



Richard Hempel

December 7, 1926 - June 21, 2019

Richard P. Hempel, 92 of Lennox, SD, died Friday, June 21, 2019 at the Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls, SD, following a lengthy illness. Richard Paul Hempel was born in Webster, SD, on December 7, 1926, the son of Alfred Paul and Gertrude (Trowbridge) Hempel. He grew up and attended school in Webster. In December of 1943 he entered the US Navy and served during WWII until his honorable discharge in 1947. He served in the SD Army National Guard in Webster from 1947 until 1950, when he reentered the US Navy in May of 1950 and served during the Korean War, until his honorable discharge in 1954.

On June 8, 1958 he was united in marriage to Margaret Roth in Brookings, SD. The couple made their home in Lennox, SD. Richard served full time in the SD Air National Guard for 22 years as an aircraft technician from 1961 until retiring in 1983. After retirement Richard drove school bus for several years and devoted his time to community service.

Richard was an active and faithful member of First English Lutheran Church, Lennox and had served on the church council. He also belonged to the Lennox Lions, where he received the Melvin Jones Fellowship award. He was a active Boy Scout leader who volunteered locally and with the Sioux Council regional office. He was awarded the Silver Beaver, which is the highest volunteer award given in the Boy Scout organization. Richard was a member of the Lennox Development Corporation, Lennox Senior Citizens, the Lennox Good Samaritan Advisory Board, the Lennox American Legion, the Sioux

Falls VFW, the Lennox Cemetery Board, the Masons, the El Riad Shrine and Job's Daughters. He enjoyed woodworking and took great pride in the care of his lawn. Most of all, he cherished the time spent with his grandchildren and deeply loved his family.

Besides his parents, Richard was preceded in death by an infant brother and two sisters: Gladys Gerriets and Margaret Hallstrom.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife of over 61 years, Margaret; two daughters: Tamara (Terry) Haan, Billings, MT and Gayle (Roger) Hanisch, Lennox; six grandchildren: Jennifer (Stephen) Paterson, Billings, MT, Jessica (Scott) Felchle, Laurel, MT, Andrew (Tara) Hanisch, Lennox, Jacqueline (Colin) Gerstner, Billings, MT, Jacob (Bethany) Haan, Laurel, MT, Alexander Hanisch, Clark, SD and Blake Campos, Billings, MT; 13 great-grandchildren: Elijah Gerstner, Joslynn Hanisch, Nathan Paterson, Luke Gerstner, Noah Felchle, Isaac Gerstner, Hayes Hanisch, Hope Gerstner, Henry Haan, Gabriel Felchle, Allie Paterson, Liam Haan and Benjamin Felchle; siblings: Robert Hempel, Crooks, SD and David (Mary) Hempel, Webster, SD, as well as many nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 27 at First English Lutheran Church, Lennox with burial and military honors at the Lennox Cemetery.

Visitation, also at First English Lutheran, with the family present, will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Tribute Wall

EM

“ I am very sorry for your loss. My heart goes out to you in this difficult time. I hope you may find comfort at Revelation 21:4, “And he (God) will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.” We can look forward to the time when God will take away all reasons for distress and he even gives us a hope of a resurrection. (Acts 24:15) I hope this promise brings you comfort as it does me.

Emily - June 28, 2019 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Dear Mrs. Hempel and family: Condolences on the loss of your husband, father, grandfather and family member. We thank him for his service in the Air National Guard. Remember his bravery, service to the community and your best family times.

Gale Javers Wray

Gale Javers Wray - June 27, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ deepest sympathies to you all.

JIM AND PATRICIA KOERNER - June 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Dear Hempel Family,
I am so sorry to hear that Dick has passed. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Avair

Mary Stake Avair - June 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ To Bob and Richard's family, Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Blessings and peace, Brenda

Brenda Tibbetts - June 26, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Footprints*

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me." The Lord replied, "My son, My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." Peace be with you. Love your cousin Donna Lu



Donna and Eric Martz - June 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *Dear Aunt Margaret and family,
I am so sad to hear of Uncle Dick's passing. I will talk with you soon,
and if at all possible will see you on Thursday.
Love,*

Nephew Tom and family

Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Hallstrom - June 25, 2019 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Mrs. Hempel,
I send you my condolences on the passing of your husband, Richard.
Often, I have thought about the wonderful influences you and your husband were during my time at LHS. I want to thank you for all the things you did for me while I was a student. I still recall many of things we learned in cooking class, sewing class and FHA. And friends have often heard a "Mrs. Hempel quote" when we were preparing meals, making something or just cleaning up the kitchen after a meal.



I thank you for the support you gave to me, Mary, Patrice and especially Julie Anne. How proud she was to play the piano for the FHA meeting. And how surprised and happy I was to be the FHA Sweetheart candidate. Until that time, no Catholic girls got any kind of recognition like that.

I recall the exact time: I was in band, sitting next to Steve Van Bockern and the announcement of sweetheart candidates was made. I had to ask Steve if they had just said my name. Well, that was 1969, and many wonderful, funny, happy and sad times have come and gone. But, I want you to know, that you and your caring teaching have been, and will always be one of my most fond memories. I have been meaning to write this message for a very long time. Maybe, your husband Richard finally got me "geared up" and this is a little hello from him as well. He always knew what a great teacher you were, too.

I would love to talk with you sometime. I haven't been back to Lennox for 2 years now, since the passing of mom. She always thought so much of you as well. She loved it that you saw the potential of all her children and were not hesitant to act on recognizing it. Well, sincerest thoughts and prayers for you, your family and for Richard. I will keep him and the family in my prayers. God Bless you.

With fondest wishes, Cathy Stake Dean or Miss Stake (mistake) as I was called those many years working in the schools until I married my husband, Richard in 1992. And, of course there was Bobby Stever, who loved his little tease when we were in 3rd or 4th grade,

"Straight stick Stake with a crack in her cake." I bet that doesn't surprise you one bit!

Cathy Stake Dean - June 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PM

*“ Dear Mrs. Hempel,
I wanted to send you my condolences on Dick’s passing. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely,
Patrice*



Patrice Mingo - June 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Condolences to the family! Sorry to hear of Dick’s passing!

Judee Olson - June 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ He was a credit to the Air Guard!

JOHN SCHMIEDER - June 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Rest in the peace of our Lord, Dick. You will be missed.

Susan Johnson Roberts - June 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Sorry to hear of Dick’s passing.

Judee Olson - June 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *My deepest condolences to the family at this time of loss. Cherish the memories!*

Connie Haan

Constance Kay Haan - June 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Our hearts are heavy today for your family Dick but we celebrate your wonderful life and that you are now in your heavenly home. Your Girls had such a great Anniversary party for you and Margaret. We will always remember you smiling, laughing and yes, teasing. "If you have time to spare fly by air". We will think about you every time we fly. Love you so much*



Stan and Laura Jean Shatford - June 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM