

Robert Wayne Edison

Robert Wayne Edison was born June 30, 1924, to Peter and Tora Louise (Highland) Edison in Mission Hill, SD. He grew up in the Mission Hill/Yankton area during the Great Depression.

Robert joined the US Navy in 1941 at the age of 17 and served as a radio operator aboard the battleship USS New Mexico and served in the South Pacific in WWII. He survived a kamikaze attack which killed many of his shipmates. He recalled seeing the eyes of that pilot just before impact. He was discharged from the Navy in 1945. He was very proud of his Navy service and always wore a Navy or WWII Veteran's baseball cap.

He went on to obtain an undergraduate degree from USD and a Master of Social Work from the University of Nebraska. He was a lifelong Huskers football fan.

Robert married Cynthia Stientjes on September 1, 1955, in Doon, Iowa. They met at the State Hospital in Yankton where they both began their careers in mental health. Bob was a psychiatric social worker and an advocate for the mentally ill all of his life. He also worked for Lutheran Social Services in Sioux Falls, The Brookings Area Guidance Center and retired in 1991 from the South Central Mental Health Center in Jamestown, ND. He won a Governor's award in ND for his volunteer work with the mentally ill and also volunteered at Ft Meade in Sturgis. He and Cindy moved to Sturgis, SD, for their retirement years.

He was a good Democrat and was always interested in the news, politics and wrote many thoughtful Letter's to the Editor in local newspapers and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. He loved Time Magazine and was a crossword puzzle enthusiast. In earlier years, he enjoyed family camping trips to the West. He also took great pride in his Norwegian heritage.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis and the Sturgis Senior Center, but most of all he was a member of 'The Greatest Generation' who lived and fought through some historic times. We have collected the stories he wrote about his life experiences and will remember him well.

Robert W. Edison, 89 of Sturgis, died Monday, November 11, 2013, at Rapid City Regional Hospital surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy; children, Sandra (Robert) Littrell of Rapid City, Natalie (Dennis) Eslinger of Rapid City, Kirk (Annette) Edison of Sioux Falls, and Heidi Edison of Rapid City; a brother, Donald Edison of Sioux Falls; and 6 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Carol, Evelyn, and Mary.

Donations may be made in his honor to the Meade County Senior Center.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the Son Shine Room at Grace Lutheran Church immediately following the funeral service.

We thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of



Robert W. Edison

1924 ~ 2013



"In His Own Words"

89 years is a long time to have lived on this planet and those years have been filled with adventure (the Navy and WWII) and there does not seem to have been many dull moments. Many milestones have come and gone and I have come to appreciate my family and a host of friends generated over the years. Most of all I'm grateful for my wife and children without whom life surely would have been unfulfilling and empty!! It's been a blast!!!



In Loving Memory Of

Robert Wayne Edison

Born

June 30, 1924
Mission Hill, South Dakota

Died

November 11, 2013
Rapid City, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Friday, November 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

Officiating

Pastor Henrique Fleming

Special Music

Roxie Chowen

Musical Selections

"Amazing Grace"
"Abide With Me"

Pallbearers

Kirk Edison ~ Bob Littrell
Denny Eslinger ~ Daniel Edison

Military Honors

Sturgis Veteran's Honor Guard

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery