



## Alvin Henry Pinke

November 11, 1934 - October 11, 2013

Alvin Pinke, 78, Valley City, ND, passed away October 11, 2013, with his family by his side.

Alvin Henry Pinke was born on November 11, 1934, in Marion, ND, to Leo and Mildred (Wirrenga) Pinke. He grew up on a farm outside of Marion and graduated from Marion High School in 1953. He attended Valley City State College for two years before enlisting in the Army in 1955. Alvin married Olga Peterson on December 16, 1956, and their son, Timothy, was born in 1965.

Alvin served in the National Guard from 1957-61. After his military service, Alvin worked as a mechanic at Geisler Implement from 1961-70, and then began his 30-year career with the Valley City Public Works Water and Sewer Department, retiring in 2000. He enjoyed farming with Dick Monson in his retirement.

Alvin was a loyal and unending supporter of athletic programs in Valley City. He and Olga were named Fans of the Year from VCSU in 1999 and from the Hi-Liners in 2005. In 2013, he was given an Individual Citizen Award from the ND Recreation and Park Association for advancing parks and recreation for quality of life in ND. Alvin was also an active member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church volunteering as an usher for 40 years.

Alvin's three grandchildren meant the world to him. He loved playing with them when they were little and never tired of throwing a ball around. He enjoyed watching their sporting activities and talking about them with friends.

Alvin had a special passion for baseball and helping people. He volunteered with the American Legion Baseball program for 26 years and touched the lives of many people. The party held in his honor in December of 2012 touched him deeply. He was honored to be inducted into the American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003. He served as a trustee for the American Legion Post #60 for the last 8 years.

He is survived by his wife, Olga; son Tim (Nancy) Pinke; Grandsons Austin (22), Kyle (19) and Noah (16) all St. James, MN.

The funeral service for Alvin Pinke, 78, Valley City, ND, will be 10:30 A.M., Friday, October 18, 2013 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Valley City. Visitation will be held at the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Home on Thursday, October 17, from 4:00 -7:00 PM, with a prayer service at 7:00.

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Home has been entrusted with handling arrangements. Please share your thoughts or special stories in Alvin's online guest book at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Woodbine Cemetery

Valley City, ND

# Previous Events

## Prayer Service

OCT 17. 7:00 PM (CT)

Traditions Funeral Services - Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel  
251 Central Ave. S.  
Valley City, ND 58072  
(701) 845-2414  
o-nchapel@bektel.com

## Funeral Service

OCT 18. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
138 3rd St. NW  
Valley City, ND

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Al's passing. I have such great memories from the two summers that I worked with him. One of those summers was a major flood and I can remember working overnight with Al. We talked about anything and everything through the night. He always had a way of putting a smile on my face. I'll cherish the memories that I have of Al. He was a really good guy. Rest In Peace, Al. You'll be missed.

*Ryan Beil*

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**Ryan Beil** - October 20, 2013 at 11:20 PM

SO

“ *Pinke family*

*Sorry to hear of the loss of Al, what a great man. If you were involved in any athletics in Valley City you knew Al and Olga. The loss came to our family especially having worked with Al and Olga so closely over the last 2 years in the Babe Ruth program. My son Dalton took the loss extremely hard. Al and Olga were so proud of this past years team for accomplishing their first trip to the State Babe Ruth tournament in 18 years. I think the kids played more for them than they did themselves. Rest in peace my friend.*

*The Ondracek Family*

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**Steve Ondracek** - October 18, 2013 at 12:15 PM

DL

“ So sorry to hear about Al. He was a great man and made my transition to VC so easy. He was everyone's dad! My thoughts go out to the family and everyone in VC who lost a great person. Darin Loe

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**Darin Loe** - October 18, 2013 at 12:32 AM

LM

“ We were very saddened to hear of Pinke's passing. I was very lucky to have Olga and Pinke come to many of the special events in my life. They were also able to attend many of our kids events. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

*Lori and Steve Martel*

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**Lori Martel** - October 17, 2013 at 08:07 PM



Nicholas Killoran

“ *To the Pinke family:*

*No words will explain the love and fond memories I have of this man. I don't think I told Al or Olga nearly enough how much my time in Valley City and in particular the time at Charlie Brown Field meant to me and my family. Short of the day I married my wife and the birth of our 3 girls, it was the happiest time in my life! Al provided an amazing example of what life is all about. A role model to all of us young men, he showed us what it means to give back to a game that teaches so much. He was kind, always saw the best in people, and extremely philanthropic (specifically with his time). Al was one of the major reasons why there are still stories being shared about the Post 60 Baseball teams. These stories will continue for years to come. Al & Olga put millions of smiles on people's faces over the years. They will always be considered family of mine.*

*Rest in Peace Al ...and if you have any 'pull' upstairs... lets try to get a few bounces to go our way out on the old diamond!*

*~ Nick Killoran and family*

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**Nicholas Killoran** - October 17, 2013 at 08:28 AM

JE

“ *I am very sorry to hear the passing of a great and caring individual, Al Pinke. My thoughts and prayers are with Pinke's family and friends. I am glad to have met a wonderful individual. You will be missed Pinke!*

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**Josh Standing Elk** - October 16, 2013 at 11:28 PM

MD

“ We are very sorry to hear of Al's passing. Are thoughts are with his family and friends at this time. The one thing our family always noticed about Al was just how much he did for others. He really did embody a great neighbor. Thank you Al.

- Dahnke Family

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**meghan dahnke** - October 16, 2013 at 10:12 PM

KK

“ Pinke family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Al's passing. I will always remember how kind Al was to my mother, Anne Petersen, in seeing that her driveway was always shoveled, lawn was mowed, and other small repairs. He would always be available to help her in so many ways. We all appreciated his kindness towards her.

Karen Petersen Klein

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**Karen Petersen Klein** - October 15, 2013 at 04:16 PM

 Jaco  
Lucious

“ Al, thank you for all the years of service, the conversations, and dedication to hundreds of youth over the years you spent with the legion program. The size of the man is measured by the lives he touched. Specifically I'd like to thank you for being a mentor to my brother over all these years, from those classic years between '94-'96 with back to back state runner up to the day you passed. For those that take care of our loved ones will always share a place in our hearts. The world could use a few more Al Pinke's in it!

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**Jaco Lucious** - October 15, 2013 at 09:09 AM

MA

*Is this Alvin Pinke who used to serve at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Elementary School in Lynwood, California in the 1960s? I graduated there in 1971 and I remember him as a true gentleman. He was very well respected and he was really nice to all of us squirrely kids. His son would be maybe 73 plus or minus and I think his daughter would be my age, around 62. I hope some reads this. I've been thinking about those early years and what my teachers and pastors might be.*

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**Martha Amescua** - July 19, 2021 at 07:01 PM

WB

“*Pinke Family...I have been in contact with my 3 sons (Matt, Andy, and Joel) Each one was VERY sadden by the news of Al's passing on to the Lord. Mr Pinke played a major role in my son's love of the game of baseball. Andy was hit the hardest, relating that if it were not Al's touch of baseball in his Life, he would not be coaching on the World-wide level of Baseball. Andy is now in the Czech Republic, coaching their National team, along with a team from France. Al taught my boys his love of baseball is 'all' about having fun. We are all very fortunate to have had Al a big part of our Life! We have our memories, Al.....Thank You Matt, Andy, Joel (Bo), and Wayne Berglund.*

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**Wayne Berglund** - October 14, 2013 at 06:41 PM

DK

“ Our thoughts and prayers with the Pinke Family. Al will be missed by many.

*I shared this story at the NDRPA meeting in Valley City this past fall when Al received his award.*

*I grew up in Jamestown and Al would come over to umpire softball games. Back in the late 70's to early 80's. Each umpire would get to pick a ball boy to help shag foul balls. We were paid \$1/game.... When my Dad would get to pick and he would say he will take Darin ....Erstad to help him. Not his own son...Darin! I think it was a long running joke the umpires had...but anyway...Al would always pick me next and I shagged foul balls for him for many tournaments!*

*Thanks for picking me AL! Had a blast working your games. I have umpired 1000s of games and always remember those days! And I have taken the lessons learned from "Pinke!", my dad Dennis, Tom Gould and Jack Brown into my career in Recreation.*

*Thanks for all you did for the youth in Valley City over the years!*

*Darin L Krueger  
Executive Director  
Williston Parks & Recreation District  
Native of Jamestown ND*

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**Darin Krueger** - October 14, 2013 at 11:50 AM

CB

“ Dear Olga and family,  
My sympathy goes to you and your family. I remember Al as having a wonderful spirit and ready smile. The community of Valley City has just experienced a great loss. My prayers go out to you.

*Carol Winter Bjorge*

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**Carol Winter Bjorge** - October 13, 2013 at 07:55 PM

CA

“ Olga, Tim and Family - "Blessed are they who give without expecting even thanks in return, for they shall be abundantly rewarded." That prayer depicts Al Pinke. He served his community without expectation. He gave unselfishly Olga's and his time and energy without keeping score. Working full days and then making the countless trek up and down those steps at Charlie Brown, so 25 years worth of baseball players, their families and coaches could make life long memories. Al stepped up to the plate in the early 90's to rescue and lead and nurture the Post 60 American Legion baseball program, creating a culture that was memorable for everyone involved. Thank you Al! I hope as we celebrate your life next Friday - everyone will remember what it meant to receive the gifts that you gave and find it in themselves to give somewhere, unselfishly, like Al Pinke would.

God Bless,  
Cory, Kristi, Brady and Kadie Anderson

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**Cory Anderson** - October 13, 2013 at 10:53 AM

DJ

“ Olga, Tim and family. Please know that you are all in my prayers. I will always remember Al as having a great sense of humor and a very good friend of mine. The work that he and you Olga did for the American Legion Baseball program will be remembered and appreciated by the many players and their families that the both of you were involved with .Your loss of Al will be shared with so many of us. God bless all of you. I will miss my friend Al. Duane Johnson

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**Duane Johnson** - October 12, 2013 at 11:29 PM

MP

“ Our family will be forever indebted to Al for his devotion to the American Legion Baseball program that was an integral part of our sons' lives for nine consecutive years. Al never missed a home game; he made sure each player had meal money for road games, and he was their strongest supporter whether they won or lost. He loved the game and he was instrumental in giving Valley City boys the chance to love the game too. I envision Al, Dave O'Bannon and Charlie Brown up there taking batting practice. Touch 'em all, Al, as you have touched us all.

*Mary Berglund Pomeroy*

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**Mary Pomeroy** - October 12, 2013 at 10:46 PM

JB

“ I was fortunate to have known Al as a parent, an official, and as a friend. He was a remarkable man. The void created by his passing will be felt for years to come. Tim, you know he will have a front row seat for every game you and the boys will play, and he will watch every one of them.

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**Jan beauchman** - October 12, 2013 at 06:11 PM

DL

“ I have had many wonderful times with Al and Olga over the past 25 years. Their son Tim married into our family at that time. We spent many hours together and enjoyed watching our Grandsons meet many milestones together. Al was very proud of Tim and Nancy's family and enjoyed spending time with them. The years have brought many changes and Al and Olga were there for their family and me when we lost their other Grandpa 3 1/2 years ago. Now I will be there for them. My prayers are with all of you.



Love from Dianne Larson

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**Dianne Larson** - October 12, 2013 at 05:09 PM

CC

Olga, Tim, and Family. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this time. I have been asked a few times if there is period you could go back to and do over and over again, what would it be. For me, it's easy, the summers of 1992-1994 and especially the summer of 1994. Al and Olga truly cared for that program and us kids. He made that program something very special and something that all players and coaches will carry with them for a long time. Al and Olga have done so much to allow us kids to have fun doing what we loved all summer long. Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it Friday, but please accept my condolences and my respect for Al. He truly is a great man and I can't thank him enough for all he has done for me and the legion program.

Corey Cruchet

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**Corey Cruchet** - October 13, 2013 at 09:04 AM