



Neal Norbert Luebke

December 17, 1926 - February 24, 2023

Neal Luebke was born to Gertrude and Helmuth Luebke on December 17, 1926 in Parkston, South Dakota. He attended Dakota Wesleyan University where he met Jean Pearson and they married. They moved to Denver where he received his M.A. in Theatre from Denver University. He began a teaching career which was interrupted by the Korean War and was sent to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. Fortunately, because he could type, Neal spent the war in Texas typing reports. His son, Dana, was born just before they moved back to Pierre, South Dakota, where he resumed teaching and his daughter, Erin, was born. In 1957 Neal received a John Hays Fellowship, and the family spent a year in New York City where he studied humanities at Columbia University. They moved to Minneapolis in 1960 where for the next 30 years he taught humanities in the Robbinsdale School District. He shared his passion for the arts in the year long course he created surveying Western arts and literature, which required students to read over 40 books and to attend performances and visit art exhibitions. He also directed plays and musicals at Robbinsdale High School for which he often designed the costumes, which Jean made. Devoted to his students and cast members, he took joy in seeing many of them go on to professional careers in theatre. Neal was very active in the Robbinsdale United Church of Christ, chairing many committees. He brought his love of theatre into the church, founding IN CELEBRATION, a reader's theatre group that performed dramatic material for worship services for 25 years. Jean died in 1991, and in 1992, he married Carol Joyce, who came to

Minneapolis to be pastor at the Robbinsdale UCC, and who shared his love of art. Carol died on November 30, 2022.

Whether teaching, directing, writing or entertaining, Neal delighted in all the details on which lavished meticulous attention. He wrote many poems, often to celebrate special occasions.

He died on February 24, 2023, yet his memory lives on in the hearts of his children Dana Luebke (Robert Greenwood) and Erin Thompson (Byron Richard); his stepsons Scott Brun (Tere) and Todd Brun (Cara King); his grandchildren Wyatt, Simone, Stephanie, Chandler, Ryan and Isabel; great-granddaughter Lucy; and his many friends and students.

Cemetery Details

Crystal Lake Cemetery

3816 Penn Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412
(612) 521-7619
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ *One of my favorite teachers.*

Van Holston - April 15, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *What a wonderful gentleman and friend. Enjoyed many pleasant experiences with Neal and Joyce and fellow docent, Terry Nadler at MIA.*

Joyce Wahlquist - March 21, 2023 at 01:27 PM

JS

“ Neal clearly had a significant and lasting impact on everyone he encountered.

We met Neal over a decade ago through his wife Carol, who was a docent with Lynn at Mia. We got to know Neal because he often joined Carol to explore the galleries with us. Before long, we were going out as couples or entertaining each other in our homes. We often made an evening of dinner at a good restaurant, such as Kafe 421 (Neal's favorite) and a play at the Ritz, Park Square, or the Guthrie, to name a few. Later we went to the Nicollet Island Inn for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays.

We were honored to be invited to Neal's 90th birthday celebration. Each speaker shared warm and funny stories about Neal, providing an inkling to us about his many talents, achievements and influence on others.

One of our favorite memories is of our trip with Neal and Carol to New York. We spent a long weekend walking to and browsing the collections at MoMa, Neue Gallerie, and The Met. We were tired but Neal snagged the last ticket to the King and I at Lincoln Center. At breakfast the next day Neal recounted so many details about the cast, costumes, set, choreography and more, that for us it was almost like being there.

We will always cherish our memories of Neal, not just as a "renaissance man" but a wonderful friend. Lynn Dunlap and John Speer

john r speer - March 17, 2023 at 01:57 PM

KL

“ *Mr. Luebke will always be my favorite and most memorable high school teacher. I loved his Humanities class. He challenged us. I retired this year from teaching. I shared many of his ideas in my classroom. The final field trip I took my students on was to Minneapolis. I took them to museums, churches, and other adventures he encouraged us to go to. He taught me to be creative and try new things. His love of teaching was evident! Kathy Sutherland Lutes.*

Kathy Lutes - February 28, 2023 at 03:32 PM

SK

“ *I was quite offset yesterday when I noticed Mr. Luebke's obituary in the Mpls. paper. My name is Sue (Drake) King; I was most fortunate to have had him for a humanities teacher at Robbinsdale High School in the late 1960's. Even more memorable for me, however, were my roles in two of his musicals: Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady and Molly Brown in the Unsinkable Molly Brown. Words cannot adequately express my heart for Mr. Luebke as he guided me through the process of becoming those two unique but very different characters. I fondly remember Dana and Erin to whom I wish comfort in knowing that your dad was loved and adored by many, especially me.*

Susan King - February 27, 2023 at 12:37 PM