



Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle

November 7, 1941 - March 21, 2025

Age 83, of Hopkins, MN passed away on March 21, 2025 due to complications following heart surgery. Dick was born on November 7, 1941 in Omaha, NE. Preceded in death by his parents, Susan and Everett, his brother Bob, and nephews Mike and Jake.

Dick served 32 years in the United States Marine Corps. While on active duty he completed tours of duty in the Vietnam War, Camp Pendleton and Korea. As a reservist he was again called to Active Duty to support Operation Desert Storm. He retired as a Colonel in 1994.

As an engineer and entrepreneur, Dick co-founded and led Van Sickle, Allen & Associates (now VAA) from 1978 until he stepped down as CEO in 2006. He left VAA in 2009 and struck out on his own as a consultant and owner's representative for multiple construction projects in the Pacific Northwest related to the agricultural industry. In retirement Dick loved spending time with his family and friends, travelling, attending his church, volunteering in the community, fly fishing and driving his green 1953 Chevy truck.

He greeted everyone he met with his signature smile and they inevitably became friends for life. Dick was a mentor, storyteller, risk taker and eternal optimistic. The guiding principles of his existence were his faith in God, his faith in people, loyalty, integrity and his great love for his family.

Survived by his wife Ann of 39 years; children Drake, Brian (Anna) Kearns, Kate (Chuck Pumarlo), Kevin Kearns, Brandt (Cat Reith), Tracy (John) Gawboy, David (Diana), and Tim (Raya); grandchildren April, Lilly, Levi,

Charlotte, Noah, Aaron, and Olivia; foster daughters Mimi, Rahel, and Sefanit Debebe; sister Annie (Gary) Kuti; sister-in-law Charleen; nieces Karen and Denise; nephew Jim (Gayle); many other relatives on his side of the family and Ann's - and an incredibly long list of friends.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 6th from 2-5 pm at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel, 1400 Main Street, Hopkins. Funeral services will be held on April 7th at 10 am at Church of the Cross, 201 9th Ave N, Hopkins. A burial service with military honors will be held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at 1:30 PM. A procession to the cemetery will depart Church of the Cross at 12:30 PM. Livestream of the church service will be available at: ofthecross.org/onlineservices.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to any of the following charities: Toys for Tots, Questscope, Reach and Restore, and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Minneapolis.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Strobeck-Johnson 952-938-9020

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Hopkins Chapel
1400 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343

Funeral Service

APR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of the Cross
201 9th Avenue North
Hopkins, MN 55343

Graveside Service

APR 7. 1:30 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
7601 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Tribute Wall

TK

“ I met Colonel Van Sickle once at Reach and Restore where he was donating items and I was shopping.. Heckuva guy. Struck me as sincere and kind hearted. We prayed together. He shared a couple quick stories. It was an honor to meet him. I pray his family's bereavement has been assuaged by our Heavenly Father. Everybody knows the Pearly Gates are maintained by US Marine Combat Engineers.

TKthePK - September 02, 2025 at 05:06 PM

TR

“ I am sad to hear of Dick's passing in March 2025. I didn't read about it until June. I first met Dick in early 1995 while interviewing for a job. He immediatly put me at ease during the interview, and I was working with VAA within a month. I worked there for 6 years, and during that time he was a friend and mentor to me. He was also my friend for many years after. My heartfelt condolences to Ann and the family. Trudy and I will always remember Dick.

Tom and Trudy Rider - June 19, 2025 at 11:36 AM

SS

“ 1 file added to the album Funeral



Scott Stangeland - April 09, 2025 at 08:07 PM

NS

“ I met Dick only a few months ago as the Volunteer Coordinator at CES. He volunteered with us on Fridays and was such a pleasure to interact with, so kind and willing to help in any way. Always coming early and staying until the very end, until everything was done. He was friendly to all and loved to swap stories with everyone - especially about his family! We will miss his kind and generous heart and are grateful to have known him!

Nicole Smalley - April 07, 2025 at 11:32 AM

KW

“ Kathy W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Kathy W. - April 06, 2025 at 01:41 PM

RV

“ I had known Dick for most of my career in the grain industry. He had extensive knowledge of this industry and was always willing to share it. He was always thorough in his evaluations of situation and was well respected and trusted by people he dealt with. Dick loved golf and his family. The Grain Industry has lost an icon

Ray Vrtiska - April 06, 2025 at 12:33 AM

MF

“ Mike and Mary Pumarlo-McClurg and family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.



Mike and Mary Pumarlo-McClurg and family - April 05, 2025 at 11:45 AM

MF

“ Mike and Mary Pumarlo-McClurg and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Mike and Mary Pumarlo-McClurg and family - April 05, 2025 at 11:45 AM

KF

“ Kirsten & Joe Papp & the Klappa family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.



Kirsten & Joe Papp & the Klappa family - April 04, 2025 at 08:36 PM

JM

“ I am not totally sure when I first met Dick and the VAA LLC organization if it was in the 90's or post me and Ingrid living in Chicago and moving to Hopkins, but I'm sure glad we did. Dick was lovable, funny, humble and super smart guy and his character is embodied in the VAA family. I really appreciated how approachable Dick always was and gave freely of his time to check in, support the growth of the industry and look out for you. Super story teller and his voice was so calming and easy to listen to. Condolences to Ann and the family. RIP Dick Van Sickle and thanks for always being there. R/Jonathan and Ingrid, Benjamin and Aidan

Jonathan Marshsll - April 03, 2025 at 09:42 PM

GD

“ I was so sorry to hear of Dick’s passing. As a retired employee of VAA, I got to know Dick and always enjoyed our talks. No matter who you were, Dick would always make you feel like you were one of his many best friends. My sympathies to his family.

Gregory Durand - April 02, 2025 at 10:57 PM

BK

“ I didn’t know Dick at Basic School (1-66) but we connected at Engineers School at Camp Lejeune February 1966. We were both combat engineers in Vietnam in 1966 with the same commanding officer Colonel (Captain then) Geoff Root although at different times.

We lost touch after Vietnam but reconnected through the University of Nebraska. I found a Van Sickle on the civil engineering alumni list and guessed who it might be. Sure enough and we got together on one of his trips to Omaha and he graciously agreed to serve on the UNL Civil Engineering advisory group.

We kept up when I moved to Catholic University and Dick helped again bringing his practitioner experiences to the civil engineering program there. He always had good suggestions for improvement.

I had the opportunity to visit Dick and Ann in 2022. Dick sold me on the Bella coffee maker and introduced me to Cristo Rey and the wonderful work the Jesuits are doing there. We even got in a round of golf.

Good memories of a good friend, Semper FI.

Bill Kelly - March 30, 2025 at 01:02 PM

TJ

“ Worked with Dick on many projects over my career with Cargill. He was a mentor of mine and a wonderful friend over the years. Most memorable was the rain roof in Tacoma at the Temco facility. My wife Connie and I have enjoyed many wonderful times with Dick and Ann. Our condolences to Ann and family.

Terrence Johnson - March 30, 2025 at 12:12 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

March 30, 2025 at 12:03 PM

PS

“ I was so saddened to hear the news of Dick's passing. I worked at Van Sickle, Allen at the start-up of the company. I always admired Dick for the sacrifices he made, in those early days, to make the company successful and take care of his employees. My heart goes out to his family.

Paula Smith

Paula Smith-Sturm - March 30, 2025 at 08:46 AM

PH

“ Patricia Heisler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Patricia Heisler - March 28, 2025 at 07:30 PM

RC

“ Regina Collins, Chris and Hannah Collins and Children planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Regina Collins, Chris and Hannah Collins and Children - March 28, 2025 at 07:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.



March 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

March 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM

HI

“ I have never met a better human! Thank you " Dick"! Ann and his beautiful family, I hope you know his legacy lives on in the hearts of those he touched with his unwavering love for humanity. Thank you

☐☐☐

Hirut - March 28, 2025 at 02:52 PM

CK

“ *My deepest condolences to Ann and all the family on the passing of my friend Dick.*

Our friendship began in 1967 at the Korean Marine Corps Headquarters and has lasted an amazing 58 years. He was a Captain in the US Marine Corps and a Military Advisory Officer, and I was his counterpart as a Captain in the Korean Marine Corps. At that time, coincidentally, the two of us had something in common: we had both returned from the Vietnam War. From then on, our friendship deepened.

In 1982, my family immigrated to the US and settled in Minnesota because my only American friend Dick lived there. All of our family will never forget the help he gave us and the precious and beautiful memories our two families shared.

Even after our family moved to New York in 1987, our friendship continued.

He was a truly a loving and warm hearted person and faithful believer.

Although he is no longer with us, our friendship and beautiful memories will last forever.

God, please receive this soul and grant Ann and her family peace and comfort!

Charles Kim

Charles Kim - March 27, 2025 at 10:35 PM

GB

“ I was saddened to learn of Dick’s passing. I came to know Dick as an employee at Cenex Harvest States Cooperatives. His knowledge of the Agriculture Grain and Feed Industry was so valuable to the Cooperative. He was always there to offer his opinion and professional advice. Dick was a mentor, a leader and friend to all who knew him. He will be missed and always remembered. May he rest in Peace.

Gaylon Bratland
Former Vice President of Risk Management

Gaylon Bratland - March 27, 2025 at 06:11 PM

JK

“ Colonel Van Sickle has been an incredible role model, mentor, and supporter to myself and the cadets at Como Park High School MCJROTC. This Ol' Retired Marine was an inspiration to many, and me in particular, he brought out the best in all who he came in contact with. My condolences to Ann and the family, Colonel Van Sickle will be missed by everybody who knew him. He will now be guarding the streets of heaven.

SgtMaj Kirkland - Como Park - MCJROTC



James Kirkland - March 27, 2025 at 04:43 PM

CA

“ Jo and Chuck Allen shared a memory of Dick. It was inadvertently placed as a comment below Ann and Reg Silverthorne.

Chuck Allen - March 27, 2025 at 03:30 PM

LK

“ Love, Jan & Ilona Kerby purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.



Love, Jan & Ilona Kerby - March 27, 2025 at 01:38 PM

LK

“ Love, Jan & Ilona Kerby planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Love, Jan & Ilona Kerby - March 27, 2025 at 01:38 PM

DK

“ *Ann and all Dick’s family and friends,*

I am so sorry about and saddened by Dick’s passing. I met and came to know Dick over the past 40-plus years as a member and volunteer leader of the Grain Elevator and Processing Society [GEAPS]. He was a great friend and mentor to me and countless GEAPS members and leaders.

While I’m retired as Executive VP, I am taking this liberty of offering sincere sympathies on behalf of GEAPS’ global network of grain and oilseed supply chain operations professionals ...all of whom benefited personally or professional from Dick’s professional and industry leadership services.

Everyone who ever met Dick will not likely forget him. He will be missed but always remembered. I hope that your celebration of Dick’s life and fond memories bring you great peace and comfort.

*David Krejci
GEAPS Executive Vice President, retired*

David Krejci - March 27, 2025 at 01:01 PM

AS

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of a friend and colleague from our days together at VAA. Dick was an inspiration to many, and me in particular, he brought the best out of all who worked with him. My condolences to Ann and the family, Dick will be missed by everybody who knew him. Reg Silverthorne.*

Ann and Reg Silverthorne - March 27, 2025 at 09:15 AM

CA

I first became friends with Dick in the early 1970's while working with him at an AE firm in Minneapolis. He was such an easy person to talk to and get to know. When he asked me to join him in starting up an engineering firm, I thought what a great opportunity. I knew we would make it happen particularly with Dick's marketing skills. He will certainly be missed and was an inspiration to me and many others as well.

Chuck Allen

Chuck Allen - March 27, 2025 at 03:02 PM

SH

I did not know Dick extremely well. I met him several months ago when he came to volunteer where I work. When he found out that my husband, who was a marine, had passed away recently, Dick took me under his wing and had a huge impact on my healing process; he even attended my husband's Honor Ceremony at Ft. Snelling. Such a kind, and what i came to know as a gentle and giving soul. So sorry to hear of his passing. He will be missed by all of us here at Community Emergency Service.

Sandra Holden - April 01, 2025 at 03:31 PM

JT

Ann and all Dick's family and countless friends, I met Dick when you, Ann, and I were the 2 oldest students (60 ish) in the University of Portland's MBA in Nonprofit Management program. Each time we all visited, Dick impressed me with who he was - kind, happy, always welcoming and engaging in conversation, friendly, inquisitive, positive, thoughtful, and smart. The list goes on. As you know, he's one of a kind. He lived a full life and touched a lot of people. I'm praying that your many memories of Dick and times you spent together will fill your mind, warm your heart, and lead you through this difficult time.

Jenny Taylor in Idaho

Jenny Taylor - April 01, 2025 at 09:50 PM

CF

“ Calderin Family purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.



Calderin Familiy - March 26, 2025 at 09:11 PM

CF

“ Calderin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Arthur Van Sickle.

Calderin Familiy - March 26, 2025 at 09:11 PM