



Richard Higgins

March 20, 1931 - December 3, 2020

The funeral mass for Richard Higgins will be live streamed from St. Brigid Catholic Church beginning at 10:28am Friday, December 18, 2020. Select the link to be directed to the Slininger-Schroeder Face Book page. There is no password or login required.

https://www.facebook.com/SliningerSchroederFuneralHome/?view_public_for=105863521139107

Richard Higgins

Cypress, CA; formerly of Grand Junction and Boone, Iowa

. Richard Joseph Higgins, 89, died Thursday, December 3, 2020, peacefully in his home, in Cypress, California.

Richard was born on March 20, 1931, in Grand Junction, Iowa, to Thomas Luke and Laura Agnes (Kersey) Higgins. While Richard was married to Wilma Jean (Shorey) Higgins, they had 3 children: Theresea Marie (Higgins) Safari Forooshani (Hassan), Diana Sue (Higgins) Riahi (Shapour), and Richard Wayne Higgins.

Richard later married Margaret Elizabeth (Terpening) Higgins. They were married 32 years before his death. Margaret previously had 4 grown children that Richard grew to love as his own: Edward Terpening (Mike), Elizabeth (Terpening) Cruickshank (Vincent), Lorraine (Terpening) Carrillo, and Richard Terpening (Tina).

From 1952-1954 Richard was a Corporal E-4 and a 3rd Marksman during the Korean Conflict, and was a part of Dwight D. Eisenhower's Special Services Company (insignia: flaming sword patch). He was stationed in Germany and France and served as a heavy equipment operator rebuilding roads, railroads and making fields usable for farmers.

Upon returning from overseas, he continued his career in concrete finishing with Ebee, Hallett and Grabau, paving highways and roads in Iowa. Later, while living in Boone, Iowa, he started his own business, Higgins Concrete Construction, Inc. Additionally, he worked with

Anderson Construction and was a concrete finisher for the Fareway Warehouse. "All the contractors of Boone did agree Richard was the 'Professional Top Dog' of his field," explained Howard Bothner, neighbor and former resident of Boone.

It was not uncommon to see his construction signs throughout the city, including downtown, where he replaced many of Boone's city sidewalks. He helped pave and finish many roads in Iowa, from SE 14th in Des Moines, to Hwy 6 in Coralville. He was proud to have been chosen to pour the steps of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

With tough economic times, he surprised the family with a letter from the Prince of Saudi Arabia, inviting him to come work there. From 1982 - 1985 Richard was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, working as a concrete foreman construction supervisor. Highways and bridges were not an easy job in the sweltering desert heat.

He then returned to the states and moved to Cypress, California, to be close to his brother, Bobby Higgins.

It was then he applied for a job at the Los Alamitos School District and out of all applicants, we can guess who got the job. He retired in 1994.

Richard never knew what the meaning of "sit down and rest" meant. In his spare time he took on many hobbies, including tailoring, sewing quilts for all of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as woodworking and restoring antique model Fords (the Model A was his favorite Ford). He was known for baking skills including some great tasting pies using his mother's crust recipe.

Richard volunteered regularly at the VA Hospital in Long Beach, every week, until his health declined. He also volunteered at his church, bagging groceries for those in need.

He enjoyed walking to the swap meet near home, and would maybe even spend a quarter or two on a good find. Both Margaret and Richard spent many mornings together at the Buena Park Mall, meeting up later with their "walking buddies" for coffee.

He found a best friend later in life, Danny Boy, a poodle mix, who became his most faithful companion and protector. Danny and Richard would take daily walks around the block. Danny is a great traveler, and attended all the family reunions. Richard was proud of the "language" that they had together, like 'mon and 'mere (come on, come here).

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Catherine, his brothers John Henry, T

Thomas Ambrose (Wava), and Robert Leo (Veronica). Richard is survived by his wife Margaret, his sister Genevieve (Higgins) Haase, and all of the above named children. As well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and numerous relatives.

In California, Richard's viewing will take place in Long Beach, California on Friday, December 11th, at Luyben Dilday Mortuary, from 3 to 5 PM. His funeral will follow on Saturday, December 12th, at Saint Irenaeus Catholic Church in Cypress, at 10 AM. The following week, Richard's viewing will be held in Grand Junction, Iowa on Friday, December 18th, at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church at 9:30 AM, followed by his funeral at 10:30 AM.

He will be laid to rest at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Grand Junction, Iowa. His family will be present to welcome loved ones.

Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home, Jefferson, Iowa

Cemetery

Events

Mount Calvary Cemetery

Grand Junction, IA,

**DEC
18**

Visitation

09:30AM - 10:30AM

St. Brigid Catholic Church

303 15th Street South, Grand Junction, IA, US, 50107

**DEC
18**

Funeral Service

10:30AM

St. Brigid Catholic Church

303 15th Street South, Grand Junction, IA, US, 50107

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Riahi - June 02 at 05:27 PM



“ One thing dad was always proud of, as you can tell by the obit, was time spent in the Korean Conflict. Here is a small collage I made for him.

Diana - June 02 at 05:29 PM



“ Grandpa, you meant the world to me. I enjoyed your fun tricks and our family game nights playing dominoes. Let's not forget our time at the Greek Festival in California! I will always treasure your family stories. It is these memories that will help fill the hole that is in my heart. My only comfort is that you are no longer suffering. May you Rest In Peace.



Sarah - December 13, 2020 at 12:09 AM



“ Grandpa, you have certainly lived a very full life with a lot of love along the way from your family and children. I want to remember how you'd change the rules at dominos and make the silliest faces while we'd take pictures together. Thanks for bringing us many smiles. Until next time, rest well.

Jamie Riahi - December 11, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ My dad was a very kind, patient, hard working man. He loved all his children, grand children and great grandchildren. He deeply loved his wife, Margaret Higgins, during their 32 year marriage. He will be truly missed. I love you dad!

Theresea(Higgins) Safari Forooshani - December 06, 2020 at 12:38 AM