



Dick French

November 13, 1926 - May 27, 2020

French, Dick, May 27, 2020 age 93 of Plymouth. Dick French was born near Pond Creek, Oklahoma November 13, 1926 and died May 27, 2020. After serving in the Merchant Marines in World War II, he and his brother operated a commercial salmon fishing business in Alaska. He attended Oklahoma University in Woodward, Oklahoma, where he met Dolores Adams and they married in 1950. Dick began a successful forty-year business career with General Motors in Oklahoma, rising rapidly to management positions.

Throughout his tenure with GM, he was transferred to Texas and Tennessee, and finally to Michigan in 1968 where he and Dolores made their final home. Dick was Manager of General Motors Parts Division in Livonia, Michigan until his retirement in 1989.

Upon retirement, Dick continued to be active in community affairs and was an Elder in Trinity Evangelical Church in Plymouth. He enjoyed playing pool and card games with family and friends.

Dick was devoted to his family and was very proud of his three children, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. His life was saddened by the death of his son, Don, age 16, in 1977, his wife, Dolores, in 1993, and daughter Denise (French) Barackman in 2012.

He is survived by his son, Douglas (Mary) French, granddaughter Melissa (Shane) LaChappelle, grandsons Mike (Alethea) French and Mitch (Emily) French, and four great grandchildren Siena, Stella, Hailey and Nicholas, and son-in-law Chuck (Denise) Barackman.

He will be greatly missed by his family as well as his many friends in the community and at Trinity Church.

Private cremation services are arranged by Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home in Plymouth, with interment at Glen Eden Memorial Park, Livonia, Michigan.

Contributions in Dick's name may be made to the Deacon's Fund at Trinity Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Glen Eden Memorial Park

35667 Eight Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152

Tribute Wall



“ *Dick French*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *We first met Dick and Delores many years ago at Trinity Church. Since Delores passed, we always saw Dick faithfully coming to church. He was always the same demeanor, of such a wonderful model of what a Christian man should be. He loved his Lord, and his family. He always would say to me, "Give me a hug". I was always afraid I would hurt him, especially as he got older. He shared a story of being in Alaska as a young man working on the fishing boats which was such a treat to hear. Dick had had many challenges in his life, I remember him talking of his son and spending so much time at Mott Hospital with him.*

We will certainly miss his constant interest in our family that was always so very genuine.

Ed and Margaret Gallagher

Margaret Gallagher - June 15, 2020 at 12:38 PM



“ *Dick was such a lovely man with a warm smile and a firm handshake. We always enjoyed sharing conversation with him at Trinity. Love and prayers to you, his family. May your memories of Dick comfort you in the coming days.*

*Blessings,
Edie and Tom Wysocki*

Edie Wysocki - June 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM

JA

“ Dick was the most dependable man I have ever had the pleasure of having in our family and a brother-in-law. He was always the one I could count on. I will miss him but know he is happy with family except for one that will be much like him.

Jerald C. Adams - June 06, 2020 at 09:08 PM

JH

“ I loved my Uncle Dick. He was a very kind, gentle person. We always loved it when he would come visit. I always baked him a carrot cake. I never eat carrot cake without thinking of him. He will be greatly missed.

JoAnn Hall - June 06, 2020 at 08:59 PM

PR

“ Any Sunday morning that began with a greeting from Dick French was a very good Sunday morning!
Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson - June 06, 2020 at 11:37 AM

CB

“ Dick was a great example of a “gentleman”. His belief in God, family, and country, showed his true character. When I became his son-in-law, by marrying his daughter Denise 42 years ago, I realized just how important family was to Dick. His decisions were always made considering the impact on his family.
After Denise passed Dick and his best friend Belton Williams and I met for lunch once a month, and we were looking forward to getting back to it once the pandemic was over.
I will miss his friendship and smiling face.

Chuck Barackman

CHUCK BARACKMAN - June 04, 2020 at 03:02 PM

DC

“ Such a wonderful man! Thoughts and prayers to the entire family!
You will be missed. Cindy and Doug Cope

Doug and Cindy Cope - June 03, 2020 at 06:27 PM

RW

“ As a new church, most of us left Ward Church to become members of this new Trinity Church. Bill Moore was our pastor and after a few years, when we moved out of Isbister School to finally have our own building, Bill asked me to become an elder. I felt I was too young, but he said I was ready, so I joined Session, along with Dick and Belton. Here Dick was the general manager of the GM parts in Livonia, and what a blessing to be on Session with both Dick and Belton. I still remember Dolores showing Karen and I pictures of her beautiful granddaughter (I think they lived in Chicago), and we had the pleasure of being in a small group with Denise and Chuck. Trinity was reaching out to us veterans, so I phoned Dick about three weeks ago to see if he would do a video of himself on "What Memorial Day means to me", which would air on our Pod Cast the following Sunday. Dick however said he wouldn't be interested in that. We sure enjoyed his company and he had a tremendous memory. Dick was one of my highlights at Trinity, and he lived a long healthy life. Most importantly, he was man of God! Our blessings to his children and family.
Rich and Karen Whipple

RICHARD E WHIPPLE - June 03, 2020 at 03:22 PM

DK

“ Dick was a beautiful soul. While attending Trinity, before moving to NC we always sat close to Dick at the Sunday worship service. He always hugged my wife Sandy and was such a delight to speak with! He will be missed! Dan & Sandy Kneller

Dan Kneller - June 03, 2020 at 01:31 PM

BW

“*Dick was my closest friend. We lived across the street from each other for over 40 years and spent many hours together. Dick loved to play cards and usually was the winner. He served as Elder at Trinity EPC and contributed significantly to the growth and strength of the church. He was truly a remarkable man and is sorely missed.*
Belton Williams

Belton Williams - June 03, 2020 at 12:17 PM

DB

We have known Dick since the beginning of Trinity Church. We always sat two rows back from Dick at church. My wife got a hug each time we saw him. He was such a kind gentle person. He always commented if we weren't at church and was concerned about us. We will miss him. We send our condolences to his family. What a wonderful man. Dick and Pat Bombach

Dick and Pat Bombach - June 03, 2020 at 03:07 PM

CH

I only recently had the privilege of getting to know Dick. 6 of us began playing cards once a month in the winter time. Dick was always kind and gracious, but he sure liked to win! He "kept us in line" with the game and always knew the rules. He will be missed.

Cindy Hagelin - June 03, 2020 at 10:29 PM

PY

*We haven't know Dick for as long as many of the church members have. We got to know Dick and Belton when Jerry was on Staff at Trinity for a short while but what a blessing that was to us. We often went out to lunch and played cards with Dick and Belton always having a great time with the two of them. The two were such great friends and we always looked forward to getting together with them. Dick was such a special delight to me as he reminded me so much of my own dad. Dick had such a kind, gentle and happy spirit but really liked to win at cards. We will miss him so much. We send our deepest sympathy to all his family. You were so lucky to have such a great Christian man as part of your family. Gods Blessings, peace and comfort to all of you.
*Pam and Jerry Yarnell**

Pamela Yarnell - June 04, 2020 at 01:38 PM