



Colonel Richard Paul Gross, at 88, enjoyed a life that many people would consider to be more than any one person could experience. He lived life like there was never enough time to accomplish all his goals and go on all of his adventures. A few weeks ago, he went goose hunting with his son Brad and nephew Gregg providing his family with fresh goose for Christmas dinner.

Richard and his late wife Zola Gross, lived in Mobridge with their 5 kids for over 50 years. He was a retired high school counselor, teacher, coach and Colonel in the SD Army National Guard. Richard passed away peacefully on Jan 24, 2022, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, surrounded by his family. He fought hard to the end and was able to tell his family "I Love you all" before he passed, which meant the world to everyone.

Richard, RP, was born on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1933, on a farm near Tolstoy to tenant farmers Emil Frank Gross and Gertrude Goebel Gross. He was the 7<sup>th</sup> of 12 children "the Dirty Dozen," consisting of 2 boys and 10 girls. In the seventh grade, the family moved from Lebanon to Gettysburg. RP attended Gettysburg public schools and graduated in 1952. He was voted Homecoming King by his classmates. RP was awarded 12 letters in basketball, football and track in high school. He attended Northern State Teachers College with the goal of becoming a teacher and a coach. In 1955, he volunteered for the draft to qualify for the GI Bill. On Jan 5, 1955 RP reported to Sioux Falls YMCA for military processing. RP retired from the military as Full Bird Colonel, Deputy State Commander in the SD Army National Guard and Liaison Officer to West Point after 34 years of Military service.

On July 16, 1960, he married his college sweetheart, Zola Jeanne MacLaren of Aberdeen. As a teacher and coach in Huron, the couple purchased their first home and soon became loving parents to four children- twins Brenda and Brad, Clay, and Laura. In 1966, Richard was offered a job as counselor/coach/teacher in Mobridge. In 1969, six years after their last child, they were blessed with another daughter Dianne. In 1971, RP designed and built a wonderful home in Mobridge to accommodate his growing family. Richard suffered a great loss in 1997 when lost the love of his life, Zola.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Zola; sons Brad (Chris), Dell Rapids, SD, Clay (Kate), Roachdale, In; daughters, Brenda, Tacoma, WA; Laura, Alexandria, VA; Dianne, Seattle, WA, four grandchildren, Maxwell, Solomon, Elliot, Annabelle, brother Ray, sisters, Ruth, Dorothy, Alma, Shirley, Mildred, Phylliss, Yvonne, Joyce, Elaine, Judy, and special friend Maxine. He was preceded in death by his parents Emil & Gertrude, wife Zola, sisters Alma, Dorothy, Yvonne, Shirley, Mildred and brother Ray.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, Jan 29, 2022 at the United Congregational Church on 1001 6th Ave W, Mobridge, SD 57601.

**A Celebration of Life and internment with full Military Honors will be scheduled during July 1-3 2022 timeframe. Burial will be held at Greenwood Cemetery in Mobridge with a gathering to follow at his home, 515 12th St. W, to share stories with family, friends and honor RPs glorious life.**

***Memorial contributions honoring Richard may be forwarded to Mobridge Public Library or Pheasants Forever.***

## In Loving Memory of:



## *Col. Richard Paul Gross*

*June 3 1933 ~ January 24, 2022*





# IN LOVING MEMORY OF: Col. Richard Paul Gross

**BORN:**  
*June 3, 1933*  
*Tolstoy, SD*

**PASSED AWAY:**  
*January 24, 2022*  
*Sioux Falls, SD*

**FUNERAL SERVICES:**  
*2:00 PM, Saturday, January 29, 2022*  
*United Congregational Church*  
*Mobridge, South Dakota*

**CLERGY:** *Reverend Dr. Lee Berg*  
*Pastor Keith Kraft*

**PIANIST:** *CJ Glader*

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:**  
*"It Is Well With My Soul"*  
*"Amazing Grace"*  
*"Battle Hymn of the Republic"*

**USHERS:**  
*Tim Pfitzer ~ Lyle Kemnitz*

**CASKETBEARERS:**  
*Gregg Pudwill ~ Maxwell Gross ~ Solomon Gross*  
*Elliot Gross ~ Andrew Hulm ~ Dean Ulmer*

**HONORARY BEARERS:**  
*J.P. McLaren ~ Dick Pudwill ~ Dan MacLaren*  
*Jerry Sr. MacLaren ~ Dick Brown ~ Monte Schneider*

**MILITARY HONORS:**  
*American Legion Post #4 Parker Browder*

**BURIAL:**  
*Greenwood Cemetery*  
*Mobridge, South Dakota*  
*(July, 2022)*

*Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home*

