



Richard "Dick" Seidel

December 6, 1924 - July 9, 2014

Richard Seidel, 89, died on July 9th, 2014 at his home in Alamogordo, New Mexico, as a result of colon cancer. Family surrounded him in his final moments of life.

Richard Seidel was born on December 6th, 1924 the first child of William Max and Thelma Josephine (Mason) Seidel. His loud presence, the night he was born, kept marauding chicken thieves from approaching the house that his grandfather built north of Sandoval, Illinois.

Richard married Leona Alice Winegarner in 1948. They had five children and eight grandchildren. Loving family left behind include his wife of nearly 66 years, Leona, and children: Peggy Seidel (Mark Atherton) of Woodland CA, Patty Seidel (Mark Andrews) of Willcox AZ, Martha "Marty" Seidel Bond (Daniel Bond) of Tucson AZ, John Seidel (Loretta Lewis Seidel) of Cloudcroft NM. Grandchildren are: Luke Crawford (Sarah Newman), Megan Atherton Friend (Jason Friend), Miles Atherton (Anthea Tuley), Raymond and Dale Olivia Bond, Aurora, Zane and Max Seidel.

Siblings include: Emma Lou Niepoetter (Bill) of Centralia, IL, Jean Lordon (Frank Gools) of Estero FL, Joe Seidel (Charleen) of Canton GA, and Dan Seidel (Renee') of Sandoval IL. Survived also by other loving family and friends.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, sister Sue Talbot (Cliff), and a beloved son Dale Seidel (Mario Nick Klimiades).

Richard Seidel grew up working on his father's farm near Sandoval, Illinois. Despite a deferment, he enlisted in the US Army during WWII. He served in the 91st Chemical Mortar Company, attached to the 6th Marine Division, experiencing the horrific campaign at Sugar Loaf Hill on the Pacific island of Okinawa in 1945. Minutes after surviving an attack and witnessing the death of a fellow serviceman, Richard learned, through a letter, of the birth of his brother Joe. After his return from active service to Illinois he married Leona Winegarner and they started a family.

A believer in community service, Richard, at 29, became the area's youngest Farm Bureau president. He was a county supervisor for 11 years. After a lifetime of farming Richard went into the insurance business due to spinal arthritis. Hoping to mitigate arthritis symptoms, Richard and Leona, an RN, moved their family to the warm, dry climate of Willcox, Arizona at the end of 1972. Throughout his life, Richard continued to collaborate with his brother Dan on farming.

In 1974, the Seidel's purchased the historic Willcox Commercial Company. Because of his unwavering devotion to preserving and promoting downtown Willcox, he became known as the honorary mayor of historic Railroad Avenue. Richard and their oldest son Dale were instrumental in the restoration and renovation of Willcox's historic district. They participated in the Main Street Program and helped the Rex Allen Museum get it's start.

Richard was a lifetime member of the Sulphur Springs Valley Historical Society and had served as president and treasurer. He held office during his 6 years on the Willcox City Council. He served on the Rex Allen Museum Board,

the Downtown Alliance, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Willcox Christian Church, the Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and the Willcox Food Bank. Richard was on the original board of directors of the Southeastern Arizona Food Bank. He was involved in Toastmasters. Richard and Leona are members of the Willcox United Methodist Church.

Richard Seidel was made Citizen of the Year in 1994 and a Wheel of Progress 1995-2004 honoree.

Richard will be remembered not only for his community contributions but especially the love and respect he had for his family and friends. He was a kind, generous and caring person.

Visitation will be held at the Westlawn Funeral Home Wednesday evening July 16th, 6-8pm, in Willcox, Arizona. Services will be held at the Willcox United Methodist Church at 124 S. Curtis Ave. on Thursday, July 17th at 2pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Northern Cochise Fund, PO Box 683, Willcox Arizona, 85644, of which Richard and Leona Seidel are founders.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Crematory

105 S. Arizona Ave.
Willcox, AZ 85643

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Inc.
105 S Arizona Avenue
Willcox, AZ 85643
(520) 384-2413
westwx@vtc.net
<https://www.westlawnchapelmortuary.com>

Funeral

JUL 17. 2:00 PM (MT)

Willcox United Methodist Church
124 S. Curtis
Willcox, AZ 85643

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Dick" Seidel*

January 30, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Always friendly and smiling...Willcox will miss you, Mr. Seidel..*



Louise Walden - July 14, 2014 at 10:38 AM



“ *Anne Coleman lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Seidel*



Anne Coleman - July 12, 2014 at 11:24 AM



Dick was truly a great guy. I always loved going into the Commercial and seeing his smiling face. Always in a good mood.

Stephen Scott - July 14, 2014 at 08:42 AM