

Thomas Warren Richards, age 92, died on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at Monument Health Lead-Deadwood Hospital in Deadwood, SD.

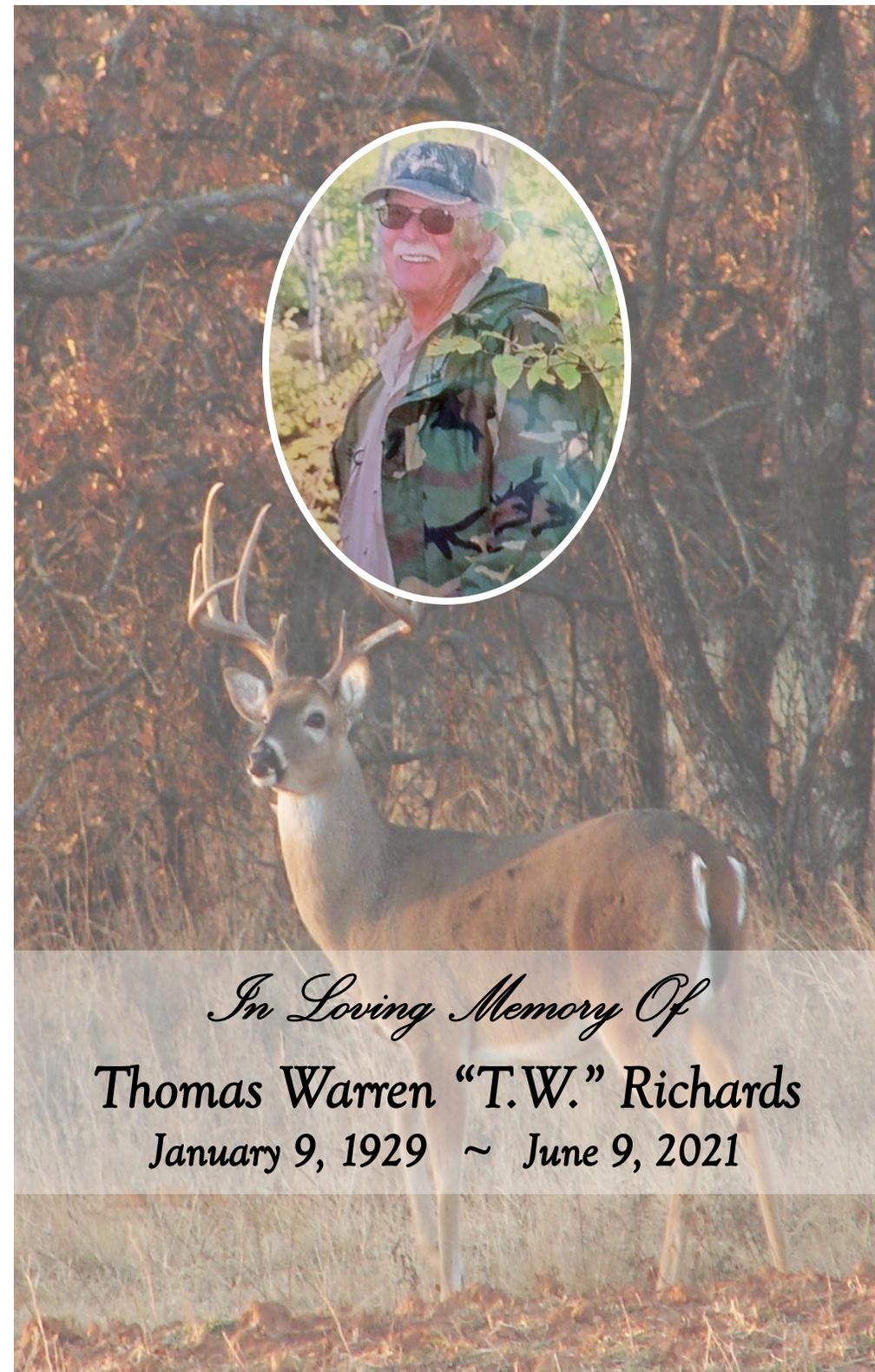
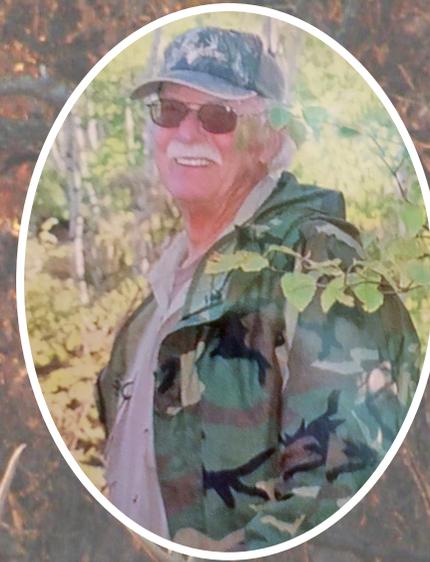
T.W. was born on Wednesday, January 9, 1929 in Custer, SD to parents, Warren H. and Florence (Beagle) Richards. He graduated from Lead High School in 1947 and prior to marrying the love of his life, Cheryl L. (Gidden) Richards on September 5, 1948, he worked at the Bald Mountain Sawmill in Trojan, SD. They eventually moved to the Lead area, where T.W. worked at the Slime Plant in Deadwood for a number of years, and then at the Metallurgical Department of the Homestake Mine in Lead. Together they raised four children. T.W. also worked as a mail carrier for the USPS in Lead during the 1960s – a job he especially enjoyed because it gave him an opportunity to log more walking miles. Hiking and walking were two of his many passions. T.W. was a well-read, kind, patient, and honest man – a true family man. Through the retelling of his rich and varied experiences, he handed down a great deal of wisdom and life lessons to his kids and grandkids.

T.W. was a hunter, woodsman, wildlife artist, and published author (*Adventures of a Black Hills Stillhunter and Other Notable Experiences*; 2018). He loved hiking and hunting in the beautiful Black Hills, which he fondly referred to as his “old stomping grounds”. These expeditions fostered his lifelong appreciation and respect for nature and honed his keen sense of observation. Essentially a self-taught artist, the majority of T.W.’s body of work (drawings and sculptures) was created using field studies of the movement, form, and habits of whitetail, mule deer, and Bighorn ram in their natural settings. His artwork has been displayed and sold throughout the greater Black Hills region.

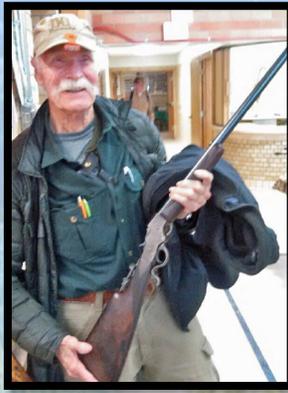
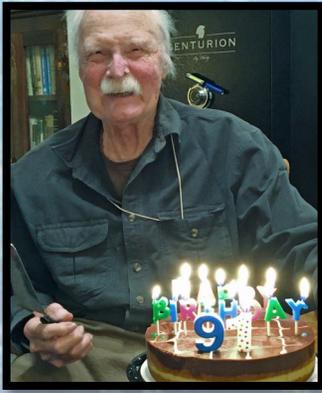
T.W. is survived by his son, Conrad M. (Bonnie) Richards of Redford, MI; daughter, Roxanne M. (Steven) Qualley of Bloomington, IN; son, Travis G. (Amy) Richards of Lead, SD; son, Trent C. (Lila) Richards of Hawarden, IA; brother, Donald H. (Rosalie) Richards of East Helena, MT; 10 grandchildren, April A. (Nathan) Decker of Bothell, WA, Michelle M. Qualley (Jason) of Bloomington, IN, Jon (Adriana) Richards of Dearborn Heights, MI, Ryan (Charity) Richards of Redford, MI, Jennifer (Jon) McKenny of Inwood, IA, Alecia Richards of Culbertson, MT, Jasmine (John) Kaskie of Le Mars, IA, Zach (Carmen) Richards of Moorcroft, WY, Kyle (Corrie) Richards of Westfield, IA, and Brooke Richards of Whitewood, SD; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Cheryl L. Richards; infant son, Mark T. Richards; parents, Warren and Florence Richards of Helena, MT; sister, Norma Schmidt of Rapid City, SD; brother, Jackie Richards; and numerous lifelong friends that held a special place in his heart.

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



In Loving Memory Of
Thomas Warren “T.W.” Richards
January 9, 1929 ~ June 9, 2021



In Loving Memory
Thomas Warren "T.W." Richards

Come to the Forest to Visit Me

*Come to the forest to visit me
Down by the roots of a tree
Waste not your tears on cold, stone graves
Water a flower for me*

*Give me to the earth when my winter comes
Bury me deep in the ground
Mark not my place with statues or caves
Find me where life can be found*

*Come to the woods when autumn leaves turn
Golden and copper and red
Rustle up memories, seeds of joy stored
Kick up the leaves in my stead*

*Visit a garden on warm, summer days
Keep company with blossoms and bees
Remember my heart blooms forever in yours
Take comfort from shushing shade trees*

*Let springtime surround you with life and the living
Birdsong and budding green leaves
Look up at the sky, give thanks for sun and rain
When you think of me, please smile more than grieve*

*Come to the forest to visit me
Down by the roots of a tree
Waste not your tears on thoughts of death
Water a new flower for me*

~ by Lurana Brown

Born

January 9, 1929
Custer, South Dakota

Died

June 9, 2021
Deadwood, South Dakota

Graveside Service

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
Mountain Lawn Cemetery
Lead, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Connie Eichinger