



Richard Dee Stafford

August 16, 1932 - May 2, 2018

Richard “Dick” Stafford, 85, died peacefully at the Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson on Wednesday.

Dick was born in Toledo, Ohio and proudly and bravely served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold War conflicts. With over 7,000 flying hours as an Air Refueling Operator, better known as a “Boom Operator,” Dick made it a twenty-year career in the Air Force.

In 1953, Dick married the love of his life, Janyce L. Godbey, who was also from Toledo, Ohio. During his service in the military, they moved from one end of the country to the other on countless occasions and raised their two children together.

In 1972, Dick retired from the Air Force and moved to Modesto, where he started teaching at Downey High School and became an Air Force Jr. ROTC instructor for seven years - his students knew him fondly as “Sarge.” Dick also coached Baseball and Basketball. He then transferred to Davis High School and became a Resource Teacher for 13 years and coached Softball and Golf. Dick was involved in many organizations: he was a proud Mason, a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the American Legion, and past member of SIRS of Turlock.

Dick is survived by his wife of 65 years, Jan; his daughter, Rhonda (Bob) Williams; his son, Dr. Greg (Dawn) Stafford; and three grandchildren, Brina Williams, Laura Stafford and David (Dara) Stafford.

A graveside service, with military honors, will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday,

May 10 followed by a Memorial service at 11 a.m. at First Christian Church,
180 S. Denair Ave., Turlock, CA 95380.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Dick's honor to the First
Christian Church of Turlock.

Cemetery Details

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 632-9111
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Turlock Memorial Park
575 N Soderquist Rd
Turlock, CA 95380-3749
(209) 632-9111

Memorial Service

MAY 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)


First Christian Church
180 S. Denair Ave.
Turlock, CA 95380

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Dee Stafford*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM

 Doris Kurtz

“ *Dick "Sarge" taught with my late husband Bob "Major" at TDHS where they developed a Great program-AF Jr. ROTC. They touched many lives and their efforts were appreciated by many students over the years. My sympathy to Jan and family. Dick had a life so "well lived".*

Doris Pokorny & family

Doris Kurtz - May 20, 2018 at 06:45 PM

RK

“ *At Turlock Sons in Retirement we all enjoyed and respected Dick. We were able to honor him as a veteran several times. Attached are several photos.*



Rick Kindle - May 08, 2018 at 01:28 PM

EP

“ *Dear Jan and family,
We are so sad to hear of Dick's passing and send our prayers for
him and comfort of all the family. He was a great friend all these
many years and we shared many good Air Force Memories. May he
rest in Peace for ever. Eddie and Peggy Pestana*

Eddie Pestana - May 07, 2018 at 10:06 AM

JA

“ *so sorry to lose our neighbor DICK. WE thought so much of
him....JAN AND LEONARD*

JANICE - May 05, 2018 at 11:57 PM