



C. Richard "Dick" Propes

September 29, 1929 - February 12, 2024

C. Richard (Dick) Propes, 94 of Godfrey, passed peacefully into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Monday, February 12, 2024 at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born in Granite City, Illinois on September 29, 1929 to the late Clarence H. and Luella (Randall) Propes.

Dick married Margery Parker in 1956 in Johnston City, Illinois and they were blessed with one daughter, Karen.

Propes graduated from Granite City High School and earned an associates degree at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Missouri. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. He was a lifelong educator starting his career teaching in the Roxana School District and then the Alton Community School District as Principal in several elementary buildings.

Dick served our country in the Korean Conflict and was later privileged to take the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight with his daughter to Washington, D.C. in 2011.

He was the ultimate volunteer and contributed to many community

organizations:

Boy Scouts, Rosewood Heights Improvement Association, Alton Head Start Program,

Madison County Arts Council, Alton Area Education Credit Union, Lewis & Clark Community College Foundation Board and Scholarship Committee, Greater Alton Concert Association, Phi Beta Kappa, Life member of National Education Association, Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Retired Teachers, Alton Retired Teachers, Alton Museum of History and Arts, Godfrey Lions Club, Alton Youth Symphony Board, Wreaths Across America, White Cross Auxiliary, Volunteer at Alton Memorial Hospital, Riverbend Growth Association, Alton History Tour Guide, elementary school tutoring program. He was also an active member of the former Alton First Baptist Church and presently Main Street United Methodist Church. He also enjoyed many fun activities like playing Santa Claus, ushering at the Fox Theater, traveling and spending quality time with family and friends.

Propes was proud to receive many honors/awards for his service: Hometown Hero, Star Volunteer at Alton Memorial Hospital, Illinois Retired Teacher of the Year, Legacy Award from the Riverbend Growth Association and Life Service Award at Southwest Baptist University.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Edward Propes and sisters-in-law Bess Propes and Arnita Parker.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marge; daughter Karen (Bob) Shaw of Normal, IL, Granddaughter Sarah, of Chicago, IL; brother Gene Propes of Granbury, Texas; sister-in-law Judy Propes of Granite City, IL and many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind hundreds of students who he impacted through his years of teaching and being a principal.

He was happiest when he was doing things for others. If he could have, he would have said "goodbye" and "thanks" to each person who touched his life. In his honor, everyone should do an act of kindness to someone to make this world a better place.

Visitation will be held at Main Street United Methodist Church on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life will begin at 1:00 p.m. with a Social Gathering to follow. Cremation rites have been accorded and a private family burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in Dick's memory to one of the following organizations: White Cross Auxillary at Alton Memorial Hospital, Dick Propes Education Scholarship at Lewis & Clark Community College or Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Main Street United Methodist Church
1400 Main Street
Alton, IL 62002

Visitation

FEB **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Main Street United Methodist Church
1400 Main Street
Alton, IL 62002

Celebration of Life

FEB **24**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Main Street United Methodist Church
1400 Main Street
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall

MH

“ I got to know Mr Propes when we worked together at Alton Memorial Hospital. I remember laughing a lot with Dick! He made it fun to be at work. He was so caring with patients and employees. Then many years later he came back into my life when Marge called me to play the Carillons in the Rose Garden at Gordon Moore Park. Many years in the summer we would meet there - get updates on our lives - and enjoy the Carillon concerts. He was so loved and will always be remembered as one of the finest men and the most wonderful example in our Riverbend area. I will see you once again, Dick, in our eternal home!

Myra Hughey - February 23, 2024 at 04:33 PM

BF

“ I first met Mr. Propes in 1962 when he was the cooperating teacher for my student teaching. Afterward he became a mentor and a friend. When I retired, he invited me to join the Madison County 1 Retired Teachers Association and the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. He encouraged me not to just be a member but to get involved in leadership. I am very grateful for his confidence in me. The local unit meetings will not be the same without him. He will be greatly missed.

Bill Funkhouser - February 19, 2024 at 12:34 PM

DM

“ *Mr. Propes was such a wonderful person... he was our principal at Lewis & Clark Elementary... and then he became a volunteer at Alton Memorial at which I was employed at. We shared so many laughs and memories of him as a principal.... He was full of life and one of the happiest people I ever met...I just hope that we that met him/knew him would share the kindness that he shared with us...My sincere condolences to his family.*

Dionne

Dionne McElroy - February 19, 2024 at 10:03 AM

MD

“ *Mr. Propes was my principal at McKinley School. We became re-acquainted when I worked at Alton Memorial Hospital and he remembered me. He was so kind, pleasant and always had a smile. I saw him in passing a few weeks ago. He will be missed by many. May his family find strength and comfort in each other and the arms of God.*



Melody Davis-Wilson - February 18, 2024 at 12:31 AM

DO

“ *Dear Marge,
We respected Dick & you in the love of our Lord.
Simply put he was a great guy and always cared about us. He lived a wonderful long life that everyone he touched felt his faith. It is with our prayers and love to you in knowing Dick is with our Lord and savior. God will bless you during this time of pain.*

*Your friends
John & Deb Olmstead*

Deborah Olmstead - February 17, 2024 at 02:05 PM

PL

“ Marge & Karen, very sorry to learn the passing of Richard. He was truly a great ex-neighbor and human being. Wish there was more like him.

Paul Lanzerotte

Paul Lanzerotte - February 16, 2024 at 12:30 PM

PT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am one of the many he introduced as “one of my kids”. This was a great honor to be known as this. Dick was my sixth grade teacher. I was so lucky to have known him then and also later in my life.

He will be greatly missed.

Peggy Tavernier

Peggy Tavernier - February 15, 2024 at 11:14 PM

SH

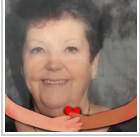
“ So sorry for your loss. I worked with Dick on the trolley many years ago. He will be missed

steve hudalla - February 15, 2024 at 07:55 PM

JH

“ is there anybody who didn't love some mr. propes?...nope. everybody did. he was the principal for my daughter. he and i had a special bond. i will miss his wise-crack jokes at my expense. but i considered that special, cause if he didn't treat me like that, i would think he didn't like me anymore. his presence in the community, his always-winning demeanor, how he treated people, he was such a beloved person. mr. propes' passing echoes like rev. humbert's - irreplaceable.

jared hennings - February 15, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ So sorry to read of the passing of Mr Propes. He was my son and daughters principal at Lewis and Clark in Godfrey in the 1980’s. We loved him. We saw he and Marge at an event at Alton High School not too long ago. He never gave up and continued walking with difficulty and dignity.

Fly High Mr Propes and take care of all your students who are in Heaven including our son, Kyle.

Pamela Maxeiner - February 14, 2024 at 03:56 PM

FR

THERE WAS NO ONE LIKE DICK PROPES----HE WAS ONE OF CAN-----ALLWAYS HELPING IN NEED. AND WILL BE GREATLY MISSED THANKS DICK FOR THE MEMORIES. F.D.R.

Frank Ridder - February 19, 2024 at 03:46 PM

FR

HE WAS THE GREATEST AND WE REALLY MISS HIM.

Frank Ridder - January 19, 2025 at 02:25 PM