



## Dean Hempel

January 23, 1926 - February 12, 2023

Dean Jacob Hempel, M.D.

Dean was 97 years young. He passed away Feb 12 in Bloomington, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents, 7 older siblings, beloved wife, Verona, and oldest son Monty.

He is survived by his children: Mark ( Natasha), Susan ( Steve), Michelle (Tom), grandchildren: Emily ( Ryan) , Caitlin, Alia, Jared ( Melissa), Tanya ( Tony), Ellie, Katherine, great grandchil-dren: Zach and Luke, and by his special friend, Diane.

Dean Served as a World War II combat infantryman,99th Infantry Division, in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge and the ensuing slow retreat and surrender of the German army ending in May 1945.

Dean lived a life of continual learning. After graduating from University of Minnesota Medical School, he was a fellow at the Mayo Clinic. He returned to Mpls and started a Pediatric prac-tice in the 50' s and 60's. When he was 40, he moved his family ( reluctantly) to Topeka, to be-come a fellow in Child Psychiatry at the Menninger School of Psychiatry. He was an excellent listener, thus Psychiatry was a perfect fit. After a private practice in Child and Adolescent Psy-chiatry, he concluded his professional career as Staff

Psychiatrist at the Amherst H Wilder Foundation in St. Paul.

Upon retirement, he was an involved grandfather. He met for lunches, was a regular at games, and concerts. He was rewarded with rich relationships. He was not silly, but he loved humor. He had a twinkle in his eye, and a gentleness about him. When he spoke, words were not wasted. He was very focused on the conversation, and the more stimulating, the better.

He loved his family. He and Verona were married close to fifty years. They were young at heart, embraced diversity, and loved their lake cabin. They created a warm and loving home, often including those who were in need of extra nurturing. After Verona died, Dean met Diane, who became his dearest friend, dance partner, and traveling companion.

In his later retirement years he became interested and challenged in the course of regular ongoing discussion facilitating interfaith exchanges, with emphasis on those of a Muslim/Christian/ and Jewish faith, promoting religious good will, friendship, harmony, and inter-religious peace.

Whatever his interests, or topics, he researched and studied with laser focus. He wrote scholarly papers, and sent copies to his kids, asking for critiques. The homework never ended. Peace and harmony were his last and final threads, in the tapestry of his life.

He will be greatly missed. He was a gem.

" Let your life be your message." Gandhi

Some of Dean's intrigue with human nature, as a psychiatrist, can be directly accessed in a series of his essays via the following URL:

[denhoff93.medium.com](http://denhoff93.medium.com)

Family Memorial video @ <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com>

Private internment at Fort Snelling

Memorials to Habitat for Humanit

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Washburn-McReavy - February 24, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MH

*Sue, you did a beautiful job on this video. It does Dean justice, and that's not an easy thing to do! Thank you!!!*

Mark Hempel - February 25, 2023 at 12:58 PM

KD

*Oh my, what a warm and wonderful tribute for such a kind, generous and loving man. A role model for us all. Thank you for sharing.*

Karen Lobben (Diane's daughter) - February 26, 2023 at 07:40 AM

TD

*What a beautiful tribute to a dear man. Dean touched all of our lives with his gentle kindness and genuine concern. Peace to you all.*

Terri Deal-Hansen - February 26, 2023 at 10:14 AM

DD

*Sue and family. Thank you for sharing this beautiful tribute. Dean was an exceptional man with a kind soul. His compassion and generosity lives on through all of you!*

Dick Deal-Hansen - February 26, 2023 at 12:48 PM

SS

*Wow. Such a remarkable tribute to such a remarkable man. Each of you had such touching and insightful things to say. And, Michelle, I appreciate that you made special note of Diane. He was a very special uncle to me; and, I'm so glad we got to see him recently. Sue, this is beautiful video work on your part. Both of your parents will always be remembered fondly. Steve Shearer*

**Steve Shearer** - February 26, 2023 at 11:39 PM

BK

*The Hempel Families, My Mom told Me recently that your Dad died! I'm so sorry bcuz, Mr. Hempel was a very loving family man who loved his children and families too! I saw your beautiful video! My family n His family were next door neighbors! I was Shelly's neighbor friend & I was over at their house a lot bcuz, she was teaching piano to me! I'm sending You All Hugs and Prayers! RIP Mr. Hempel! Barbara Keegan (McKernan)*

**Barbara Keegan** - February 27, 2023 at 06:09 PM



*Beautiful memorial, thanks Sue.*

**Marcilyn Raines** - February 27, 2023 at 06:40 PM

BL

*What a beautiful tribute to a life well lived. Uncle Dean was a very special person that left an impact in this earthly life. He will be missed but the wonderful stories and memories will live on.*

**Barbara LeDoux** - March 01, 2023 at 10:49 PM

CD

*What a beautiful tribute to a very good man. We worked together at Wilder and his kindness and skill were admired by everyone there.*

**Claudia Dengler** - March 08, 2023 at 02:06 PM

MI

*“ Sue, you did a great job on the video! We are all going to miss him. We made lots of good memories.*

**Millie** - March 04, 2023 at 02:54 PM



“ Such a dear family member, he was my last surviving Uncle on my father's side. Words cannot express my feelings of loss. I have wonderful memories and pictures from our last reunion in South Dakota in 2012. I will try to share them here. Marci (Hempel) Raines



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**Marcilyn Raines** - February 26, 2023 at 11:35 AM