

John Richard Nordhoff

December 23, 1932 ~ December 6, 2023

John Richard (Dick) Nordhoff, returned to his Heavenly Father peacefully in his home, surrounded by family, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, age 90. Richard was born in his family's residence in Salt Lake City on December 23, 1932, to Elizabeth Madeline Schmidt and John Nordhoff.

Richard cherished his memories of being raised at 810 East 800 South, with his three older brothers and two younger sisters, as well as many extended family members. He attended Hamilton Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, and graduated from East High School in 1952. He was immensely proud of all his brothers' service during World War II. He enjoyed driving around his old neighborhood retelling many happy experiences. It was clear to all that he loved his family.

At an early age, Richard worked as a "Mechanic's Helper" in a local garage, where he developed talents as a mechanic and a lifelong interest in automobiles. He would use his abilities and knowledge by helping his family and friends. His willingness to help those in need was a hallmark of his life.

Richard attended the University of Utah until he was called to serve in the United States Army in September 1953. He was trained in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, now known as Fort Liberty. Upon his honorable discharge in September 1955, he continued with the United States Army Reserves for an additional 37 years, rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (4). He retired in December 1992. During his service, Richard excelled in marksmanship and represented his unit in many national rifle shooting competitions. Throughout his life, Richard fondly recalled the many experiences and friendships forged during years of service to his country.

In 1957, Richard met the love of his life, Sylvia Marcile Wilford, and they were sealed for time and eternity in the Salt Lake Temple on March 20, 1958. They began their lives together at 952 Princeton Avenue, where their first two children were born. They moved to their current residence in the Mill Creek area in 1963, where they welcomed an additional five children.

Richard spent many hours improving his home for his wife and the family he loved. He designed and installed a waterfall feature that was the focal point of their beautiful backyard. Richard and Sylvia enjoyed spending many hours together planting trees and beautiful flower beds. This provided a wonderful gathering space for countless birthdays, barbecues, and other family celebrations.

Richard was a great lover of animals. As a youth, he cared for an injured magpie for many months until it was able to fly from his bedroom window. He was also a proud owner of a hawk, which was eventually donated to Tracy Aviary. His love of animals was an inspiration to his children. Throughout the years, many dogs, rabbits, and ducks were an important part of his family's experience.

Richard was happy to work hard to provide for his family. He worked at Hill Air Force Base as a Chief Logistics Officer, retiring in March 1993. His enormous efforts enabled his wife to follow her passion for decorating for the holidays. Easter, Halloween, and Christmas celebrations were magical and created precious memories for all who came to their home. Christmas was an exceptionally special time for Richard, as friends and family would gather to celebrate his birthday the day before Christmas Eve. Christmas will never be the same without him.

Richard is survived by his wife, children, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to attend a viewing at Larkin Mortuary, 2350 East 1300 South, on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. A graveside service will immediately follow, where Richard will receive military honors. Interment will be in the family plot at the Sunset Lawn Cemetery.