric Clapp

### **Musicians**

Russ Bunker  
Erin Anderson  
Daidre Klinnert

### **Musical Selections**

“I Am the Bread of Life”  
“On Eagle’s Wings”  
“I’ll Fly Away”

### **Readers**

Jenny McNamee - Katy Boehm  
Ken Baumann

### **Special Tributes by**

Doug Bruggeman  
Casey Bruggeman

### **Honorary Urn Bearers**

Casey Bruggeman - Ryan Bruggeman  
Drew Weist - Liza Weist  
Joey Weist - Megan Weist  
Elly Weist - Colton Kostynick  
Connor Kostynick