



Jack van der Geest

September 17, 1923 – March 3, 1943 – March 5, 2009

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Order of Service

Gathering Music – Pastor Barb

Family Enters – Pastor Dwight

Welcome and Invocation – Pastor Dwight

Prayer – Pastor Dan

Scripture Readings – Pastor Dwight

Celebration of Life - Eulogists

Meditation – Pastor Barb

Song of Tribute to Jack – Pastor Barb

Prayers – Pastor Dan

Lord's Prayer – Pastor Dan

Announcements – Pastor Dwight

Commendation – Pastor Dwight

Congregational Hymn and Recessional

"God Bless America"

Graveside Service

Mount Calvary Cemetery

Reception following the Graveside Service

Calvary Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Officiating

Pastor Dwight Stensgaard

Pastor Barbara Gammeter

Pastor Daniel Gammeter

Eulogists

Stan Adelstein, Alan Hanks, Qusi Al-Haj, Sam Kooiker,
Van van der Geest

God Bless America

(Introduced by Kate Smith, Armistice Day, 1938)

F major - Count 2

Words and Music by
IRVING BERLIN

March time

Chords: F, B \flat , C7, F

Lyrics: God bless A-mer-i-ca, Land that I love, Stand be-

This system shows the first four measures of the piece. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are: "God bless A-mer-i-ca, Land that I love, Stand be-".

Chords: B \flat , B \flat m F, Dm, G7, C7, F

Lyrics: side her and guide her Thru the night with a light from a bove, From the

This system shows the next four measures. The lyrics are: "side her and guide her Thru the night with a light from a bove, From the".

Chords: C7, F, C7, F, G, A, B \flat

Lyrics: moun-tains to the prairies To the o-cceans white with foam God

This system shows the next four measures. The lyrics are: "moun-tains to the prairies To the o-cceans white with foam God".

Chords: F, C7, F, Dm, B \flat , F, C7, F, G, A, B \flat , F

Lyrics: bless A-mer-i-ca, My home sweet home. home.

This system shows the final four measures, including a first and second ending. The lyrics are: "bless A-mer-i-ca, My home sweet home. home.". The first ending leads back to the beginning of the system, and the second ending concludes the phrase.

Jacobus Petrus Cornelis van der Geest

Jacobus "Jack" P. C. van der Geest, 85, was born September 17, 1923, in The Hague, Netherlands. He is the son of Jacobus and Anne (de Groot) van der Geest. He passed away Thursday, March 5, 2009, in Rapid City. He was trained as an aeronautical engineer and was fluent in seven languages. Jack's family owned a successful bread factory in The Hague, employing more than 1,000 people. He and his father were active members of the Dutch Resistance during the Nazi occupation of Holland. In September 1942, Jack and his parents were deported to Nazi death camps. His father was murdered in Dachau, his mother was sent to Ravensbruck, and Jack was sent to Buchenwald. Jack's mother survived the war and died in 1961. After 183 days in Buchenwald, Jack (prisoner #512601) weighed 79 pounds. On March 3, 1943, he faked death prior to the 5:00 am morning roll call. He was declared dead by the Nazis and thrown into a pile of bodies. After being motionless for 11 hours, he overpowered an SS guard, put on his uniform and was able to escape. He then joined the French Underground, and later became an interpreter attached to the 101st Airborne Division. He was part of the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy invasion. After other duties in the South Pacific, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Ellsworth AFB. He obtained U.S. citizenship in 1953. Jack married Elaine Kollars on January 7, 1952 in Rapid City. She died in 1996. He married Ann Urup on December 14, 2002 in Rapid City. He loved Rapid City. After several years of work at Rapid Chevrolet, he spent the remainder of his career as an insurance agent. Jack was an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City. He did not speak of his Holocaust experience until the 1990's when he heard about a Holocaust denier and realized the need to share his experiences with the world. In 1995, he authored "Was God on Vacation". The third edition (2002) includes a copy of his Buchenwald death certificate. He credited his escape to divine intervention and later committed his life to Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Survivors include his wife, Ann, Rapid City; his son, Van van der Geest, wife, Nancy, and two grandsons, Kenneth, wife Delilah, and David, all of Warrensburg, MO; Ann's daughter, Ellie Tomlinson, husband, Dale, and grandchildren, Michelle Ladenburger, husband, Chris, Lisa Porch and husband, Joel, all of Rapid City, and Clint Tomlinson and wife, Kristen, of New York City. Jack is preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Willie (Wilhelmina); his wife, Elaine; and his grandson, John van der Geest (age 13 months). A memorial has been established to Calvary Lutheran Church and Greatest Commandments Wesleyan Church.