

## Alvin R. “Al” Mueller

The Mankato Free Press Posted Wed Jan 26, 2011, 08:02 PM CST

NEW ULM — Alvin R. “Al” Mueller, 89, of New Ulm, died Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at the Oak Hills Living Center in New Ulm.

Funeral service will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 28 at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Ulm, with Rev. Timothy Smith officiating. Full military honors conducted by the New Ulm Area Comrades of Valor will follow the service at the church. Burial will follow at 2:00 p.m. in the Arlington Public Cemetery with the Arlington Veterans Honor Guard in attendance. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00-8:30 a.m. Friday at Schmucker Funeral Service in New Ulm and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Alvin Rueben Mueller, the son of Martin and Minnie (Bullert) Mueller, was born November 13, 1921, in Arlington Township, Sibley County, Minnesota. He was baptized at the family home farm in November 1921, and confirmed his faith May 3, 1936, at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington. He attended country and Lutheran parochial schools and was a graduate of Arlington High School. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College, he entered active military service in the United States Navy and served as an instrument flight instructor during World War II. Upon his honorable discharge in 1946, he obtained a law degree from St. Paul College of Law, which is currently known as William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Alvin served on the Minnesota Attorney General staff from 1953 to 1955, and then entered private practice of law with the former Young and Kunz Law Firm in New Ulm. He continued the active practice of law with this firm which later became the Mueller, Lowther and Vickery firm until 2003, when the firm merged to become the present Somsen, Mueller, Lowther and Franta Law Firm. Alvin served as an assistant and New Ulm City Attorney. He was a member of the American and Minnesota State Bar Associations and several other professional memberships. On April 2, 2005, Alvin was honored by associates, clients and friends for his 50th anniversary of law practice in the City of New Ulm. At this event, New Ulm Mayor Joel T. Albrecht awarded him with the City of New Ulm Distinguished Service Award. Alvin was a member of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Ulm and served on the church council and the St. Paul’s Lutheran School Building Committee. He was a longtime member of the Dr. Martin Luther College Board of Control, an initial national director of the WELS kingdom workers and served on other local church and synod committees.

He was a member of DAV Chapter 15 in New Ulm and a life member of the New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce and the New Ulm Seifert-Bianchi American Legion Post #132, having served as a Past Commander and long time Judge Advocate. He was a current member of the New Ulm American Legion Scholarship Foundation. For many years he was a member of the New Ulm Baseball Association and the New Ulm Legion Baseball Booster club. He played high school and college football and was a high school and amateur baseball player. Al is a member of the New Ulm Baseball Hall of Fame and a current director of the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame committee. Mueller Park, New Ulm’s newest baseball field, was named in recognition of his community support of baseball.

He served as a director of the Brown County Agricultural Society and a past chairman of the Brown County Republican Committee. He was an active member of the New Ulm Lions Club, New Ulm Turnverein Society, and the Farm-City Hub Club. He was interested in the improvement of the Minnesota transportation system and was an active participant in the improvement of State Highways 14 and 15 and U.S. Highway 212. Alvin was a people’s country lawyer and represented many area clients. He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed walking, golfing, hunting and following area local high school, legion and amateur baseball teams, as well as the Minnesota Twins and Vikings. Interested in conservation and the preservation of our natural resources, Al was an active member of the Izaak Walton League, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and other conservation and wildlife organizations. For the past several years, he has served as a hospital volunteer and legal counselor at the New Ulm Community Center.

Survivors include his nephew, Steven Cary and his wife Mary of Minnetonka; nieces, Virginia Hewitt and her husband Richard of Lehigh Acres, FL, and Barbara Mueller of Brooklyn Center. He is also survived by a sister-in-law Lucille Mueller of Brooklyn Center; great-niece Lisa Miller, great-nephew Robert Hewitt and his wife Stacy, and four great-great-nieces, all of Fort Meyers, FL; and several cousins.

In addition to his parents, Alvin was preceded in death by brothers August, Edmund and John; sisters Gertrude Halbor, Regina Mueller, Clara Cary, Joan, Sophia, Lucille and Ellen Mueller, and niece Lois Cox.

The family prefers memorials to St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Oak Hills Living Center, or the donor’s choice.