



Richard John Kukowski

July 5, 1930 - June 21, 2023

Richard John Kukowski, age 92, of Beach, North Dakota passed away on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at Glendive Medical Center in Glendive, Montana. A Vigil Service will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at St. John's Catholic Church in Beach. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Thursday, June 29, 2023 at St. John's Catholic Church with Father Dan Berg officiating. Rite of Committal with Military Honors will be held at 1:00 PM CST on Friday, June 30, 2023 at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Richard was born to Dominic and Stella (Losinski) Kukowski in the Depression year of 1930. He grew to maturity on the family farm outside Beach, imbued with the virtues of reliability, dedication, and the psychological empowerment derived from hard physical work.

Richard graduated from high school in 1948. His aspirations to higher education were interrupted by military service in Korea, and on the island of Guam. Following an honorable discharge, he married and resumed his college career at North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University), graduating with a degree in pedology (one of the branches of soil science). He returned to Beach and was employed by the Soil Conservation Service within the United States Department of Agriculture as a soil scientist, mapping soils in counties in southwestern North Dakota. After 20 years of working for the government and farming part-time, he embarked on a full-time

farming career until his declining years. Over the next several years, he gradually disengaged from farming, reluctantly retiring in 2010, when Father Time decreed that it be so.

His love of family was embodied in his philosophy that children are the most important people in the world. The logical corollary he often stated is that parents and teachers have the most important jobs in the world. Similar to his mother before him, he took note of people in need - families having a hard time getting by, or children whose families could not afford to have them participate in a school event - and made anonymous gifts. He strove to see the positive qualities in others and to see things from their point of view. "You don't necessarily have to agree with the other guy, but try to see where he's coming from."

Richard was a prodigious reader of non-fiction, and he loved writing and vocabulary. The Army must have been pleasantly surprised, when his quickly raised hand in response to a request for someone who could type, elevated him from ditch digger to company clerk. Dinner was often an opportunity to inculcate a similar love of vocabulary and his children. The Bismarck Tribune was the recipient of many of his letters to the editor, most of which are printed. Select community residents received letters purporting to be from notable people, such as the pope. He may have known something about these. Richard is preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Edmond, Peggy and Mary.

Richard is survived by his wife of twenty-eight years, Pat; four children, Jennifer Siart (Jim) of Prescott, Arizona; Anne Kukowski (Steve) of Saint Paul, Minnesota; John Kukowski (Mary) of Salem, Oregon and Teresa Aberle (Gerry) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; eight grandchildren, Jessica, Megan, Agnieszka, Alicia, Sylvia, Alex, Leslie, and Laiken; twelve great-grandchildren, Isaac, Gracelyn, Michaela, Levi, Noah, Sophie, Maximilian, Samantha, Eliza, and Eleanor. and six nieces and nephews.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

1825 46th Street
Mandan, ND 58554

Previous Events

Vigil Service

JUN **28**. 7:00 PM.

St. John'S Catholic Church

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **29**. 11:00 AM.

St. John'S Catholic Church

Tribute Wall



“ *Marilynn Nistler lit a candle in memory of Richard Kukowski*



Marilynn Nistler - June 29, 2023 at 11:26 PM



“ *Just heard of Dick's passing a few moments ago. So sorry to hear- know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Bobby & Howard Olstad*

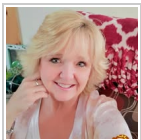
Barbara Olstad - June 29, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *I enjoyed his rhetoric and timely letters to the editor. And his commitment to the American Legion essay contests for high school students. He was a vital Beach historian. I admired him. God bless his memory.*

Sharon Farstveet Dietz

Sharon DIETZ - June 26, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Dear Family, sending heartfelt condolences to you all. Dick was very special to me during my time as his daughter-in-law. Even when that official title was over he still treated me with the same caring and love as he always had. Hearing him tell stories about his life and adventures will be greatly missed. He was a wonderful man and I am thankful for having had known him for so many years. Rest in peace my "other Dad".*

Julie Kraft - June 26, 2023 at 10:09 AM

ML

“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to all of the Richard Kukowski family
May He Rest In Peace*

Maurice Lardy - June 24, 2023 at 02:28 PM

DE

“ *Dawn Mark Egan lit a candle in memory of
Richard Kukowski*



Dawn and Mark Egan - June 22, 2023 at 05:58 PM