



Richard 'Dick' W. Mercer

October 27, 1927 - October 27, 1927

He was born October 27, 1927 to Elmer and Ruth (Swanson) Mercer. Dick graduated from Kearney High School in 1945. He delivered Debus bread until being drafted into the Army in 1946. After discharge in 1947, he married Eileen Crawford on November 7, 1948.

After their marriage, Eileen's father offered to rent them 80 acres he owned SE of Kearney. Dick had never driven a tractor, planted any crops or milked a cow. That soon changed as they received a M Farmall tractor, some chickens and turkeys for wedding presents. They then drove around and watched what the neighbors did on their farms and then went home and tried to duplicate how to do it on their own. He and Eileen then spent the next 55 years farming and feeding cattle.

During that time he dedicated a lot of time serving on numerous boards and commissions. He served on the Board of Directors of the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, President of the Nebraska livestock Feeders Association, the National Cattlemen's Association, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. His real passion was serving on the Central Platte Natural Resource District Board of Directors for 41 years, the Nebraska Natural Resource Council and the National Resource Commission.

A few of his many recognitions were the Aksarben Court of Honor for Agriculture, Farm Bureau Silver Eagle, the Nebraskaland Wagonmaster award. He also received Kearney's Freedom Award, and Nebraska Agriculture Hall of Fame. After Eileen's death on April 1, 2003 from ALS, He remarried Alice Kegley on November 27, 2004 and moved into Kearney. There for the last ten years he's enjoyed traveling with Alice and catching up on his bucket list. He enjoyed friends, cards, and family. Dick was a member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney.

He is survived by his wife Alice; son, Steve and wife Jackie of Kearney; daughter, Sandy Navarro and husband Bill of Aurora, CO; son, Scott and wife Becky of Gibbon, NE; grand children, Chad and wife Angie Mercer of Kearney, Karl and wife Karena Mercer of Kearney, Samantha and Christopher Mercer of Gibbon; great grandchildren, Carson and Kinley Mercer, Allyson and Trent Mercer all of Kearney; step children, Debbie and Fred Bell of Seneca, SC, Brian Kegley and wife Brenda, of Omaha, NE; step grandchildren, BJ Navarro of Denver, CO, Brad and wife Erin of Norman, OK, Randy Navarro of Denver CO, Raquel LaMay of Baltimore, MD, Stephanie Trumpower and fiancé Darrin Buck of Hughesville, MD, Ashley and husband Brian Matheny of Ashburn, VA, Tracy Bell of Fairfax, VA, Kylie and husband Daniel Negrete of Omaha, NE, and 12 step great grandchildren; sister in law, Stella Mercer of Montgomery, AL, and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Eileen, his parents; sister, Rosalie

Sheen; brother, Jerry Mercer, and two infant brothers.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard 'Dick' W. Mercer*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Prayers from our family to the Mercer family. I had met Dick many times over the years and he was a truly outstanding man. He has helped thousands of us and most do not even realize it.*

Mike & Robyn McCann - December 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to family. Dick will greatly be missed! He was such an inspiration to us all and a bright spot when WE needed a smile and encouragement! He had this energy and motivation that you could just feel. He never spoke much about his accomplishments unless asked, but his family was a different story. It didn't take a lot to get a good picture of the love he had for his family and how much he enjoyed and appreciated spending time with all of you, and certainly traveling. He was a very special part of our 'family' and will be greatly missed!!*

*Deb Stickney
Dialysis Social Worker*

Deb Stickney - November 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *dick, his mother and father in law were friends of our family for years.*

Lawrence Ferguson JR. - November 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *In faith we thank God that Dick knew God's grace and mercy. At the hour of Dick's death he had hope and refuge to be in one of God's mansions. It is great to know that someday we will be with Dick again. Blessings to you Alice in this struggle.*

C A & ML Brunkhorst - November 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM