Evans Nordby
FUNERAL HOMES



Carl Eugen Vogt

February 28, 1942 - November 2, 2026

Carl Eugen Vogt, 84, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, passed away on November 2, 2026. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Carl lived a life marked by an enduring love of family, a passion for nature, an enthusiasm for lifelong learning, and a remarkable ability to connect with people.

Carl was born on February 28, 1942, in Queens, New York, to Karl and Maria (Seitz) Vogt. He grew up in Bellerose and attended local public schools. Even as a young man, Carl displayed a wide range of interests and talents as an accomplished photographer, he took all the photographs for his high school yearbook and maintained his own darkroom, where he developed film and made prints. He was also a drummer throughout high school and college, performing with the marching band at Syracuse University. He graduated from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University on June 7, 1964, earning a Bachelor of Science degree.

On June 27, 1964, Carl married Sally Vanleuvan Jones, beginning a loving relationship that would span more than 62 years. Together, they built a life centered on family, friendship, shared adventures, and a deep appreciation for the natural world. Their daughter, Michelle, son-in-law, Stephen Paratore, and grandson, Wesley, brought them tremendous joy.

Above all, Carl put family first. He was a loving, affectionate, supportive, and encouraging husband, father, and grandfather. His devotion extended to his large extended family on both sides. Carl and Sally made it a priority to attend weddings, graduations, funerals, and other important family occasions.

Family connections extended well beyond special occasions. Carl and Sally enjoyed traveling and spending time with relatives across the country, including visits to California, where Michelle and Stephen live, to family in Massachusetts, and elsewhere on the East Coast. Their annual trips to Maine combined family visits with vacations and became a cherished tradition. Just as importantly, they warmly welcomed extended family to their home, Christmas tree farms, and cabin on Fish Lake near Duluth, Minnesota. Whether gathering at home, working and exploring the tree farms, boating, canoeing, swimming at the lake, or sharing vacations and adventures elsewhere, Carl treasured the time spent together and the lasting memories created with those he loved.

Carl was a natural storyteller and an outgoing, engaging conversationalist who genuinely loved people. He enjoyed listening to others as much as sharing his own experiences. Almost any conversation could lead to a story, usually accompanied by humor or an unexpected twist. It wasn't simply the story itself, but Carl's distinctive way of telling it that captivated his listeners. He had a gift for making everyday experiences entertaining, and conversations with Carl frequently ended in laughter. His warmth, curiosity, and humor helped him develop friendships that lasted a lifetime.

Carl's passion for trees, forestry, and conservation shaped much of his professional life. Beginning in 1964, he spent three years with the Minnesota Conservation Department (now the Department of Natural Resources), working as a district forester and advising landowners on tree planting, timber management, and other forestry practices. He subsequently joined the Minnesota Environmental Sciences Foundation, where he focused on helping schools plan and develop outdoor classrooms and environmental education programs. His work included writing educational materials that guided schools in transforming outdoor spaces into opportunities for hands-on learning about nature and the environment. During this period, Carl also earned a teaching certificate from the University of Minnesota, further preparing himself for future opportunities in education.

For approximately 35 years, Carl taught forestry classes at the University of Minnesota, where he was recognized with the title of Extension Specialist Emeritus. As a dedicated educator and mentor, he inspired many students who went on to careers in forestry. His commitment to education extended beyond the classroom through his work with professional organizations and his service as a judge for 4-H and FFA competitions, particularly at the Minnesota State Fair, where he evaluated projects involving forestry, natural resources, and Christmas trees. Carl believed that learning was a lifelong pursuit and he delighted in sharing his knowledge while encouraging others to explore new interests.

Carl also operated his own forestry consulting business, providing professional expertise on a wide range of forestry-related matters. He was frequently called upon to serve as an expert witness, offering testimony in legal proceedings that drew upon his extensive

knowledge and practical experience.

Carl was also deeply involved in the maple syrup industry, sharing his expertise through educational clinics, professional publications, and leadership positions. He served on the board of the Minnesota Maple Syrup Producers Association and as Secretary-Treasurer of the North American Maple Syrup Council from 1989 to 2004. His contributions earned him induction into the North American Maple Museum Hall of Fame in 2011. He was affectionately known in the industry as Minnesota's “Mr. Maple.”

His contributions to forestry and conservation received recognition throughout his career, including a Tree Farm Inspectors' Certificate of Recognition in 1967 and designation as a Life Member of the American Forestry Association in 1979.

Carl's love of forestry extended into Christmas tree farming, which he began in 1972. Together with Sally, he spent decades growing Christmas trees, eventually developing three farms in Isanti County, Minnesota. Christmas tree farming became both a business and a family endeavor, with countless hours devoted to planting, pruning, harvesting, and delivering trees. Carl remained physically involved in the work until his later years and continued sharing his expertise and guidance until his passing.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Carl embraced life with enthusiasm. Photography remained a lifelong passion, and his extensive collection of photographs reflected his appreciation for family, friends, travels, and the natural world, particularly trees, shrubs, and flowers. Carl was also a skilled woodworker who operated his own sawmill and crafted numerous pieces of furniture. Music was another enduring interest, from his years as a drummer in high school and college to his enjoyment of classic country artists such as Johnny Cash, June Carter, and Dolly Parton. He loved ballroom dancing, including the waltz and foxtrot, as well as square dancing, and he enjoyed attending plays and theatrical performances.

Carl attended Osseo United Methodist Church. Throughout his life, he demonstrated the value of friendship, family, service, curiosity, and generosity of spirit. Whether mentoring a student, advising a fellow tree grower, sharing a family adventure, or entertaining friends with another memorable story, Carl brought enthusiasm and genuine interest to everything he did.

Carl is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Sally Vanleuvan Vogt; his daughter, Michelle Barbara Paratore, and her husband, Stephen Paratore; his grandson, Wesley; and Carl’s sister, Joan Marie Horner of Peachtree City, Georgia, along with many extended family members and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Karl and Maria (Seitz) Vogt; his brother, Howard L. Vogt; and his nephew and niece, Chris and Sarah Nicholson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, December 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Osseo United Methodist Church in Osseo, Minnesota. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., with lunch and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Suggested organizations include the American Diabetes Association, the Amyloidosis Foundation, the American Heart Association, or Osseo United Methodist Church.

Carl's legacy lives on in the family he loved, the friendships he nurtured, the students he inspired, the trees he planted, and the countless stories and memories he leaves behind.

Visitaton

Monday, December 21st 10-11 AM

Osseo United Methodist Church, 16 2nd Ave. SE, Osseo, MN

Driving Directions

Celebration of Life

Monday, December 21st 11 AM

Osseo United Methodist Church, 16 2nd Ave. SE, Osseo, MN

Driving Directions