

PLAIN BROWN RAPPER

News for the Grace and Tandy Brown Family

September, 2011



Francis Richard Brown
January 9, 1930 - September 1, 2011

*A branch fell from the family tree.
One so strong we thought it be
forever there for us to see.
A branch which sheltered you and me.*

*We'll mourn a while and shed a tear
Remember things from yesteryear
Laugh at memories held so dear
Perhaps a toast with good cold beer.*

*Think of all the good old days,
of jokes and tricks and funny ways
our family celebrated holidays.
And of the love he shared with us....always!*

To you, my loving brother, thanks for the memories!
Dolfe

Thanks to Vern Shelton, from the University of Wyo and dear family friend, I'm using his obituary honoring Dick. It gives so much information and is just the perfect tribute. Thank you Mr. Shelton for allowing me to reprint the article.

Funeral mass for F. Richard "Dick" Brown will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at St. Paul's Newman Center in Laramie. Following mass, there will be a reception at the University of Wyoming Alumni House at 14th and Grand Avenue, also in Laramie.

Dick died Thursday, Sept. 1, in Scottsdale, AZ. A Wyoming native, he was born Jan. 9, 1930 in Cheyenne, the son of Grace and Tandy Brown. He was known to many of his friends as "Brownie". One of 17 children, he often said that he learned how to schedule his time growing up and sharing one bathroom with nine sisters and seven brothers.

He graduated from Cheyenne High School in 1947 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1948. He completed recruit training in San Diego, CA and advanced infantry training at Camp Pendleton, CA. As a machine gunner, he was engaged in some of the heaviest fighting of the Korean War (1950-53). Dick's primary unit, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division was commanded by a USMC legend, Col. (later Lt. Gen.) Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller.

When wounded severely, Dick was evacuated to a military hospital in Japan where he was hospitalized for several months. For his actions on the front lines, Dick was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" and the Purple Heart Medal. His other military decorations include the Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal and USMC Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged with the rank of Marine Sergeant.

Returning to civilian life in 1952, Dick enrolled at the University of Wyoming. It was a watershed moment, one that transformed Dick's life in ways beyond measure. At UW, he met Martha "Marty" Bauman, a blonde coed from Alliance, NE. At UW he joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, forming strong ties of brotherhood that endured through the coming decades. At UW he was elected student body president (1954-55), foretelling larger leadership roles he had yet to play. At UW he came to know the legendary President George Duke Humphrey, a man who wanted Dick on his team.

During his student years, Dick worked as a brakeman for the Union Pacific Railroad, as a waiter in a sorority house, and during the summers at Cheyenne Lumber Company. He was graduated from UW in 1955. On June 11, 1955, he married his beloved Marty. Soon thereafter, he started his career as a University administrator, first as director of Alumni Relations, then assuming additional and greater responsibilities as Executive Assistant to the President for University Relations. Together he and Duke Humphrey were an impressive team, one that won the respect and enduring friendship of Wyoming governors and legislators. Their openness and candor at legislative hearings set them apart as effective advocates for UW interests.

Together Dick and "The Duke" secured the legislation, state funding, and public support necessary to move the University of Wyoming into an era of unprecedented growth in terms of academic excellence, faculty/staff recruitment, and physical plant expansion. Many of the centerpiece UW programs and buildings are sustaining testimonials to Dick's powers of persuasion in legislative arenas.

Accepting a new challenge, Dick resigned from UW to join Sen. Gale W. McGee's staff as his Wyoming Representative. His reputation for getting things done went with him and was reinforced many times over the next 14 years working with Senator McGee.

From Senator McGee's staff, Dick moved next into the corporate world, joining Pacific Power and Light Company (now Rocky Mountain Power) spending time in Portland, Oregon and eventually becoming a regional vice president headquartered in Casper.

Dick served four years on the UW Alumni Association Board and five years as a director of the UW Foundation Board. From 1989 to 1995, he was a member of the University's governing body, the Board of Trustees. In addition, Dick served on numerous boards and committees including the First Interstate Bank Board in Laramie. He also served as president of the Rocky Mountain Electric League.

When Dick retired in 1992, Marty and he bought a home in Rio Verde, AZ, but their strong ties to Wyoming were not broken. They enjoyed winters in AZ indulging in their passion for golf, and the

beautiful Wyoming summers at their cabin in the Snowy Range and at their home in Saratoga. In the fall, you could always find Dick and Marty at UW football games.

The Alumni Association's highest honor, the Medallion Service Award, was presented to Dick in 1991. The following year, the Wyoming Family of the Year award went to the entire Brown family. Like their parents, several of the Brown children earned UW degrees and have stayed involved in organizations that impact Wyoming.

Dick's wife of 53 years, Marty, died in 2008. They are survived by six children and their spouses – Becky Ward and Craig, Aspen, CO; Mary Ruble and Craig, Portland, OR; Martha Wyrsh and Gerry, Portland, OR; Sarah Brown Mathews, Laramie; Charlie Brown and Margaret, Tacoma, WA; and Katie Jacobs and Tyler, Steamboat Springs, CO. Dick and Marty also are survived by 11 grandchildren. Dick's surviving siblings are June Smith, Casper; Frank Brown, Belleville, IL; Charles Brown, Colorado Springs, CO; and Nancy Treadway, Dolfe Van Alyne, Patricia White and Michael Brown, all of Cheyenne.

Memorial donations may be made to the Martha L. "Marty" Brown scholarship fund in the College of Education, through the University of Wyoming Foundation, or Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix AZ.

The motto of Marines is "Semper Fidelis" – Always Faithful. Dick Brown was steadfastly faithful to his family, to his friends, to his University, to his state, and to his country. He has been reunited with Marty, who was always faithfully at his side.

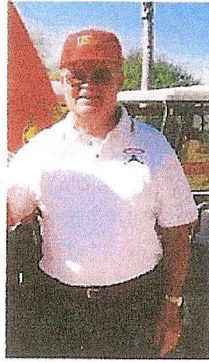
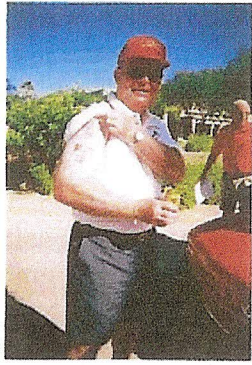
Semper Fi..



The memories we have of our brother, Dick are endless and fun. For myself it was great to follow him in age. When I was in high school, everyone was so nice to me because I was his sister. The only problem I had was getting a date because if someone asked me out they were cautioned about trying anything! At that time girls wearing men's jeans and tee shirts were in vogue. Of course I had the best wardrobe in town because I could steal Dicks shirts. When he went to Korea he made everyone promise not to tell me where he packed them away. There are so many, many more but I'll give everyone else a chance.

From Bob Beardslee (Frank and Vivian's eldest): "To a young boy growing up in Michigan and on a farm in Colorado, there was nothing greater than to spend a night in the upstairs boy's bedroom at 1717 Alexander Ave. in the presence of some of his greatest hero's, uncles Dick, Charles and Leonard. I understood only a quarter of what they talked about and it did not matter, I was there in their midst. They were always so good to us and treated us like we really mattered, not the pests we surely were. I can still hear Uncle Dick's infectious laughter at some joke around the big dining room table."

From Marty's niece, Pamela Polite Fisco: "Dick- Thank you for all that you have done for the world at large, but particularly all that you have done for all of us- your immediate family. You have always been that 'other father' to me. We all had two moms, so therefore we all had two dads a lot of the times too! Your cool, calm, sensible composure, your grounded, realistic advise, your clear sense of right and wrong and your love of just plain fun has guided us all throughout the years. Though I know it has been hard on you, I must say that I have really enjoyed getting to know you Dick, as a individual- a single person in the last couple years. Please know that I love you and that you will live in my heart forever. I only wish that I could take one more ride on the yellow Bombardier Snowmobile or in the back bed of the Jolly Green Giant with you!! Thanks for all the great love and memories! Love always, Pam"



230th Marine Corps
Birthday Celebration
November 10, 2005



Your brother with a 'temporary' Marine Corps tattoo at the annual Rio Verde Marine Corps Golf Tournament. Enclosed is the e-mail Arillus forwarded to the other R.V. Marines when we heard the sad news.

We wish we could have attended the funeral mass in Laramie on Saturday. We extend our deepest sympathies to you and the rest of the family for the loss of your dear brother. He and Marty will always be remembered with true affection here in Rio Verde. We know Dick & Marty left a wonderful family legacy — your family is an inspiration to us all. Our thoughts and prayers remain with you as you find peace and comfort in the knowledge that Dick is now at peace, and that the strength of his love lives on.

Cindy & Arillus Holcomb

Tributes came from far and wide. This one from a marine buddy and good friend.