



Perry Richard Sullinger

December 27, 1923 - January 14, 2017

Perry Richard (Dick) Sullinger passed peacefully on January 14, 2017. Dick was born on the family farm outside of Pierce City, Missouri on December 27, 1923, to Jessie and Perry Sullinger. There, he began to learn lessons that served him throughout life. Chopping wood and hauling water from the well into the house taught him the value of hard work. Love of family was learned as he and his brother Bob shared chores, mischief, and learned their school lessons with the help of their Mother. His faith in God was born as he attended church and revivals at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. He graduated from Pierce City High School and took a job as a telegraph operator with the Frisco Railroad. As WWII broke out, Dick signed up and served (1943-45) in the Navy on the USS San Diego (18 battle stars without casualty). After 18 months at sea, they were the first ship into Tokyo Bay for the treaty signing.

After his military service, he began his education, but more importantly, Dick embarked upon a lifelong journey, as he met and courted Mary Elizabeth Rutledge. They married on Nov 26, 1950 in Dexter, New Mexico. Over the course of 66 years, she was the bright smile to his reserved countenance, and together they built a home and a family. Unquestionably soulmates, Mary Liz was by his side as he passed.

Dick attended South Missouri State University to earn a Bachelor of Agriculture Science degree. He also received a Masters of Education from NMSU, and an Education Specialist in Education Leadership. A life time educator (1955-1986), he started his career as Ag teacher in Elida, NM, then continued as high school principal in Mountainair, NM, and finally served as counselor and then Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in Clovis Public Schools. He received the New Mexico Distinguished Service Award for Retired Teachers Association, where he served as president for 30 years. He was a member of the Grand Lodge of Free Masonry in Clovis, NM for 66 years.

A member of Kingswood United Methodist Church in Clovis NM for over 50 years, he served on various committees as well as taught Sunday school. After moving to Greeley, he attended St. Paul's Congregational Church.

After retirement, Dick and Mary Liz enjoyed traveling and spending time with grandkids. Dick's hobbies were often shared with Mary Liz. In their wood shop she would sketch a plan; he would cut the wood. He would write the genealogy stories (1750-1945); she would edit and publish for future generations. Work and staying relevant was important to Dick right until the end. He continued to record thoughts and stories of his past, and present, to share with his family.

Dick was a man of integrity, humility, love and patience. He modeled his calm demeanor as he built his life around family and faith, and never compromised his principles. He passed from this world trying to make it a better place for those who followed him.

Dick is survived by his wife, Mary Liz Sullinger of Greeley, CO; three daughters - Becky Dougherty (Dennis) of Greeley CO, Karen Rebol (Dave) of Ft. Morgan, Colorado, D'Lane Joens (Brad) of Kersey Colorado; 8 grandchildren – Laurel Harlow (Zac), Annika Kautz (Craig), Kelsey Pierce (James) Amanda Rebol, Madeline Parker (Jameson), Andrew Rebol, Dillon Joens, and Parker Joens, and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert Tate Sullinger, Mother, Jessie Jewel Sullinger and Father Perry Otis Sullinger.

A celebration of Richard's life will be held on January 28, 2017 at 10:30am at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 1525 43rd Avenue in Greeley, CO. Burial will be at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Peirce City, MO.

Memorial gifts may be made to Kingswood United Methodist Church, Clovis NM; St. Paul's Congregational Church, Greeley, CO; and the Lighthouse Mission, Clovis NM. They can be sent in care of Moser Funeral Service, 3501 S. 11th Avenue, Evans, Colorado 80620.

An online obituary and guestbook are available at www.moserfuneralservice.com

Events

JAN **Memorial Service** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

28

St. Paul's Congregational Church

1525 43rd Avenue, Greeley, CO, US, 80634

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Moser Funeral & Cremation Service - January 23, 2017 at 04:05 PM



“ Beautiful tribute. Thinking of and praying for all of you.
Dick and Laurie

Laurie Holland - January 26, 2017 at 08:44 AM



“ Thank you Louie for you thoughts and prayers.

Mary Sullinger - February 09, 2017 at 02:05 PM



“ Richard was a very unique and talented man. I wish he had lived closer. He would have been a great influence in my life. The Tate family owes him a lot of gratitude for helping plan the 2003 Reunion and the family tree book.
So sorry for your loss. May God bless all of you with peace!

My Deepest Sympathy to Mary and family,

Donna Tate Clack
(daughter of Don and Clydene)

Donna Tate Clack - February 02, 2017 at 04:30 PM



“ Thank you Donna for you for your sweet note. Yes he was one of the best, I was Blessed to have been married to him for 66 wonderful years. Thank you for writing.

Mary Sullinger - February 09, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ I am so sorry. Richard was always a SPECIAL cousin and I just wished I had been home the day he called. I called back but it was too late. He was a very humble man and was loved by all of us.

Love and Prayers,
Joyce and family



Joyce Fulp - January 30, 2017 at 05:31 PM



“ The Sullinger's purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Perry Richard Sullinger.



The Sullinger's - January 27, 2017 at 03:30 PM



“ My Dearest Uncle whose laugh we shall never forget, whose love for family was unending,, and whose embrace I shall look forward to, when we see each other once again. You will always be with us, until the day that we are with you.
Your Loving Nephew and Family,
Mark, Dana, Makenna and Matthew Sullinger

Sullinger Family - January 27, 2017 at 02:16 PM



“ Dale and I were so sorry to hear of Mr. Sullinger's passing. He was such a kind and generous administrator who was one of the first to welcome us to the Clovis Schools and make us feel at home. He was always so positive and knowledgeable, and we respected and admired him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

Sincerely,

Dale and Sandi Fullerton

Sandi Fullerton - January 24, 2017 at 05:30 PM



“ The Dalbom Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Perry Richard Sullinger.



The Dalbom Family - January 24, 2017 at 03:25 PM



“ 62 files added to the album LifeTributes



Moser Funeral & Cremation Service - January 23, 2017 at 02:56 PM



“ We share so many fond memories of your family. We remember Delane babysitting Clay when Roy & I would be out of town. This was her first babysitting job. I think Dick & Mary Liz entertained him the most. One Saturday, March 31st Mary Liz and Dick fixed a Pancake Breakfast for us not knowing it was my birthday. I always treasured that memory and many more. They were both such a wonderful couple and great friends. Your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. Roy & Jerrie Franse

Roy and Jerrie Franse - January 22, 2017 at 05:51 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear about Dick. We always had the highest respect for him. He was always so kind and he was a pleasure to be around. We considered him our friend. He was a very special person. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with all the family.

Mona Pomeroy
Clovis, NM

Mona Pomeroy - January 22, 2017 at 05:12 PM



“ Dick was a great administrator. He always had a big grin and a comforting word. I enjoyed working with him those many years in the Clovis Municipal School system. He will be sorely missed. Harry Pomeroy, Clovis, NM

Harry Pomeroy - January 21, 2017 at 04:28 PM



“ I was saddened to get the obituary of your Father. I spoke with Dick 2-3 years ago at some gathering that we were at and he was as ever, gentle, kind and low key. I ask him about D'Lane and he shared some information. Actually, I did not realize that he and Mary had moved to Colorado but with all three kids in Colorado, I can understand why.

D'Lane, would you please email me when you have time. I want you to know that I still have the needle point plaque which you gave in 1982. I treasure it with your sweet note attached to the back. It says "God without man is still God. Man without God is nothing" with your initials DS 82 in the lower right hand corner. It was a pleasure to have you as an employee. And of course we cherish the memories or your boyfriend, girlfriend relationship you had with Scotty in about the 9th grade.

Betty and I will keep you and your whole family in our prayers at this time of sorrow.
Your friend, Bob Snipes bbsnip35@suddenlink.net

Bob Snipes - January 19, 2017 at 10:46 PM



“ Dick and Mary Liz were such sweet friends of my parents, Alvy and Edith Smith. Dad had great stories to share about of them.
I miss my folks so much but know I will see them again as you will your husband and dad. Heaven is a sweeter place now.
I pray peace for you as you grieve this wonderful man.
Lynn Smith Aucutt
Clovis, NM

Lynn Aucutt - January 19, 2017 at 02:48 PM



“ I was sad to hear of the passing of my friend and mentor, Dick Sullinger. As a young elementary school principal, Dick took me under his wing and gave me opportunities to grow as an educational leader. And when he retired in 1986, I was hired to take his place as Asst. Supt. for Instruction for the Clovis Schools. Dick was a people person and left me only a small folder and this piece of advice: "always return every phone call within 24 hours". Dick and I made many school related trips to Santa Fe or Albuquerque through the years. He was a great story teller, but as he drove and told stories the car often meandered a bit which was a little scary. Dick was a large man in stature with a deep strong voice. When he was making his point, his voice often increased in volume. If Dick was visiting in your building the staff knew he was visiting as they could hear his strong voice and laughter throughout the building. He loved to visit and everyone loved to visit with him. He was loved and respected by the entire district staff. I loved and respected him and owe him a great deal of credit for my career success as I attempted to fill his very large shoes. Dick will be missed but his legacy will live on.
-- G C Ross, Clovis, NM

G. C. Ross - January 18, 2017 at 08:45 PM