



Mr. Victor Alphonse Zelinski

December 23, 1943 - November 16, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Victor Alphonse Zelinski. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend who passed away peacefully on November 16, 2025 at the age of 81 years old. His beloved wife of 60 years was by his side throughout his illness and held his hand as God took him to his eternal resting place.

Victor was born on a small Saskatchewan farm and was the youngest of a large family of 13 children. When his parents Peter and Barbara Zelinski retired, they moved to Wynyard, Saskatchewan with his two brothers Leo and Eddie where the boys graduated from High School.

Victor took one year of Normal School (teacher's college) and was hired as the sole teacher at Levant school, a one room school house near Wynyard, for students grades 1-9. Victor was only 18. After one year, Victor attended the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon where he completed a BA in history. It is here that he reconnected with his High School sweet heart, Bernice Wasylenko, and on September 11, 1965 they were married and remained devoted to each other for the next 60 years.

During his university years he joined the folk singing group "The Troubadours Three". They toured the prairies, gaining popularity with crowds singing cover tunes and original songs. They achieved some popularity but family life

obligations called to each member of the group. His connection to music remained a lifelong celebration as most people will remember Vic with a guitar in his hand, singing with a beautiful melodic voice. Music and his wife were his 2 greatest loves.

In 1966, Victor took a teaching position with Calgary Catholic School District where he taught High School Social Studies, primarily at Bishop Carroll High School. He later became a curriculum supervisor until his retirement in 1999. Victor completed a Masters of Education and went on to a Doctorate degree. Victor was an author and well-read person, who engaged intellectually on a variety of platforms and topics throughout his life.

Vic and Bernice spent 20 wonderful years as snow birds as well as traveling to Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Hawaii, Mexico and many US destinations. They loved their home in High River with its small-town convenience, close nit network of excellent friends and close proximity to their children and grandchildren in Calgary.

Victor is survived by his loving wife Bernice. His three children Jason (Debra), Deana (Ken) and Jamie. Along with their Grandchildren Emma, Keaton and Janaya.

Victor left this world a better place than when he entered it. Building strong friendships, beautiful music and a loving family to carry forward his memory. He will be deeply missed. The family is grateful for the out pouring of kindness and support during this time of loss.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church (206 9 Ave SW, High River, AB, T1V 1A4) on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. with reception to follow. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed via Victor's tribute page at www.lylereeves.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV **29**. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

206 - 9th Ave. W.

High River, AB T1V 1B5 (CA)

(403) 652-2203

francisdesales@shaw.ca

<http://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Memorial Mass for the late Mr. Victor Zelinski in memory of Mr. Victor Alphonse Zelinski



Lyle Reeves Funerals - November 18, 2025 at 03:24 PM

MM

“ I light a candle for the soul of Victor, and pray for strength, grace and mercy for his family. A man of many joys and fierce passions for his students, for those he mentored and worked with on a daily basis. He will be missed.



Maria Muszynski - December 09, 2025 at 04:43 PM

SB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Having grown up with your family and remembering the close bond Vic and my Dad had, this loss feels significant. I am confident they are together and are looking down on us with pride. Please accept my condolences during this difficult time and know that we are here for all of you.

Scott Bherer - November 29, 2025 at 05:41 PM

EG

“ *Emma Rose Gardener lit a candle in memory of Mr. Victor Alphonse Zelinski*



Emma Rose Gardener - November 29, 2025 at 02:26 PM

JJ

“ *Dear Aunt Bernice and family
We are so sad to hear of Uncle Victor's passing and that we will not be able to attend his Celebration of Life. We have many fond memories to cherish and will keep them close in our hearts. Our deepest sympathy to all the family,
Love Jerry, Joanne and family.*

Joanne and Jerry - November 29, 2025 at 07:44 AM

NA

“ Dear Bernice and family,
I was so very sorry to learn of Victor's passing, and want to convey my sincere sympathy to all of you.

I did not know Victor, but certainly knew his name as we both grew up in Wynyard a few years apart. My late father, Bill Cooper, spoke highly of Vic, whom he enjoyed teaching. I'm sure he was very proud that Vic also studied history at U of S and taught Social Studies, before pursuing grad studies and further distinguishing himself.

Less than 2 weeks ago, Ken Melsted's daughter Pat posted on Facebook that she'd discovered a very interesting memoir about growing up in Wynyard online, and shared the link. I intended to just glance at Vic's writing that night as I was busy, but found it so intriguing that I read almost the entire piece without pausing. What a wonderful love story, and captivating account of life in small town Saskatchewan, with many adventures and much fun enjoyed! I decided to try and connect with Vic to tell him how much I appreciated his writing. I googled his name, only to find that he had just passed.

I can only imagine the enormous loss you feel after living with such a dynamic, congenial and loving person. Vic has undoubtedly left many wonderful memories in the hearts of people with whom he crossed paths over the past 81 years.

I will be thinking of all of you tomorrow and wishing you healing and peace.

Sincerely,

Nelda (Cooper) Armour, Antigonish, NS



Nelda Armour - November 29, 2025 at 02:50 AM

HV

“ *To Vic's Family...*

I am stunned and sad to learn of your Dad's passing. We were classmates at the Saskatoon Teacher's College on then Avenue A in 1961-62. (It was another former classmate who discovered this obit...) There were 12 classes of about 40 in each. Most often our seating plan was in alphabetical order...the last row having five of us with surnames beginning with Zed. Need I mention that in a class that size attention was not always on the Instructor nor on topic?

My condolences go out to you as we remember the good, light fun times.

Helen (Zinovich) Vik. Calgary

Helen Vik - November 28, 2025 at 05:02 PM

HS

“ *Dear Bernice and family,*

We are so sorry for your profound loss. Vic had a deep and lasting impact on both of our careers. He was an incredible instructional leader and more importantly a kind and generous man. His humour and good nature made everyone feel at home. Fortunately, even after retirement, we were able to enjoy many “former curriculum supervisors” lunches. His love of family was always on display.

With prayers and deepest sympathies,

Hyacinth and Michael Schaeffer

Hyacinth and Michael Schaeffer - November 28, 2025 at 03:04 PM

“ I find it impossible to think of Vic without thinking of Bernie; they are more than a married couple. In my experience it seems that the Good Lord intended that Victor would Inspire those of us who knew him to be better people. I suspect that is why he brought Vic and Bernie into Bonnie’s and my life several times.

A mutual friend, Skip Brooks, first brought Victor and I together in 1965 through music. Victor sang and played lead guitar in “The Troubadours Three” folk group; and Skip played drums on a record they cut that year. Skip and I had summer jobs at Cypress Hills Provincial Park. He was the Recreation Director and I was the Golf Course Manager. Skip brought them out to give a concert at the park and introduced us after the concert. The next year when Bonnie and I met, Skip brought the Troubadours back to give two more concerts. That fall Vic and Bernie moved to Calgary and we lost touch with them.

36 years later our son John’s mother-in-law, Diane, invited us to her husband Denis’s 60th birthday party. After singing a song that poked gentle fun at Denis, Victor said here’s a song nobody knows. After he sang it I said, “I know that song!” Victor responded with “No you don’t, nobody does, I wrote it.” We argued until I said, “not only do I know it, I have the record”. We had reconnected.

The threads that wove our lives together are almost uncanny. Vic and Bernie were married September 11, 1965, Bonnie and I married September 11, 1967. Vic and Bernie have 2 sons and a daughter, as do Bonnie and I. After we reconnected we learned that: Jason, their oldest son, and our oldest son, John, worked together as Landmen in the same group for Encana.; and Jason’s wife, Debbie, worked for the Alberta Solicitor General’s in the same office with Bonnie.

When Vic and Bernie took up the vagabond life of snowbirds, Bonnie and I travelled with them, wintering throughout Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Nevada. Those were happy times,

adventures, music, friends, new places. Being with Vic and Bernie brought fun and joy to life. This world became a better, more enjoyable place because of them and we will miss him. May the Good Lord bless and keep him until we all meet again.

John Knox - November 26, 2025 at 12:28 AM

LZ

“ *I was deeply saddened to hear of Uncle Victor's passing. I am beyond grateful for the many years of reunions and special occasions we shared as a family. His beautiful voice, humor and storytelling will live on in our family for many generations.*

*Auntie Bernice, I will keep you all in my prayers.
May you rest in eternal peace Uncle.*

Laurie Zatylny - November 25, 2025 at 08:47 PM

BW

“ *My heartfelt deepest condolences go out to all in the family....May Victor Rest In Peace...*
Brian Wolitski

Brian Wolitski - November 24, 2025 at 11:01 PM

AW

“ *Please accept my heartfelt condolences. While your heart is heavy, please know that his love and the beautiful memories you shared will always be a part of you. His legacy of love and laughter will live on forever.*

*Sincerely,
Avis Wood*



Avis Wood - November 24, 2025 at 04:17 PM

KW

“ Dear Bernice and Family,
We are thinking of you and sending our heartfelt condolences. May you be surrounded by love and care as your tender hearts heal.
Sincerely Karen and Stan Wolitski

Karen Wolitski - November 23, 2025 at 03:16 AM

DP

“ With precious memories of our days together growing up in Wynyard I grieve the loss of a good and special friend in Victor. Making music together during our high school years, attending Air Cadets, playing for dances in Elfros & Mozart and later visits when I was playing the Sheraton Summit with my lounge band "The Dave Douglas Quartet". Our high school group the VAD's (Victor, Alfred, Aaron & David) were some of the happiest times of my youth. Sending sympathy and warm hugs of support to Bernice and family at this sad time. RIP my friend.

David Proznick - November 22, 2025 at 04:28 PM

DG

“ Bernice,
We are thinking of you all at this very sad time. May your memories give you comfort & keep him close to your hearts.
Donna & Bruce Grant

Donna grant - November 21, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BS

“ My condolences go out to the family. Vic was a curriculum expert in the area of Social Studies. I'll always remember how he mentored me when I took on the role as the Supervisor of Science. He was full of joy; always smiling and laughing. May his soul rest in peace and may our lives be full of wonderful memories.

Bryan Szumlas, Chief Superintendent - November 20, 2025 at 11:03 AM

TB

“ *Bernice, I'm so very sorry to hear of Victor's passing. Please accept my condolences and know I'm sending you a warm hug and much love* 💜

Tammy Beach - November 20, 2025 at 12:22 AM

MA

“ *My sincere condolences to Bernice and all of Vic's family. Vic was an amazing educator and educational leader. He encouraged me to pursue so many projects and committees while he lead us as Social Studies supervisor. But most of all his kindness, humour and his ability to inspire was truly missed when he retired . I have treasured the first US Social Studies Conference I attended back in 1998 with Vic and Bernice in Anaheim. Vic you will be remembered fondly by so many and missed by us all. Prayers and thoughts. Melina Akins*

Melina Akins - November 19, 2025 at 11:28 PM

CP

“ *Vic Zelinski..... now he is a good memory. While enrolled in the Education program at the University of Calgary in the 80's, I spent time at the Viscount Bennett Centre researching for a project, and had a wonderful experience being supported by Vic. Gosh, he was such a nice man - patient, helpful and gave generously of his time. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Carole Petrillo*

Carole Petrillo - November 19, 2025 at 09:21 PM

GR

“ *Mr Zelinski was one of my Social Studies teachers at Bishop Carroll. He was approachable to ask questions and led interesting discussions. One of the teachers that contributed to my decision to be an educator.*

Gwenodene Romanko - November 19, 2025 at 08:23 PM

ED

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Vic.he was a very fine man and very kind My sympathy goes out to his family I do hope that Bernice is in good hands,With compassion
Evelyn Dever

Evelyn Dever - November 19, 2025 at 07:00 PM

BG

“ Vic was an inspiration and mentor to me during my first years teaching at St. Mary's. It was an honour to teach his wonderful granddaughter Janaya in my last year teaching. He was an outstanding person and teacher.
Bruce Gillespie

Bruce Gillespie - November 19, 2025 at 06:57 PM

CE

“ Losing someone so close to you causes so much pain. Our condolences go out to you Bernice and your family. We will continue to pray for you in your time of need.



Carol Ewchuk - November 19, 2025 at 05:27 PM

KK

“My condolences to you Bernice and your family. We only met a handful of times at the hospital, but you and Victor brought sunshine to my days whenever I saw you. ☐ - Kati K”

Kati K - November 19, 2025 at 01:59 PM