



Richard and Florence Vogt

October 3, 2023

Vogt, Richard Wilson July 28, 1929 - October 3, 2023

Vogt, Florence Ellen (Ballentine) August 20, 1929 - October 4, 2023

Happily married for 75 years, high school sweethearts Richard Wilson Vogt and Florence Ellen (Ballentine) Vogt died within hours of each other on October 3rd (Richard) and October 4th (Florence). Their romance sparked when they were the only two to volunteer for dreaded dishwashing duties at a school event, and they were the center of each other's worlds ever after.

They married on May 1, 1948, in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Richard worked for Michigan Bell Telephone for 33 years, retiring in 1981 to spend more time with his sweetie. Florence trained as a bookkeeper; she was also a homemaker and secretary. They raised three daughters, Mary (Stanley) Hunter, Lois (Donald) Albrecht, and Linda (Richard) Holmes, and welcomed many "extra kids" into their lives.

They filled their lives with adventure, camping, picnicking, and hiking as the girls grew up. After retirement, they could often be found traveling and bicycling-famously celebrating their birthdays by biking their age in miles in a single day until their 80s. Florence reluctantly gave up biking at age 90.

Richard was still biking early this summer, and they both relished long walks and any opportunity to be outdoors. They loved spending summers in Bayfield, Wisconsin; they also enjoyed several winters in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

They had a wide circle of friends and were known for their sense of humor,

eye-popping athletic feats, contributions to the community (they both volunteered regularly with Meals on Wheels), and, most of all, their unwavering love for each other. They proudly wooed each other, even after 75 years of marriage. They were thrilled to have a 75th anniversary party in May with their entire family present.

Florence was born in Lansing, Michigan, on August 20, 1929, to Peter W. Ballentine and Glenna M. (Zischke) Ballentine. She was an intrepid genealogist who extensively traced the family tree. In her 50s, she began quilting and became well-known for her incredible skill and generosity, donating hundreds of quilts to worthy causes. She had a wonderful circle of quilter friends in East Lansing and later in Saint Paul after they moved to Minnesota in 2010. Florence had a challenging childhood, growing up in the Depression and losing her father when she was 3, but she had an indomitable spirit.

Richard was born in Grand Ledge, Michigan, on July 28, 1929, to Harrison M. Vogt and Mary Blanche (Brett) Vogt. Richard equaled Florence's generosity, donating blood as often as possible and spending more than 40 years recording books for individuals facing blindness. He was a gifted writer and storyteller whose love for puns will trickle on through the generations. Few could top him in a crossword puzzle or a battle of wits. He kept journals throughout his life and was a faithful letter-writer to many. We're fortunate to still have his words.

Remarkably healthy for most of their lives, both suffered vertebral fractures and subsequent reinjuries in the last two months, declining rapidly thereafter. Their nearly simultaneous deaths were a fitting end to their incredible love story.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to The Willows of Ramsey Hill and Brighton Hospice for caring for Florence and to Optage Hospice for Richard's in-home care. Mom and Dad loved each other, loved their families, and made the most out of life. They will be deeply missed, but we take comfort in knowing they don't have to be without each other.

Richard and Florence were preceded in death by their parents; Florence's brother Milton Ballentine; Richard's siblings Virginia Vance, Lyndon Vogt, and Norman Vogt; sons-in-law Donald Albrecht and Richard Holmes; and "extra kid" Jeff Kenyon.

They are survived by their three daughters, Mary (Stanley) Hunter, Lois Albrecht, and Linda Holmes; grandchildren Jennifer Albrecht, Bryce Albrecht (Amanda Belanger), Terence (Youa) Holmes, Ian (Sarah) Hunter, and Ellen (Paul) Gans; and great-grandchildren Bronwen and Greta Hunter, Samuel and Tyler Holmes, and Jameson and Hunter Gans. Also survived by cousin Irene Jane Brett, nephew Lyle Vogt, niece Sherry Ballentine Hays, and best man Jim Crawford; special "extra kids" Linda Reeder Overholt, Carol Cosens Yocum, Susan Larson, Jean Catto Hildreth, and Kris "Kupcake" Reichenbach; and many more beloved friends, apartment neighbors, Holy Spirit and Gloria Dei quilters, and extended family.

No services, as requested. Arrangements by Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell of Saint Paul. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Meals on Wheels; The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library; Albrecht-Vogt Family Fund-Apostle Islands Community Fund, P.O. Box 332, Bayfield, WI 54814; or donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

FD

“ *Beautiful!*

Francie Domstrand - November 02, 2023 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *I knew Richard and Flossie having lived in the same apartment building and thru their daughter Mary. I was in awe of their biking and walking abilities. To say they were an extraordinary couple isn't enough. RIP together. You will be remembered.*

Paula Manthey - November 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Sending you all my deepest condolences.*
Michelle Barclay



Michelle Barclay - October 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *I remember times when I was a young boy the many good times at Jim Crawford's Cabin in Harrison, MI. Richard and Florence adding to the fun times. They will both be missed.*



Bob Crawford - October 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Linda - As a fellow classmate and child of a Michigan Bell employee, I grew to know your parents. I have many fond memories. I was so sorry to read of the loss of your parents in todays paper. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Hugs
Susan Heil Godfrey

Susan Heil-Godfrey - October 15, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Loved my feet under the same table as these two, sharing a meal and stories. Love the daughters and families they created. Well done; well earned rest now, Richard and Florence

CJ Jacobson - October 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ I feel so very honored to be named as one of Richard and Florence's "extra kids." I fondly remember being always welcomed into their home during my high school years when my friendship with Mary blossomed and supported me. Their humor, energy and love helped sustain me during those years. What a blessing their love has been to their family and their communities! May their love live on in our memories!

Linda Reeder Overholt - October 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ Dick and Flo set the standard for fun
With a life of adventure and puns
'Twas a love for all time
And ain't it sublime-
They're now biking without sore buns!



Ellen Hunter Gans - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Truly blessed to have known the Vogt family through the years

Charles - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ I am thinking of you all. They had lives well lived together.

Howdy Hedlund - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ It has been my privilege and pleasure to call Florence and Dick my friends. Howard and I always looked forward to an opportunity to see them--especially when we visited in St. Paul. They were fun to be around! Dick and Florence set examples as individuals and as a couple that we all could benefit by following.

Judy Hedlund - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I will so miss my "extra" parents. Losing both nearly simultaneously is jolting but I truly cannot imagine one without the other. Their positive energy always inspired and lifted my spirits. I feel blessed and honored to be included in their extended family through my best friend, Lin, and share memories of these two remarkable souls.



Kristina (Kupcake) Reichenbach - October 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM