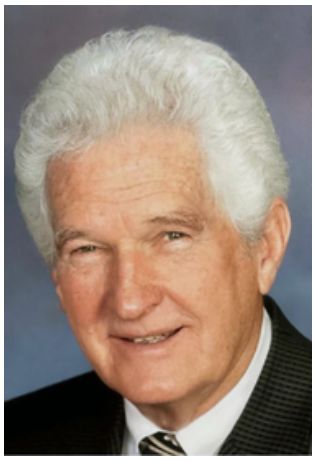


Richard Vaughn Stam

December 26, 1925 ~ February 1, 2021

Our wonderful father, grandfather and grandpa-great graduated earth school and passed on to join his sweet wife, parents, siblings and friends on February 1, 2021 at the age of 95. He lived a long, happy, adventurous and fulfilling life and said he'd love to do it all again!

Dick was born December 26, 1925 to Peter William and Myra Manning Williams Stam and was the 10th of 11 children. He grew up on the avenues with his 9 living siblings that taught him from a very small age everything they knew. He learned plumbing from Joe, Art Design from Myron and Mechanics from Marv, just to name a few. Dad loved to learn and became very good at all of them. He especially had a love for Mechanics. He helped Marv build their first "car" from an old washing machine engine at age 4. He drove his first car with the help of his sister Barbara at age 6. She ran the pedals, while he did the steering. He bought his first car at age 12.

Dad was taught by his father that if he learned how to work, he would never have to worry. Dad took it to heart and excelled in almost everything he did, and always did it the absolute very best he could. Dad loved cars and at age 16 started his own business of customizing them with dual pipes and fancy new paint. People came from all around to have dad fix up their cars because he was the best. Dick always had the best looking, best sounding and fastest car. He never lost a race. (Back then the police would block off Foothill Blvd on Sunday mornings and let them race for 2-3 hours.) It was said he always won because he knew how to speed shift, but he humbly said he never had to speed shift because he was always so far ahead.

Dad had many talents. He loved music and sang and played the drums. He played in a band and when some of the Big Bands came to Salt Lake he was often asked to sit in and play with them. He attended East High School and after graduation, his shop teacher asked him to help him build an airplane. Dad was excited to do it and when they finished, they flew in it all around the Salt Lake Valley. Dad wrote and directed many plays that were performed around Salt Lake. He was always up for a good time and made sure everyone had fun at the many parties that he was in charge of. He was also a talented artist. Dad and a friend joined the Merchant Marines and sailed from San Francisco to Louisiana through the Panama Canal. One of the highlights was the day they reeled in a 10' shark.

After returning from the Merchant Marines, Dick bought and ran his own service station and also painted cars. Paul Paulsen, owner of Paulsen Construction Co. came by the station and asked Dick if he would like to come to work for him. He told Dick that someone had told him that he should hire Dick because he was a "Mechanical Genius." Dick said to Mr. Paulsen that if he would pay him more than he made at the service station that he had a deal. At age 22 Dick started his career with Paulsen Construction that lasted 40 years. When Dick was 24, Paulsen Construction bought the first crane in the state of Utah and asked Dick if he would like to run it. Of course, Dick said yes and was the first Crane operator in Utah. He loved his work. Some of the jobs he worked on were: The Original Salt Palace, SL Temple Annex, the Control Tower at the SLC Airport, the bridges on I-15, 180 miles of High

Voltage Electrical Towers across the Teton Mountains, Derailed trains, placing the Christus Statue in the Visitors Center on Temple Square, City Creek Water Treatment Plant, moving and resetting Eagle Gate, moving Brigham Young's House from Liberty Park, the Cathedral of the Madeline plus crane work on hundreds of buildings. It was reported in the newspaper that he was the "Best Crane Operator this side of the Mississippi River" and named the "Legend" by the OE Union and his peers. He was proud to say, "he never had any kind of accident!"

Dick met and married the love of his life, Muriel Dahle in Salt Lake City and they were married 64 years before her death in 2012. He said she was the prettiest girl he ever saw. They were sealed in the SL Temple on June 13, 1955. They raised 5 children and approx. 30 foster children. They loved to travel and spent their retirement years traveling to Europe and Hawaii and taking their motorhome and boat to go fishing at Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Soldier Creek with family and friends.

Dick was a High Priest and held many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elders Quorum President, Activities Chairman, Cub Scout Pack Leader of the largest Cub pack ever in the Salt Lake Valley, and working with, teaching and coaching the youth were some of his favorites. He was an avid Jazz Fan and spent his last 12 Birthdays in a suite with his family at the Jazz game where the Jazz Bear would come to wish him Happy Birthday and cover him with Silly String.

Dick is survived by his children, Loralee (Jim) Hanson, Lon Stam, Jillyn Best, Darren (Roseann) Stam, Renee Stam, 27 Grandchildren and 37 Great-Grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Muriel, a daughter Jenee and a grandson Andrew, his parents and all of his siblings and their spouses, and 2 sisters he never knew. We always told him he was, "Last the Best of all the Game," and he truly was!

We want to extend a special thank you to April Anderson, whom dad adored, Louise Fitzgerald, Debi Poulsen and the kind nurses and aides at Bristol Hospice and Ashford Care for their loving service to our dad. We love and miss you dad but know you are together again, holding hands with mom, until we meet again.

A Viewing will be Monday, February 15, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. at the Cottonwood Heights 3rd Ward, 6890 S. Whitmore Way (2225 E.) Cottonwood Heights, UT.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 12:00 Noon at the Larkin Funeral Home, 260 E. South Temple, SLC, UT for family and close friends. To view the service recording please click on the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aZSOQalOGoRXvnob0RaydQZb_oDwgFQC8Bx8Z9KFM5bc2n6qCt9ygmg_473iaifV.6