

# Charles E. Wolford



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## Funeral Mass

10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 22, 2025

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Missouri Valley, Iowa

Family would like to invite everyone back to church for a time of lunch and fellowship following the committal

With deep sorrow and profound gratitude for a life well-lived, we announce the passing of our beloved Deacon Charles E. Wolford.

Deacon Charlie

Wolford, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, went home to the Lord on Nov. 3, 2024, on the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, his patron saint. He passed away peacefully at home in Redondo Beach, surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Omaha, Neb., on Sept. 9, 1926, to Leo and Lucille Wolford, Charlie was the third of five children. He graduated from Holy Name High School, became a daily Mass attendee, and joined the U.S. Navy at 17, serving during WWII and the Korean War. Afterward, he studied at Creighton University.

Charlie married

Gurina Anne Larsen at St. Peter's Church in Omaha on May 1, 1954. They raised six children—Joe, Mary, Tom, Annemarie, Bill, and Mark—and were blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He worked for

Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha and later for Chicago North Western Railroad in Missouri Valley, retiring after 40 years. Charlie was ordained

as a Permanent  
Deacon on Oct. 9, 1993, and served for 31 years. He was the  
first Deacon of St.  
Patrick's Church in Missouri Valley and also served as a  
hospital chaplain.  
Charlie started Meals on Wheels in Missouri Valley and helped  
establish the  
Rand Community Center.

An avid cyclist,  
Charlie participated in Ragbrai from 1987 to 2005, raising  
awareness for  
various causes. At 80, he did mission work in Central America  
with the  
Maryknoll Fathers.

In his later  
years, Charlie moved to Redondo Beach, Calif., to live with  
his daughter  
Annemarie and son-in-law Bob. He served as a deacon for the  
Archdiocese of Los  
Angeles, assisting at St. James Church and with the Carmelite  
Sisters. He also  
participated as a Deacon at Fatima, Lourdes, and St. Peter's  
Basilica in Rome.  
At 96, he traveled to Washington, D.C., on the Honor Flight as  
a WWII and  
Korean War Veteran.

Charlie lived a  
full and blessed life, devoted to his family, faith, and  
community.