



Richard Brown

February 25, 1924 - March 9, 2012

Richard “Dick” Brown of Adair Village, a longtime resident of the Willamette Valley, beloved husband, father and grandfather, died at the age of 88 on Friday, March 9, at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center.

Age-related complications put an end to an otherwise blessed life of good health and quiet determination, a living example of the Golden Rule.

The second oldest of seven children, four brothers and two sisters, Dick was born in Holt, Mich., to Howard and Myrtle Brown. He graduated from Holt High School, and entered the U.S. Marines within days of graduation. Dick served in the Southern Pacific — Saipan, Okinawa and China — during World War II. Older brother Robert, also a Marine, died on Okinawa.

Dick returned home from service and began college on the GI Bill, and finally met his wartime pen-pal, Bette Willyoung. They married on June 27, 1948, and enjoyed nearly 64 years of marriage. Dick graduated from Michigan State University in 1950, and began his lifetime career in the agriculture industry.

They moved to Oregon with their family in 1969, and to Corvallis in 1973.

A farmer at heart, Dick enjoyed gardening, both for practical use and beauty. He built a greenhouse, and over the years, his flower starts were shared with many friends and family members. Dick and Bette recycled way before it came into vogue, leaving the world a better place through both their efforts and spirit.

Dick served as an active volunteer throughout his life. He quietly just stepped up and did what was needed at the time: Explorer Scout leader, church choir

member, school board treasurer, Little League umpire, tax preparer for the elderly after he retired. Anyone who knew Dick would remember him as the first to lend a hand to help.

Square dancing was an integral part of Dick and Bette's lives. Many friends were made across the country by "squaring up" at various clubs, conventions and challenge dancing with the Porch Group at their Corvallis home. Putting one foot in front of the other, calmly figuring out the puzzle with the help of friends, proved a successful recipe for square dancing and life. Smooth dancers from their first date into their eighties, they were a beautiful team to watch and learn from on the dance floor and in life.

Dick is survived by his wife, Bette; children Kathy (Dan Hahm) of Washington, Chris (Cheryl) of Colorado and Kelly (John Chambers) of Pennsylvania; grandchildren Ryan Brown, twins Jessica and Shonda Brown, Jacob Hahm Brown, and Joshua, Logan and Hayden Chambers; sister Irene Pratt; brother Charles; and numerous nieces and nephews. Dick was preceded in death by grandson Joshua Hahm.

A military burial will take place at 12:00 Noon Thursday, March 15, at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Dick's honor can be made to a charity of your choice, and raise a glass in toast to a true friend and neighbor.

A memorial gathering in his honor will be announced at a later date.