



Richard Markussen

September 18, 1930 - November 1, 2008

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.?John 14:2

Richard "Dick" Markussen, 78, of Waterloo, died Saturday. He was born in Omaha on Sept. 18, 1930 to Otis and Vera Markussen. During his life, he was called by many names - husband, Dad, Grandpa and, of course, Root Beer Barrel Man. He carried the candy with him everywhere he went and wasn't shy about sharing the wealth. When eating at a restaurant, he would learn the name of the server, then ask him or her, "How many have you got working in the back?" The number he was given always matched the number of root beer barrels he produced out of his endlessly deep pockets.

He also shared something much more important with those he knew - the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. When Dick was 17, he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. His life had changed, so he set out changing the lives and hearts of everyone he met. It was a message he delivered every day - from the hymn stories he told every Sunday at Cedar Bible to the pin he wore on his lapel that read "Good News." Were he alive today, he would tell you to read John 14:6, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, I Timothy 1:15, Acts 4:10-12 and especially Hebrews 1:3. He would want your life to change, too.

Dick Markussen worked at winning souls for the Lord until the day he died. His

place in heaven was ready. As his family, we miss him terribly, but we know his death is just a promotion. We'll see him again one day.

He leaves behind "his young bride Ruth," whom he was married to for 59 years; a brother, Robert (Judy) of Homeland, Calif.; a sister, Beverly (Tony) of Desert Springs, Calif.; four daughters, Karen Foutch of Waterloo, Carol (Rick) Smith of Russellville, Ark., Arlene Cervetti of Ocean Ridge, Fla., and Jan Markussen of Des Moines; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Ronald, Roger and Raymond; and a son-in-law, Duane Foutch.

Services are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at Bethany Bible Chapel in Cedar Falls thru the auspices of Cedar Bible Church, Cedar Falls, with interment in the Garden of Memories in Waterloo. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Richardson Funeral Home in Cedar Falls and also one hour prior to the services at the church. Memorial contributions will be designated at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ My sincere condolences to you all on the passing of Dick. You may not remember me, but I am the oldest daughter of Lyle and Arlene Dobson. I remember attending church with your family at the Gospel Tabernacle. I always thought it was neat to wear a hat to church. I remember his testimony and how he was never ashamed to be a child of God and how he wanted everyone he came in contact with to be one too. I remember how he taught me to eat a tomato like an apple, whole and with salt on it. I'm sure Dick and my dad have had a wonderful reunion in heaven. Daddy went to be with the Lord in 1995. I look forward to seeing them both when my time comes. God bless you all and give you comfort in the promise that you will see him again.

Sincerely, Mary (Dobson) Johnston

March 29, 2013 at 02:51 PM



“ *What a privilege to have known Dick over these past 30-plus years and, more importantly, to have been able to count him as a friend.*

As I reflect on those years, there are lots of great memories, and three memorable phrases I'll always associate with Dick: First, to any server in a restaurant, "And, do you dip the ice cream? I LIKE ice cream!" Second, from earlier days when Dick was an avid racquetball player, "When the door goes shut, and my goggles go down, you're on your own, brother!" And, finally, on nearly all occasions of parting after being together, "Keep lookin' up!"

We'll keep lookin' up, Dick, and one day, we'll get together again. Thanks for the memories, and for your friendship.

Our heartfelt sympathy to the entire family,

Ed, Kem, J.D. & Emily Green

November 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Arlene: My sincere sympathy goes out to you and your family at this time of loss. As a friend in high school, I remember your Dad as a friendly, kind man who was most certainly the spiritual leader of your family. God bless you all, and give you peace. Elaine (Brenna) Sturtz*

November 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Jan and Family,
I was so sorry to hear the news of your father's death. I never met youR father but just reading the notes and the obituary is inspirational to me. My sincere sympathy at this time for all of you and may the Lord continue to bless the Markussen family. What a blessing to have had a wonderful, earthly father!*

*Friend of Jan,
Nyla Wobig, Des Moines*

November 04, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Last summer we ran into the "root beer barrel man" at 4 Queens ice cream store. He remembered us from our years together at Walnut Ridge. He brought us up to date on your family and we had a nice visit. Jenny and I said to each other as we got in our car, "Dick hasn't changed much", has he. He was a happy man "for God" when he was with us and now he is a happy man with God! What else is there to say. Know that he wants you all to look up and smile, know you will join him someday and be happy and rejoice for he is where he wanted to go when his days on this earth were over. We are praying for peace of heart for you during this difficult time. I wonder, will God grant him his root beer barrels in his kingdom---- some how I think so.....many seeds of salvation were planted over the years with those root beer barrels. My boys reflect every once in a while about their younger days and more than once have recalled the nice guy at church, you know, the root beer barrel man!
God bless your family and grant you peace of heart.
Bill & Jenny*

November 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Karen and family: We were shocked to open the paper tonight and read about your father. I am so sorry. I know how much you loved him and how much you relied on each other for support in so many areas of your busy lives. I knew you were doctoring with him but had no idea how serious his condition was. You are devastated but know I will be thinking about you and praying that all goes well during the difficult days ahead.*
Much love - Donna & Roy

November 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We were shocked to find out our dear brother in Christ had gone to see his Heavenly Father so soon. We will miss him terribly but know he is in good hands. Our loss, Heaven's gain. Our sincere condolences to Ruth and to all the rest of the family, may they feel His arms around them and may He give them peace and comfort at this difficult time. Peace, Craig and Kathy Olmstead*

November 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM