



Richard "Dick" Ealy

November 2, 1943 - May 19, 2016

One of the best joke tellers and most avid fisherman in the country left us last week. After a persistent fight Richard "Dick" Ealy won his battle with ALS on May 19, 2016 and went home to accept his winning the lottery in heaven. The funeral service for Richard "Dick" Ealy of Wadena will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24, at the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer presiding. Visitation will be held on Monday at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. with a Time of Sharing at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will resume at the church on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service.

Born to George and Norma (Thomson) Ealy on November 2, 1943 in Belle Plaine, Iowa. He graduated with the class of 1961 from Belle Plaine High School. On October 24, 1964 he was united in marriage with Bonnie Wallace, the union was blessed with three sons, Don, Eric, and Tim. He spent his working life in the hybrid seed corn industry starting in research at Funk Bros. Seed Company in Belle Plaine for ten years.

After accepting a job as District Sales Manager with Peterson-Biddick Company, Richard moved the family to Sartell, MN. When he became production manager in 1979, the family moved to Wadena. He also worked for Crop Production Services and Leaf River Ag in Wadena. Richard even explored hybrid seed production one winter in Mexico. After retirement he and

Bonnie spent several winters working/vacationing in Puerto Rico reading grow-outs for various seed companies to establish quality control. With his vast expertise in the field, he continued to advise and consult with area farmers and enjoyed staying in contact with the agricultural business.

Richard was a member and elder of St. John's Lutheran Church. He was a Wadena Rotarian, a member of the Wadena Deer Hunters, the Ames Angler Fishing Club of Ames, IA and a member of the Knob Hill Sportsmen Club in Wadena..

Richard was preceded in death by his parents George and Norma; brother Edward Ealy and uncles, Merlin and Ronald "Spive" Ealy.

He is survived by the love of his life for 51 years, Bonnie; sons, Don (Angie) of Baxter, Eric of Crystal and Tim (Kari) of New Prague; grandchildren, Eric's daughter Samantha, Tim's son Dylan, Don's daughter Maureen and newly born triplets, Isaac, Grace, and Emmett Ealy; and his uncle, Neal Ealy.

Honorary pallbearers will be Bob and Karen Wallgren, Gary and Judy Condiff, Paul and Phyllis Friedrich, George and Julie Deiss, Harry and Judy Taves, and Norm and Bev Nicholson.

Serving as pallbearers will be Greg Malone, Harry Taves, Dana Uselman, Don Lubitz, Michael Bondzin, Ricky Schwartz, and Kevin Lohmiller.

Burial will be in the Wadena Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 23. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Time Of Remembrance

MAY 23. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Visitation

MAY 24. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Service

MAY **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 22, 2016 at 10:12 AM



“ *We just learned of this loss and wanted to extend our deepest sympathy to Bonnie and the family. I knew Dick through the Madhatters Theater Group. He was a wonderful contributor to that organization and a thoughtful and thorough actor. His talent and good humor always made working on the set with him a joy. I shall miss him always. Carol and Wayne Aspengren*

Carol Aspengren - November 08, 2016 at 09:56 AM

SK

“ *SCOTT KERN lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



SCOTT KERN - May 28, 2016 at 11:24 PM

KK

“ *My condolences to Don and the rest of the family.*

Karen Joan Kohoutek - May 25, 2016 at 11:03 AM

JW

“ *Eric and the Ealy family,
You have suffered a great loss, and we all have trouble finding the right words to comfort you and sustain you in your unbearable grief. I never had the pleasure to meet Dick, but I understood he was a tremendous father, fisherman, friend, and person just by listening to you, Eric, relate your good days with him, eg. fishing, hunting, etc. He will continue to be with you as you carry on those legacy activities. Such will be some of your best remembrances I suspect. We are so sorry for your loss, and may God bless you and your entire family as we all pray for you and Dick as he goes to his homecoming in heaven.*
Jerry and Vickie Winslow

jerry winslow - May 25, 2016 at 07:03 AM

GS

“ *Oh what great memories I have of "the Wizard," from practicing his lines for upcoming plays, planning his spending on his lottery winnings, practical jokes and doing shots of tequila! Dick was an amazing man and I will truly miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you Bonnie and family.*

Grace Schertler - May 24, 2016 at 09:33 AM

CC

“ Reading the part of Richard's obituary about being a great joke teller brought a big smile to my face. I spent a lot of my childhood around him during hockey, Church functions or just hanging out at the Ealy household in the summers. He and Bonnie were always so welcoming to all of Tim's friends. I think Richard had a new joke to tell every time I saw him. He always had a smile on his face, which couldn't have always been easy when dealing with us kids. He always teased us and gave us a hard time and he loved it when you gave it back to him. He was a great man who will be missed but the memories of him will never fade. Our condolences to the family during this difficult time.

Chris Carter and Family

Chris Carter - May 24, 2016 at 09:27 AM

JT

“ Oh what great memories we have when we were young and the boys were all young...playing cards and fishing on Saturdays and then worshipping together Sunday morning at Faith. And then, all through the years after you moved to Wadena. Love to all of you during this time of sadness and happiness. Janie and Sy Thole and sons, Don, Tim and Jon.

Janie Thole - May 24, 2016 at 08:19 AM

JJ

“ Dick was such a wonderful, fun person. I will miss him deeply. He always asked, "Hey, Smiley! How's it going?" We shared a love for The Madhatters and theater, joking around, and, of course, The Kentucky Headhunters. I was heartbroken hearing of his passing, but I also know, just having known him, that he's waiting for his family and friends in heaven. My condolences to his family.
Jessica (Popp) Janorschke

Jessica Janorschke - May 23, 2016 at 10:59 PM

SL

“ My blessings send prayers to you all. I will always think of my friend with a smile and a giggle. He was always at the ready with a joke or a story, I cherish the memories over the years with Madhatters and my years at KWAD. He would always take his leave after a meeting with a simple, I'm going home to see my bride, his love of you Bonnie and his family was well known, and how so very proud of his boys he was.

Heavens new angel is settling in well with a cold beer and his pipe, spinning stories and to never again suffer, I like to think he's enjoying the company of those that had gone before him and waiting patiently for those he loved to join the table.

My love and God's blessings to you Bonnie and family.

Sherry Linnes

Sherry Linnes - May 23, 2016 at 07:09 PM

BM

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. I have many great memories of talking to Mr. Ealy as a young man growing up in Wadena. He was always very kind, encouraging and funny. He always had something to say after the hockey games no matter what the outcome was and it was usually pretty funny. He will be missed.

Brad Macklem & Family

Brad Macklem - May 23, 2016 at 05:15 PM



“ Susan Kephart lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Susan Kephart - May 23, 2016 at 05:13 PM



Bonnie & family - Please know that my prayers are with you during this time. Dick is one of my all-time favorite co-workers. He was a wonderful person and I know he will be deeply missed.

Susan Kephart - May 23, 2016 at 05:15 PM

DH

“ *Thinking of Bonnie and the family in the loss of Dick. He was a great neighbor!*



Dale & Linda Hendrickson - May 23, 2016 at 04:27 PM



“ *Debra Besett and I cook the Easter Sunrise breakfast every year which requires us to be at the church at 3 am. To our surprise Richard came into the kitchen with a smirk on his face and whispered "Got a minute? Follow me." I went outside to his car and to my surprise he gave us 2 bottles of his homemade wine. He said, "Just for all you do." That was Richard....a fun, loving man with always a story or joke ready to tell. RIP my friend and keep the path open "Cause we all is a coming!"*
Lynne M. Piepkorn & Debra R. Besett

Lynne Piepkorn - May 23, 2016 at 03:45 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 23, 2016 at 01:36 PM

LM

“ Love, Amber, Don, David, Sara, Steve, Mark & Mike purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.



Love, Amber, Don, David, Sara, Steve, Mark & Mike - May 23, 2016 at 01:27 PM

TB

“ Our Condolences to Dick's family. We enjoyed his company either reading grow outs in Puerto Rico or fishing in Canada with the Ames Anglers. Again we are sorry for the Loss of a good man.

Tom and Judy Brayton

Thomas Brayton - May 23, 2016 at 12:20 PM

MM

My condolences and prayers to Bonnie, Dick's family and friends. Sorry for your loss. Dick was a good friend, now is with God. RIP DICK.

Mirna McHone.

Mirna McHone - May 23, 2016 at 12:37 PM

CO

“ Craig, Kari & Caden Ohlson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.



Craig, Kari & Caden Ohlson - May 23, 2016 at 11:34 AM

TK

“ *Tammie Klawitter lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Tammie Klawitter - May 23, 2016 at 11:02 AM

TG

“ *The Xcel Energy Group purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



The Xcel Energy Group - May 23, 2016 at 10:16 AM

DM

“ *Sincere Sympathy Bonnie and family. I have such fond memories of our families from the hockey days. May God be with you and keep you in his care during this very difficult time.*



Dixie Murray - May 22, 2016 at 11:34 PM

LB

“ *Lorie Baron lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Lorie Baron - May 22, 2016 at 11:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 22, 2016 at 11:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 22, 2016 at 10:35 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 22, 2016 at 09:10 PM



“ *Kathie Davis lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Kathie Davis - May 22, 2016 at 08:10 PM

KD

It will be difficult not seeing Dick, hearing his crazy jokes, and experiencing his silly wit. He will be missed. My heart aches for you Bonnie and boys. Blessing and prayers.

Kathie Davis - May 22, 2016 at 08:11 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 22, 2016 at 07:40 PM

TF

“ *Troy & Becky Wangsness Family lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Troy & Becky Wangsness Family - May 22, 2016 at 07:26 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.*



May 22, 2016 at 02:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.



May 22, 2016 at 11:28 AM



“ *Written in the Stars* was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Ealy.



May 22, 2016 at 11:20 AM



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 22, 2016 at 10:02 AM

RS

“ Rick And Deb Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Rick and Deb Schwartz - May 22, 2016 at 12:17 AM

BG

“ Bob & Donna Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Bob & Donna Grendahl - May 21, 2016 at 10:48 PM

BG

“ Bob Grendahl lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



bob grendahl - May 21, 2016 at 10:46 PM

JJ

“ Junelle Jackson lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Junelle Jackson - May 21, 2016 at 08:58 PM

MN

“ Bonnie and Family, Thinking of you and praying that God will grant each one of year comfort and peace of mind and gratefulness for Dick's many healthy, hearty years! We will miss him at Rotary gatherings! Marilyn & Luther



Marilyn Nervig - May 21, 2016 at 08:34 PM

JM

“ I will remember with great pleasure the hours I have spent in Dicks company,his wit and wisdom and his skillful angling. Jim Menzel. Ames Anglers

Jim Menzel - May 21, 2016 at 07:17 PM

DS

“ Dan-Dee Skogen lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Dan-Dee Skogen - May 21, 2016 at 05:39 PM

DS

Bonnie and family Dee and I are thinking of you as we remember with fondness a great and funny man.

Dan-Dee Skogen - May 21, 2016 at 05:40 PM

MO

“ Mike Ortmann lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Mike Ortmann - May 21, 2016 at 05:04 PM

CK

“ Cheryl Kellen lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Cheryl Kellen - May 21, 2016 at 04:36 PM

GD

“ George & Julie Deiss lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



George & Julie Deiss - May 21, 2016 at 04:04 PM

WG

“ Wayne And Cindy Grothmann lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Wayne and Cindy Grothmann - May 21, 2016 at 01:33 PM

TZ

“ Toni Zerebeski lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Toni Zerebeski - May 21, 2016 at 12:56 PM

HL

“ Lucky to have known such a genuine, caring, talented man and had as a close neighbor. My thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie and Dick's family and friends. What a great member of our community and such a kind 'Wizard of Oz (Wadena)'.



Hanna Larson - May 21, 2016 at 11:24 AM

TS

“ Theresa Sievers lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Theresa Sievers - May 21, 2016 at 10:07 AM

JM

“ I had the wonderful opportunity to spend time with Dick both fishing up at the Angle and in two Madhatters production. What a fun and caring man! Always willing to help and most importantly make you laugh. Dick I'll always have a seat open in my boat for you! Thanks for the fun times and great memories! May you be catching limits of walleyes daily in heaven, but remember it's catch and release only!

Jim Matthiae - May 21, 2016 at 08:50 AM

DT

“ Dave And Norie Trout lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Dave and Norie Trout - May 21, 2016 at 08:01 AM

BR

“ Our prayers are with you Eric, and with your whole family. Heaven is certainly a far brighter place now. God bless you through all of this, and on the journey ahead.

*Much Love and Sincerest Sympathy,
Bill, Jamie, and Carolyn Reichelt*

Bill, Jamie, Carolyn Reichelt - May 20, 2016 at 10:06 PM

SO

“ Sharyl Olson lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



sharyl olson - May 20, 2016 at 09:53 PM

MW

“ Myron & Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Myron & Karen Winkelman - May 20, 2016 at 08:52 PM

EF

“ *Esther & Alan Freitag lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Esther & Alan Freitag - May 20, 2016 at 07:33 PM

FC

“ *Frances Cole lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Frances Cole - May 20, 2016 at 05:58 PM

FC

Thoughts and prayers for you all at this sad time. Frances and Mark Cole

Frances Cole - May 20, 2016 at 06:02 PM

SB

“ *Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Sharon Boline - May 20, 2016 at 05:27 PM

BH

“ *Bob & Donna Haman lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Bob & Donna Haman - May 20, 2016 at 05:24 PM

BK

“ *Bob & Erica Keppers lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Bob & Erica Keppers - May 20, 2016 at 04:53 PM

SC

“ *Eric and Family, I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of your Father. Prayers to all of you at this time.*
Sara (Quincer) Christianson



Sara(Quincer) Christianson - May 20, 2016 at 04:14 PM

RK

“ *Rich & Mavis Kendall lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Rich & Mavis Kendall - May 20, 2016 at 04:10 PM

LS

“ *Lea And Mike Snyder lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Lea and Mike Snyder - May 20, 2016 at 04:04 PM

AK

“ *Amy Kleinke sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Amy Kleinke - May 20, 2016 at 03:59 PM

BB

“ *Betty Barr lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Betty Barr - May 20, 2016 at 03:28 PM

AL

“ *I will always remember as a child walking out of church after a service down the center aisle and having to look at Richard who always had to do something goofy to make me laugh on the way out! I also enjoyed drinking a Jamaican red stripe beer with him in Arizona when I was there visiting my parents . He was such a goofball and so fun Loving!*

Anne Lien - May 20, 2016 at 02:53 PM

MQ

*Richard will be missed. Our prayers are with you.
Myron and Linda Quaal*

Myron Quaal - May 21, 2016 at 10:49 AM

GS

“ *Had the great joy of fishing with Dick a couple years ago up in Lake of the Woods--he was very kind and helpful with our group. Dick....hope you are fishing every day in Heaven!! Your pal, Spike*

Gary Speicher - May 20, 2016 at 01:56 PM

JH

“ *Joe And Diane Hinkle lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy*



Joe and Diane Hinkle - May 20, 2016 at 01:54 PM

 Jody Dalaska Grossinger

“ *Always remember the neighborhood picnic. He always made it a point to talk to every neighbor just to see how things were going. He will be missed. Condolences to the family.*



Jody Dalaska Grossinger - May 20, 2016 at 01:08 PM

JR

“ Jack & Judy Richter lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Jack & Judy Richter - May 20, 2016 at 12:29 PM

RY

“ Rick & Linda Youngbauer lit a candle in memory of Richard "Dick" Ealy



Rick & Linda Youngbauer - May 20, 2016 at 12:23 PM



“ Dick always had a smile, a joke, seeing him at church was always a pleasure. We were in Madhatters with him, and a production was always better with him there, encouraging and fun. His eyes would always light up before he'd go on stage. He always had energy. He was like a big kid. He loved theater and it showed, and we were so fortunate to know him and work with him. He will be missed... very much.

Doug & Michelle Curtis

Doug Curtis - May 20, 2016 at 12:05 PM