
Richard Schaefer(1930 - 2016)

Longtime Estes Park resident, Richard "Dick" Schaefer, died in his sleep at Prospect Park Living Center on December 15, 2016. He was 86. Dick was born on July 21, 1930 in San Francisco, California to Anne and Fred Schaefer. Like many families of the time, his was not immune to the effects of the Great Depression. His father lost his business during that time and as a result Dick and his fraternal twin Robert and their older brother Donald were sent to live in an orphanage at a young age. He graduated high school in 1948 and worked various jobs in the Bay Area. It was always entertaining to take the tour of San Francisco with Dick and his brother Donald, as they pointed out the places they grew up. In 1957 he moved to Chicago and learned the drywall finishing trade. On March 4, 1961 he married Marlene Schaefer in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The fact that Marlene's maiden name was spelled the same as his was the source of many humorous anecdotes down through the years. One family member suggested that a card explaining this odd coincidence be printed up to forgo retelling the story. The couple welcomed a son, Brian, in 1964 and a daughter, Heather in 1968. In 1972 the family moved to Estes Park, Colorado. Dick worked for numerous contractors in Estes Park and the Front Range. When construction work was slow in Colorado, he traveled back to the Bay Area to work for his nephew Mark Schaefer. Together they put in many long hours helping with the remodeling of the dormitories at Stanford University and finishing the drywall in high end homes belonging to, among others, former 49er player Dwight Clark. He took great pride in his work and was often sought out to work on custom homes. On weekends he could often be found repairing one of the family vehicles as a "shadetree mechanic". He loved the game of baseball and played minor league ball for El Centro in the Sunset League in the late 1940's and early 1950's. He had a good memory when it came to the names of people he played with and the history of the game. He and Marlene enjoyed taking in an occasional Arizona Diamondbacks game while vacationing in Chandler, Arizona. Dick retired from work when he was well into his 70's. In retirement he liked to work on the yard and the outside of the family home on Fish Creek Road. He also enjoyed the time he and Marlene spent with their only grandchild, Evan. Preceding him in death were his parents, one sister ,two brothers and his daughter in law, Tamara. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Marlene, children Brian and Heather Schaefer and grandson Evan Schaefer. At his request, no memorial service will be held and cremation has taken place. Memorial donations can be made to the fund set up in memory of his late daughter in law, Tamara Schaefer, at Premier Members Credit Union in Stanley Village, to help purchase new playground equipment for Stanley Park.

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