



Mr. Richard John Axelson

September 29, 1929 - October 11, 2018

Axelson, Richard "Dick, Ax" age 89, passed away peacefully in his home in St. Anthony Village on October 11, 2018 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was a graduate of Edison High School in Northeast Minneapolis. He went on to earn an Associate of Arts from the University of Minnesota. He attended seminary, served in the United States Navy, and taught English in the Peace Corps in Brazil, where he met his wife of 49 years, Irena Axelson. Dick gave everything he had to teaching and making a difference in the lives of students. He started his teaching journey at Park Rapids High School (MN), but he spent most of his career teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools, retiring as a social studies teacher at the heart of the South High School Partnership Program in 1995. He lived his life tenaciously and unapologetically, with curiosity, laughter, joy, and purpose. He was a Christian, a teacher, a coach, a civic advocate, an activist, an instigator, a DEMOCRAT, a music-lover, a friend, a husband, a father, and a grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Irena; their three children, Janio Axelson, Davi Axelson (Bridget), and Nina Axelson (Don Huettl); three grandchildren, Rayna, Calum, and Emma; his sister Jeanne Woodbury; his nieces and nephews; in-laws; and extended family. A celebration of Dick's life will begin with a visitation at Washburn-McReavy Northeast Chapel on Monday October 22 (2901 Johnson St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418), from 4:30-7:30 PM. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday October 23 at Salem Covenant Church (2655 5th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112). Visitation begins at 10:00 AM. Service begins at 11:00

AM. Donations in lieu of flowers would be greatly preferred and may be directed to the South High Foundation and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Northeast Chapel
2901 Johnson Street N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 781-6828
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Visitation

OCT **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Salem Covenant Church
2655 5th Street Northwest
New Brighton, MN 55112

Memorial Service

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Salem Covenant Church
2655 5th Street Northwest
New Brighton, MN 55112

Tribute Wall

CD

“ Though belated, having only yesterday had a message from David about his death, I am writing to relay to his family, especially Jeanne his sister, my condolences. Dick was my roommate in college. I was a frequent visitor to his great parents in Minneapolis, and we kept in close touch for many years. I still have some small objects he sent back from the Far East when he was in the Navy, and many great memories. Though I did not hear from him, except twice, after his stroke, I always remember him as the best friend I ever had in life. He taught me to laugh, to enjoy, and to pray. May he rest in peace and hear the music of the angels singing in bliss.

Clifford davidson - February 20, 2019 at 02:34 PM

LS

“ Both Dick and I taught at the Park Rapids, MN, high school in the late 1950's. Wally Small was a counselor there during that time. Would like to be able to attend Dick's memorial service, but distance will make that difficult.



Lowell Stagg - October 16, 2018 at 09:23 PM

RN

“ Good classroom experiences, he rewarded us with a trip to stay with his folks in Minneapolis, and then came back for our class reunions, even in 2017



Rod Nordberg - October 15, 2018 at 04:39 PM