

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Richard Martin Verheul

WHO WAS BORN
December 19, 1941
Ortonville, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME
January 9, 2025
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Saturday, June 21, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.
First English Lutheran Church
Ortonville, Minnesota

OFFICIANT
Reverend Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

MUSICIANS
Lisa Berdan, Organist | Jim Foster, Vocalist
Nate Saeger, Guitarist | Li Marte, Trumpeter

URN BEARER
Boden Verheul, Grandson

HONORARY BEARERS
Don Verheul | Tom Verheul | Sue Hanratty
Sally Tyler | Al Johnson | Greg Saeger

MILITARY HONORS
V.F.W. Big Stone Lake Post #3964

INURNMENT
Mound Cemetery
Ortonville, Minnesota

APPRECIATION
Dick's family is grateful for your attendance at this service. Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the service, please join the family for fellowship and a luncheon in the church dining room. A private inurnment with military honors will be held after the luncheon.

Memories

Written by Dick's brother, Don

My first real memory of my brother, Dick, is when we were living in a tiny one-bedroom house in Big Stone City. It was our job every morning to walk down to Great-Grandma Van Hout's well and get a bucket of drinking water.

Then we moved to a huge two-story house in Ortonville, and we really started making memories. We were inseparable... only 16 months apart in age...and the beach was just a short walk down the hill. We were living our best lives...swimming, hiking, and exploring. When we got bikes, our fishing expeditions started. We would pedal to the dike road bridge or the dam and fish all afternoon.

When we were old enough to go hunting, Dad took us duck hunting every morning that he went. I vividly remember the first duck that Dick shot was a blue-winged teal.

Dick, being the older, got his driving license first, so he was the chauffeur for all our adventures to Mel's Funland, the skating rink, and swimming in the quarry hole. Dick graduated two years ahead of me and joined the Navy; because of his experiences, he was a tremendous help in guiding me as to what to expect and how to advance when I joined the Navy.

Years later in retirement, we both moved back to Big Stone Lake, and those were wonderful years. Once again, we were fishing and hunting together and helping each other out. We had come full circle.

A tradition among us siblings was when one of us had a birthday, everyone would call that person and wish them a happy birthday. Dick was in Colorado for the winter, and I called him on December 19, 2024. He was not one for long phone conversations, but I remember he was unusually talkative that night. We reminisced on our lives, retold some hunting stories, and when we were ending the conversation Dick said to me, "Don, I never thought I would live to be 83 and feel this good." That is my last memory of my brother, Dick, neither



of us knowing that he would pass away just three weeks later.

A couple of years ago, Dick was asked how he would like to be remembered, and he answered, "as a good decent person"

...and that he was.

IN LOVING
Memory



Richard Verheul
1941 - 2025

Richard Martin Verheul was born on December 19, 1941, to George and Viola (VanHout) Verheul in Ortonville, MN. He was baptized in the Catholic Church, confirmed at the Congregational Church in Ortonville, and graduated from Ortonville High School in 1959.



Dick enlisted in the U. S. Navy on August 19, 1959. His mother had to accompany him to the recruitment center to give her permission as he had yet to turn eighteen. He did his basic training and electronics school at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and volunteered for submarine school.

Dick began his Navy career on the USS Volador (SS-490), a diesel submarine, and ended it on the USS Flasher (SSN-613), a nuclear submarine. After 11 years in the Navy, Dick retired on December 22, 1970, as an ETC (SS) Chief Petty Officer.

In January of 1971, Dick met Rita Johnson, and they were married six months later in Minneapolis, MN, making their home there. In 1972, after attending Control Data Institute for a refresher course in "civilian" electronics, Dick was hired by Digital Equipment Corporation "DEC" as a Field Service Technician. Thirty years later, in 2002, he retired to spend more time at the lake.

Dick and Rita welcomed their only child, Matthew, on September 29, 1975. In 1980, Dick was transferred to Sioux Falls, SD, to open a DEC office. They joined Peace Lutheran Church in west Sioux Falls. The friends they met there became their core social circle and many are still in their lives today. In 2006, Dick and Rita moved back to Ortonville and Big Stone Lake and joined First English Lutheran, Rita's home church.

Dick was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many. Dick, Rita, and Matt took many road trips while Matt was growing up. In retirement, Dick and Rita enjoyed trips to Alaska, Hawaii, Jamaica, and the Panama Canal. Dick was always there for Matt, patiently answering his questions, imparting his knowledge, and teaching him "life lessons". They spent many hours rebuilding four cars in the garage on 34th Street in Sioux Falls during Matt's high school and college days. As a grandfather, he was on top of his game; Boden and "Papa" spent many hours together during the winter months since Boden was born in 2011. They built countless Lego creations and a gingerbread house every Christmas. Dick watched for hours while Boden tried to perfect new tricks on his skateboard and bike. They watched YouTube together after school. Dick proudly watched Boden's hockey games. Boden was everything to Papa.

After Dick was honorably discharged from the Navy, he absolutely enjoyed every minute spent with his brothers and sisters. They were five strong-willed Verheuls but they were truly all best friends.

Dick could fix anything, and if he got stumped he would research for hours until he figured it out. No matter if it was an electrical or plumbing problem, a lawnmower or jet ski or a computer. He was everyone's "Mr. Fixit". He was also the guy everyone would want on their "Trivia" team.



Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 53 years, Rita Verheul of Ortonville, MN; sons: David and Dean Verheul of Nashville, TN (from a prior marriage) and Matt (Taylor) of Glenwood Springs, CO; grandsons: Deano and Brian of Nashville, TN; and Boden of Glenwood Springs, CO; siblings: Donald (Carolyn) Verheul of Ortonville, MN; Sue Hanratty of Ortonville, MN; Tom (Ruth) Verheul of DuBois, WY; and Sally (Jim) Tyler of Haydn, CO; Aunt Diane (Vince) Kvidera of Ortonville, MN; many cousins, nieces and nephews; his beloved grand-dog, Arthur; and all of Rita's family.

Dick was preceded in death by infant daughter, Valerie Verheul (from a prior marriage); his parents: George and Viola (VanHout) Verheul; stepfather, H.V. "Gene" Hansen; parents-in-law: Alvin Johnson and Helen (Bonk) Johnson; brothers -in-law: Dan Hanratty, Jim Johnson and Walt Freiberg; nephew, Mark Verheul; and grand-niece, Ella Schlup.

A Silent Tear

Just close your eyes and you will see
all the memories that you have of me.
Just sit and relax and you will find
I'm really still there inside your mind.

Don't cry for me now I'm gone
for I am in the land of song.
There is no pain, there is no fear
so dry away that silent tear.

Don't think of me in the dark and cold
for here I am, no longer old.
I'm in that place that's filled with love
known to you all as "up above."

