



Dan W. Roberts Obituary

SEP 2, 1924 - APR 25, 2009



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Dan W. Roberts, 84 of Centerville passed away Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Mercy Medical Center in Centerville.

Dan was born on September 2, 1924 in Kirksville, Missouri to Harve & Elizabeth (Evans) Roberts. He received his education from La Plata High School in 1942. Dan attended Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, now Truman University, and graduated in 1948. He received his Masters Degree from Colorado State College of Education in 1951.

Dan married Eva Fern Menefee on April 29, 1948 in Fulton, Missouri. He was a veteran of World War II serving in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945. After his discharge, Dan would remain with the United States Air Force Reserve for 28 years receiving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He taught Industrial Arts at Seymour Community School System for 15 years and then continued at Centerville Community School System for another 23 years. Dan was awarded by the American Industrial Arts Association as the State of Iowa Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1974. He was the president of the Iowa Industrial Arts Education Association in 1978 and a past president of the Centerville Education Association.

Dan was a member of the American Industrial Arts Association, Iowa Industrial Technology Education, Iowa Vocational Education Association, National Education Association, Iowa State Education Association, Centerville Education Association, Centerville Lions Club and Jackson Masonic Lodge #42 of Centerville. Dan enjoyed woodworking, camping and time spent with his friends and family.

He especially enjoyed telling stories to his grandchildren. Dan is survived by his wife Fern Roberts of Centerville, two sons, Dan Christopher Roberts(Jane) of Rockledge, Florida, Rodney Wayne Roberts of Centerville, four grandchildren, Andrew, Aprille, Anele and Adam Roberts all of Rockledge, Florida and a sister, Charity Ropchock of Independence, Missouri.



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Dan was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Imogene Turney. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m, Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at Faith United Methodist Church with Rev. Gene Kubli officiating. Visitation will be all day Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home with the family present from 6-8 p.m.

A Masonic service given by Jackson Lodge #42 will be held at 7:00 p.m. Interment will be in Haines Cemetery. Memorials may be given to Faith United Methodist Church in Centerville which may be left at or mailed to Thomas Funeral Home - 23548 Hwy 5 - PO Box 125 - Centerville, Iowa 52544.

Condolences may be left at thomasfh.com. Book Travel to Services To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Dan W. Roberts Obituary please visit our Sympathy Store.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

Dan Roberts will be missed by surviving members of the Class of 1955 Seymour High School. Dan was our General Science teacher and Industrial arts teacher from 51-55. However Dan Roberts was much more than a teacher, he was always our guide and friend. During our Junior year he was our advisor and helped with the Junior activities, i.e. supervising us as we sold popcorn and raised funds for the junior-senior prom. He and wife Fern helped us decorate for the prom twice, because a neighboring school tore down the prom decorations in the gymnasium while they were at our track meet. Dan never mentioned to us during the four years that he had a stellar service record as commander of the 25th tank battalion of the 14th armored division under General Patton in WWII. He commanded the tank division as they defended western Europe in the Black Forest region of western Germany & France. When Dan Roberts came home from that experience, he attended Truman University, completing his training to be a teacher in 27 months. He moved to Seymour in 1948 and taught there for 30 years, guiding green freshmen like us, through the perils of High School, with gentleness and commanding our respect, much as he commanded the tank battalion. The only way we learned of his experiences in WWII and his early experiences was through an interview in 2005 for our 50th anniversary book of the Class of 1955. To Fern and the boys, we share your sorrow and loss. May the memories Dan left you comfort you in the days to come. we loved him too! Marilyn Joiner Koehler on behalf of the Class of 1955.

April 22 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

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Anonymous posted:

My deepest sympathy! It was a honor to have had our 'Mr. Roberts' for a teacher-and his sayings-- 'Boys, boys, you can't see the forest for the trees!' Those words have stuck with me all these years! Our hearts and prayers are with you! Alan Strickler CHS 1968

April 30 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our sincere Christian sympathy, prayers and condolences to Fern, Dan and Jane, and Rodney. God's peace be with you. Jim, and Anne Clendinen and children.

April 28 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

You helped a small and unpopular kid get through his drafting classes and to strive for excellence at Centerville High School and in later life. For that I will always be grateful. I very fondly remember you sir and was always proud to know you wore the uniform with both honor and distinction. Your family was indeed blessed to have you for husband, father, and grand father. Sincerely, Francis Herr CHS Class of 1968

April 28 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear Fern and family, When I think of Dan, I think of a gentleman! Neither Tony or I ever remember Dan getting in an argument with anyone though he was always highly principled! He was a peer whom we admired and respected always. We also always knew he cared about us as well as caring about and respecting his students. He will be missed. May God bless and comfort you during this time. Love, Jean and Tony Beeler

April 28 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Exceptional Teacher's are never forgotten. It was my good fortune to have had 'Mr. Roberts' as a teacher at Seymour (class of 55). We also were blessed with his presents at number of our class reunions. He holds a special place in my memory. May the peace of our Lord be with you and your family durning this time. Ted McMurry, Meeker, OK

April 26 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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