



## Richard Eugene Ekwall

October 10, 1925 - October 24, 2020

Fairmont resident Richard "Dick" Eugene Ekwall, 95, passed away peacefully Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Fairview Manor in Fairmont, NE.

Memorial services will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, October 29, 2020, at the Fairmont Community Church in Fairmont, NE with Pastor Seungli You officiating. Private Inurnment will take place at the Sutton Cemetery. In honoring his wish to be cremated there will not be visitation or viewing.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Fairmont Community Church.

Services will be live-streamed from Sutton Memorial Chapel's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/suttonmemorial>. Masks will be required to attend the service.

Richard was born in Martland, NE on October 11, 1925. He graduated from Geneva High School in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps shortly after at 17 years of age. He served in the Eastern Theater of Operation as a Corporal during World War II, stationed in Southeast Asia, including the island of Iwo Jima.

After the war, Richard received his Bachelor's Degree in Education from

Hastings College. There he met and married his wife Joan (Kohler). He earned his Master's and Education Specialist degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He spent his years in education as a math teacher and administrator, making stops in Gallup, NM, Beemer, NE, Fairmont, NE, and Farragut, IA, before retiring following the 1990-91 school year. He served as Superintendent of Fairmont Public Schools.

After his retirement, he served as the Fillmore County Superintendent of Schools in a part-time capacity for several years. He also served on several church committees as an active member of the United Methodist Church, the housing authority and nursing home committees in Fairmont. He was elected to Educational Service Unit 6, serving on the board.

An avid golfer, fisherman and outdoor enthusiast, Richard was a beloved family man and dear friend to many. He spent many of his days during retirement on the golf course and on fishing trips with family. Countless hours were spent telling, listening and rehashing stories with buddies at the coffee shop and the Senior Center. A few of his many passions included: Husker Football, playing cards and hosting endless holiday gatherings with family. His enjoyment of spending time with Joan, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were second to none.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Bessie Ekwall; brothers, Robert; Eldon (Ed) and Ralph Ekwall; sister, Arlene and husband Vernon Meyer; sister, Norma and husband George Harris and son, Thomas.

Survivors include his wife of over 70 years, Joan; children, Stephen Ekwall of Omaha NE; David Ekwall of Grafton NE; Sharon and husband Robert Hair of Omaha NE; grandchildren, Shawn and wife Megan of Waverly, NE; Christopher of Lincoln, NE; Nicole of Denver, CO; Matthew Kellie of San Francisco, CA; step-granddaughter, Erica Hair of Omaha, NE; great-

grandchildren, Landon and Nolan Ekwall of Waverly, NE; and Elijah Kellie of San Francisco, CA; as well as many beloved friends and relatives.

# Tribute Wall

TT

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I came across this obituary while googling my uncle Richard Lee Ekwall, who died yesterday at age 89. His father was Henry Arthur Ekwall, who went by his middle name. My family also has roots in Iowa. It's a very small world. Tametha Ekwall Tracey

Tametha Ekwall Tracey - February 10, 2024 at 08:34 AM

AO

“ Sorry to hear about your husband Mrs. Ekwall and father , Dave and family. I just saw it in the signal. I would've been there for support if I'd known earlier. He isn't in any pain and he's probably talking to my dad. Lol. Mrs. Ekwall and family , my thots and prayers are with you. Dave , im here if u need a friend. 402-703-0885.

Annette Odvody - November 10, 2020 at 03:01 PM

GL

“ My condolences to the Ekwall family. I attended grade school in Fairmont. Sharon was in my class. My mom, Lavona was a teacher in Fairmont. Mr. Ekwall was her boss. While I was a young child then I remember him and remember Sharon. Memories are a precious thing. Be Blessed. Glenda Lanik

Glenda Lanik - October 30, 2020 at 04:24 PM

GL

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Glenda Lanik - October 30, 2020 at 04:23 PM

TC

“ I was saddened to hear about Mr. Ekwall's passing. He was my math teacher in Farragut from 1985-1988. He was one of my favorite teachers, and I always will remember his stories, wit, and humor. My sincerest condolences to his entire family.

Tracy (McQueen) Campin - October 29, 2020 at 07:47 PM

JF

“ My sincere thoughts and prayers to the Ekwall family. Mr. Ekwall was the best.

Judy Cassidy Fisher - October 29, 2020 at 07:14 PM

JF

“ My sincere thoughts and prayers for the Ekwall family. I thought the world of Mr. Ekwall as a teacher and friend of my family. He lives in the memories of hundreds of former students and friends.

Judy Cassidy Fisher - October 29, 2020 at 07:02 PM

DB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You have our deepest sympathy. Prayers to all of you.

Dan and Sandra (Alberts) Beahm - October 29, 2020 at 01:23 PM

MF

“ Joan, Dave, Steve, Sharon. So sorry to hear about Dick, he was a very good friend to my Dad, especially on the golf course, They sure played a lot of golf in their days, Their pry organizing a game at this time now that their together!! Prayers to everyone at this time!!!

Mike Finley - October 29, 2020 at 01:00 PM

CT

“ The Machal family extend our deepest sympathy to Joan, their children and grandchildren. Dick was a wonderful example for life, lived to the fullest. He was a fantastic educator, dear friend to anyone that knew him. His smile and laugh was contagious. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. He leaves behind wonderful memories. Rest in peace, you are now in God's hands.

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**Clarice Machal Titus** - October 28, 2020 at 07:22 AM

KH

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Ekwall family. I was fortunate to meet Dick & Joan through their son Dave. Even though the visit was short, I felt like a member of the family after shaking Richard's hand.

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**Kirk Hemphill** - October 27, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DB

“ It is with deep saddest to lose such a close friend. My friend, Howard Nellor and I would call him often and tell many stories. He was our coach at Beemer High School when we had the best Basketball teamS ever for that school. On our calls we enjoyed picking many different sports teams to see who did The best at picking winners. Always good for a laugh. He would say, " I loved beating Butch".  
I know he loved family and friends and especially the Marine Corp. I'm a retired military man myself and I want to offer you my friend, Coach Ekwall a hand salute. Rest In Peace coach.

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**Darrel "Butch" Beerbohm** - October 27, 2020 at 09:38 AM

PS

“ Shawn - our sympathy to you and your family. I know your grandfather was very special to you. He will be missed by many.

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**Pat Selk** - October 27, 2020 at 07:44 AM

LJ

“ *A true man and a wonderful person. Glad I had chance to visit with him*

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**Larry jones** - October 26, 2020 at 04:46 PM

RA

“ *What a great teacher, believer in God, follower of Jesus, Richard proved to be. It was a joy serving as his pastor. even in his 80s he eagerly served our youth at Fairmont! We had the most wonderful outdoor worship services, carnivals, cakewalks and youth group activities. I was so glad to serve and know Richard, Joan, and their son Dave. Surely Dick has joined the great cloud of witnesses of which the apostle Paul wrote about. May Joan and his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren take comfort in the wonderful memories you share and in his love for you that never dies. Love, Pastor Rai*

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**Rev. Dr. Raponzil Drake, DMIN, ACC** - October 26, 2020 at 12:48 PM