



## Richard Nelson

May 1, 2012

Nelson, Richard "Dick" Age 85, of W. St. Paul, passed away peacefully April 27, 2012 surrounded by his family. Preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Celia; son, David; and sister, Helen Maxwell. Survived by children, Kathleen (Robert) Watkins, Nannette (Dennis) Kaiser, and Thomas (Ellen) Nelson; grandchildren, Eric, Jamie, Tyler, Anna, Angela, and Julia; 7 great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Marge Oie, James (Sandy) Nelson, Robert (Joan) Nelson, Phyllis Johnston, Linda (Ed) Conroy. Dick was a WWII veteran of the United States Army. He was an active friend of Bill W. for 47 years. He was a 33rd Degree Mason and a member of the Zuhrah Shrine. Dick was an extreme Viking football enthusiast and was a Distinguished Master Competitive Shooter. Dick's lifelong passion was law enforcement. He was very proud of his family's 175 year combined law enforcement service. He served the Mpls Police Dept. for 26 years. He was Past President of Mpls Police Federation, The Pension Council, and the Mpls Police Retirees Association. He was also the State President of the MN Police and Peace Officers Association. Dick was active at the State Capital as a law enforcement lobbyist representing police officers and their families. A loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Dick enjoyed spending time with everyone whether it be in Mpls, at the farm or at Lake Mille Lacs. He will be deeply missed by all. Funeral service 3:00 PM Wednesday, May 2, with visitation beginning at 2:00 PM at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th & Knox Ave. S., Mpls. Private interment Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. In lieu of

flowers, memorials preferred to Sobriety High School, 12156 Nicollet Ave. S., Burnsville, MN 55337. [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Tribute Wall

EB

“ To the Family: I remember Richard as he was related to my father (John Melvin Beck Sioux City, Ia, son of Jens Beck - Worthington, son of John Jonsson Beck Offerdal, Sweden). Richard came to gatherings at First Lutheran Church in Wgtn when I was just a child. John (my father Sioux City) talked about Richard alot as they were around each other quite a bit as children. I have all of Phyllis (Richard's sister) photos of when they went to Offerdal Sweden to find the ancestral home of Jens Beck. Did you know that the original family name was Jonsson? It was changed to Beck (which is a stream in Sweden that ran down next to that single room log home on that Mountain overlooking Landogssjon Lake. I have an old postcard book with ~50+ postcards that belonged to Jens sister Hulda & they are all addressed with Jonsson, Jonson & Beck names as the family/friends in Sweden at the time were transitioning & trying to get used to the name change. So I'm not sure if the original name was spelled Jonsson or Jonson but that is the story of where the Beck name came from. Thoughts to Richard's family & the history of the family. Elizabeth Ann Beck N. Mkto, MN.

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**Elizabeth A. Beck** - December 01, 2025 at 03:18 PM

MC

“ *Thoughts and Prayers for your family at this difficult time. God bless you all...*

~

*Mary Condon,*

*Mandan, North Dakota*

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**Mary Condon** - May 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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*Mary Condon,*

*Mandan, North Dakota*

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**Mary Condon** - May 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *My husband and I met your Dad and Mom at Treasure Island years ago. What a lovely couple! Your Dad was so devoted to your mother. After you Mom and brother passed, we continued to see him, but you could tell some of the light has gone out. He was a wonderful man. Intelligent, funny, and just a plain all around wonderful person. We'll miss his smile, warm greeting, and always fun, lively conversation. May God be with you all!*

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*Linda Bataglia,*

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

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**Linda Bataglia** - May 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Tom & Nan, I just learned today of your Dad's passing, and I am so sorry for your loss. Your Dad was such a great guy and he worked so hard for all of us in law enforcement. You have my deepest sympathies. Michele Tuchner

[Contact Me](#)

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May 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM



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[Contact Me](#)

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May 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Dear Nan, Kathy and Tom, So sorry for your loss. Your Dad, and your Mom were the best people. I will always remember your Dad's sense of humor. He truly was a man that was fair and loved, even when he got tough when we were in High School. Love to you all.

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*Pat Wallin,*

*Afton, Minnesota*

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**Pat Wallin** - May 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob and Joan, Sorry to read of Dicks passing in the paper yesterday. My condolences to you and your family and all of the Nelson sisters and brothers. Love to all. Carolyn Mikkelson

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*Meghan Neu,*

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“ Our sympathy to the Nelson Family for the loss of Richard. The Nelson's were are good neighbors at Lake Mille Lacs. I have known Dick as a neighbor but first met him a long time ago in 1952 when, as a cop he pulled me over on Lake Street in Minneapolis and asked me to cut the wires on my blue lights I had on my Motorcycle. I did and he did not give me a ticket. I will never forget that or will I forget my time spent with Dick.

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*David & Barbara Anderson,*

*Lake Mille Lacs, Minnesota*

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EJ

“ *In February 1960, Dick was the first Officer to work with me on his beat at Nicollet and Lake Street. He was a great Police Officer, and teacher. He will be missed by many for all he did for the Department and it's men.*

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*Ed Juntilla,*

*Princeton, Minnesota*

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ST

“ My heart goes out to Dick's family. Although I only met him twice, he was a really cool man. I wish I could have the opportunity to have known him better. Condolences to my great friends Kathy & Nan and the rest of the Nelson family.

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*Sandy Thompson,*

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*Dave & Shelly,*

*SSP/Scandia, Minnesota*

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“ Dear Nan, Denny & Family~Nan, how blessed we were to get to know your dear, Dad. Our time with him was way too short, as I know you all agree. To be remembered with such admiration and respect.....what a legacy he leaves. What an example he is. You are all in our thoughts and prayers daily.Love,

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“ Grandpa Nelson, one can only hope and pray to be half the man, father, friend, or Vikings fan you were. It is a priviledge and honor to be a part of your life and your family. My condolences to the Nelson family and rejoice in Dicks life and where he is at this very moment! Love you all!....Chad

~

*Chad Erickson,*

*Albertville, Minnesota*

---

**Chad Erickson** - April 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ *Sorry, surprised and did not believe that it would happen. He was the person that you admired, worked with and believed that he would always be there.*

~

*allen & becky berryman,*

*missoula, Montana*

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**allen & becky berryman** - April 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *Dear Kathy, so sorry about your Dad. I only met him one time but he was a very nice fellow. If I can help you in any way, please let me know. Love to you & Bob, Brenda & Joe*

~

*Brenda Ellenburg,*

*Forest City, North Carolina*

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“ We lost one of the best. He will be remembered often and surely missed. The Rech's

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*Dave Rech,*

*Prior Lake, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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BF

“ *What a wonderful, thoughtful and caring man. Some of the things I will always remember most:1. I will never forget how his face would light up when his grandchildren were in the room.2. I will treasure the hours he sat with me in the hospital after my many surgeries. and....brought me milk-shakes:)3. I will never forget his encouraging words when Jamie was born and I was so scared!4.I will always remember his strength of character which he instilled in his own family.He will always be one of my biggest heroes!*

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*Brenda Freborg,*

*Bemidji, Minnesota*

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“ *Thoughts and Prayers for your family at this difficult time. The Geffre's ( Chris, Nikki, Ashley, Eric, Ryan and Miyah.*

*Contact Me*

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“ *Sorry for your loss. What a wonderful tribute!!! THE TOM HORSCH FAMILY*

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*Michelle horsch,*

*inver grove heights, Minnesota*

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“ *Condolences from the Brethren of the Minneapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.*

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*Virtus junxit mors non separabit.*

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JW

“ Our thoughts are with Dicks' family.

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*Jim & Pat (Mabel) Wright,*

*Minnesota*

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SF

“ *Nan, Denny and family - My prayers are with you all during this difficult time. I will never forget the speech your Dad gave at Nan and Denny's wedding! Love you!!!!*

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*Sue Bender and family,*

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“ Tom, Kathy and Nan, Your father will be remembered for his charming and dapper demeanor. Most importantly, his great love for you, his treasured children. Dick's legacy; a man whose valued contributions touched the lives and hearts of many with sound values and fortitude. Extending my deepest sympathy to the entire Nelson family. Love and Prayers, Diane

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*Diane Field,*

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