

Richard John Elzinga

April 23, 1931 ~ May 6, 2024

Richard John Elzinga passed away on May 6, 2024 in West Jordan, Utah. Richard was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, the only child of John and Hildur Elzinga. He served in military intelligence in the Korean War, subsequently marrying Agnes Cordelia Lewis in the Salt Lake Temple on September 9. 1957. He earned Bachelor, Masters, and PhD degrees at the University of Utah in the biological sciences.

Most of his professional career was spent as a professor of entomology at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. He and his wife moved to Lincoln, Nebraska after retirement in 2002. Richard was active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints his entire life, including service as a bishop, high councilor, missionary (with his wife) in the Solomon Islands and Australia, and sealer in the Winter Quarter Temple. He was a member of the Mahoney Ward of the Lincoln, Nebraska Stake and moved to Utah where he is a member of the Cobble Creek II Ward, Cobble Creek Stake, West Jordan, Utah.

Richard is survived by his wife, Agnes Lewis Elzinga; sons Mark Richard Elzinga and his wife Theresa; Nathan Eric Elzinga and his wife Mandy; and daughters Tanya Lynn Patino and her husband Dan; Jasmin Hayward and her husband Keith; Natalie Calaway and her husband Cory; 21 grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Cobble Creek Stake Center (8150 S. Grizzly Way, West Jordan, Utah). A viewing will be held on Monday, May 13 from 7:00-8:00 PM at Larkin Mortuary in Riverton (3688 W. 12600 S., Riverton Utah) and on Tuesday, May 14 from 9:00-9:45 AM at the Cobble Creek Stake Center (8150 S. Grizzly Way, West Jordan, Utah). Interment will take place at Sunrise Cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas.

The family has requested that lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Kansas State University, Entomology Dept., Manhattan, Kansas 66506.