



Richard Paul Jennings

December 16, 1926 - October 7, 2016

Rev. Richard P. Jennings, age 89, previously from Sault Ste. Marie and Cedarville, Michigan, died October 7, 2016 at Burcham Hills in East Lansing, Michigan. Dick was born in 1926 in Flint, Michigan to Richard and Maybelle (Unsworth) Jennings.

Dick was raised in Flint and upon graduation from Flint Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during WWII. He went on to graduate from University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Art degree in Radio Speech. Having played some football at Michigan ('46-'47, second string), he was an avid fan. In 1948, while at U of M, he married Lillian Gill, his high school sweetheart. He and Lil then moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he earned his Master of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary. He was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1954. They lived in a number of locations as he served various parishes and did a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force, as a chaplain in the Strategic Air Command. In the late 1960s, he left fulltime ministry to go back to school at Central Michigan University, to earn his Master degree in Rhetoric and Public Address.

In 1970, Dick and his family moved to Sault Ste. Marie where he was a professor in the English Department at Lake Superior State University, teaching various classes in speech and communications. While at LSSU he started Debate, Forensic, and Reader's Theater programs. He loved meeting

and working with many students over the years. In 1993, he was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the Michigan Association of Governing Board of State Universities as a Distinguished Faculty Member. He retired from LSSU in 1998. During these years Dick also served as a county commissioner, and for a time as Chairman, on the Chippewa County Commission. He considered it an honor to be elected to, and to serve, in those capacities.

In retirement, he was able to enjoy spending more time acting and singing in a variety of plays and musicals around the Eastern Upper Peninsula and in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (Annie, My Fair Lady, Annie Get Your Gun, and On Golden Pond, to name a few). His love of singing began in childhood when he and his twin brother, David, sang in the boys' choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint, and continued in the Soo where he enjoyed singing as a baritone in the Mary Wood Chorus. He also continued his service in ministry as a supply clergy at a number of churches, of various denominations, especially in the Upper Peninsula and also in areas in Lower Michigan. From 1992-2005, he served as a board member on the Board of the Chippewa County Health Department. His experiences were numerous and he enjoyed meeting and working with many people throughout his career and retirement.

Dick is survived by his wife of 68 years, Lillian Jennings; daughters, Sue (Randy) Milligan of Williamsburg, Virginia, and Beth (Keith) Belonga of Williamston, Michigan. Also surviving him are his grandchildren, Taylor Belonga and Michael Milligan; sisters-in-law, Marion Law, Gee Kalasky, and Katherine Jennings; brother-in-law, Jim (Kathy) Gill; and many nieces and nephews.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; son, David Jennings; brothers, Harry Jennings and David Jennings; sister-in-law, Lee Jennings; brothers-in-law, Jack Kalasky, John Hessel, and Jack Law.

Dick especially loved the years that he and Lil lived in the Soo. He had a passion for serving in the community in a variety of roles. He always gave each endeavor 110%. He will be lovingly missed by his family and friends for his compassion, sense of humor and booming voice.

Visitation will be held on Friday, October 21, 2016, at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129, Pickford, Michigan, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M. Funeral Services will begin at 2:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to High Rocks Academy, 195 Thompson Rd., Hillsboro, WV, 24946 or to the Hospice House of EUP, 308 W. 12th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 49783.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Edgewood Cedar Cemetery

4 Mile Block Road
Cedarville, MI 49719

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Visitation

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford

24549 S. M-129

Pickford, MI 49774

(906) 647-3400

flfh@familylifefh.com

<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Paul Jennings*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Richard Paul Jennings*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Richard Paul Jennings*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Hi Lil and Family*

I really wanted to be with you today, but I have a cold that I don't want to share! I'm sending hugs to you at this time. Bernie and I have so many fond memories of Dick. We remember him as Santa at the faculty Christmas parties. We remember sharing laughs so many times, as he had such a great sense of humor. We remember many social occasions at your home and elsewhere, sharing a good time. We are thankful to have known him and send our condolences, thoughts and prayer your way.

Colleen and Bernie Arbic

colleen arbic - October 21, 2016 at 04:27 PM

DI

“ Lil,

Dick was a great gentleman. He touched many of our lives in a very positive way. We'll miss him but we know he still will be watching out for us and be a valued member o God's Choir.

Dick & Nancy Irvine

Dixon Irvine - October 21, 2016 at 11:33 AM

BM

“ Dear Lil and family, You are all in our thoughts and prays. We will always remember the day Dick blessed Our Wedding celebration on June 24, 2006! He was such a caring and funny guy!! He sure was one of a kind!

*Peace be with you,
Billy and Brandy*

Brandy Mudloff - October 20, 2016 at 07:50 AM

GJ

“ Dear Lil and Family,
We were so sorry to learn of Dick's passing. He was an outstanding colleague, a good friend, and a very fine man. We are richer for having known him. We have the fondest memories of spending time with him and you at the cottage and at your house. We hope you find comfort in your own wonderful memories and in feelings of gratitude that you had this special man as part of your lives for so many years.

*With sympathy and affection,
Gary and Maggie Johnson*

Gary and Maggie Johnson - October 19, 2016 at 07:31 PM

BK

“ Dear Lil - Thank you for sharing Dick with the rest of us in your world. I have many fond memories, but often think of our 1982 play in the Attic Playhouse, "The Sunshine Boys". Dick played Willie Clark and I was Al Lewis. At one point, during an afternoon performance, something on the wall of the theatre caught my attention and I floated off in thought. I was seated and Dick was busy yelling in my ear, but I didn't respond. He did the good actor thing and started filing in all around my next line. Suddenly I was back, looked up and listened to him feeding my lines to me one more time. He never left character even if I mentally left the stage. His whole life seemed to be one of never leaving character. I love the two of you, the energy you have been so willing to share and the love and humor you both so graciously distributed to the rest of us.
Bill Krieger

Bill Krieger - October 19, 2016 at 12:33 AM

NK

“ Wish I could be there to celebrate an awesome man. So glad that through his daughter, Sue, I was able to know and appreciate this "giant" of a man who had such a tender heart. Hugs, prayers and love to all of you.

Nancy Korbel - October 17, 2016 at 09:25 PM

MF

“ We are saddened to learn of Dick's passing and will always remember him as a fine friend, neighbor, and pastor. We rejoice with you knowing he is at eternal peace ~

Mac and Ruth Freeborn

Mac & Ruth Freeborn - October 17, 2016 at 02:13 PM

JH

“ *Jim & Kathy, Rick & Valeria, Tammy & Hobie purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Richard Paul Jennings.*



Jim & Kathy, Rick & Valeria, Tammy & Hobie - October 16,
2016 at 10:45 AM