

In Loving Memory of Richard Sytsma

January 28, 1931 – July 9, 2021

All of Richard Sytsma's days were ordained by his Loving and Wise Creator before one of them came to be. In God's perfect time he was born in the Netherlands, on January 28, 1931 to Klaas and Dirkje (nee: Merkus) Sytsma. At the age of 20 years old, Richard immigrated to Canada. He met the love of his life Lina, and they were united in marriage on November 26, 1955, in Toronto, Canada. Richard immigrated to the United States in 1957. He established and owned Bestway Flooring Center in Racine, Wisconsin for 20 years before retiring in 1998.

Richard was a faithful follower and lover of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a long-time member of Racine Christian Reformed Church, serving as elder and deacon. He helped build Racine Christian School and served on the school board. He also volunteered his time for the American Red Cross and Racine Meals on Wheels Program. He could often be found tending his flower garden in his Dutch shoes (called 'klompen').

Richard was a daredevil kiddo at heart and loved water skiing, snowmobiling and motorcycling. He was a fan of the Bill Gaither Trio and the Green Bay Packers. He was a superb harmonica player. Richard was always joyful and loved his family.

His time of service complete, Richard was called to his heavenly home on July, 9, 2021. He will be missed and his memory will be cherished by his wife of 65 years, Lina and;

Children: Robert (Irene) Sytsma of Bellingham, WA, Jeffrey Sytsma of Racine, Donna (Steven) Pflingsten of Janesville, James (Karen) Sytsma of Racine, Debra (William -deceased) Reed of Austin, TX, Lori (Judson) Swets of Bellingham, WA

Grandchildren:

Erica (Adam) Bawden, Kaitlin Sytsma, Emily Sytsma, Rachel (Terry) Hanaman, Brock Pflingsten (deceased), Nicholas (Jeannie) Sytsma, Charles Sytsma, Peter Sytsma, Elizabeth (Preston) Key, Savannah Reed, Alexander Reed, John William Reed (deceased), Nathaniel Swets, Jackson Swets and Lydia Swets

Great Grandchildren:

Brileigh, Bryson, Noah, Lincoln, Graham and Wyatt

He was preceded in death by his parents, 6 siblings, two grandsons Brock Pflingsten and John William Reed and a son-in-law William Reed.

Celebrating a Life and Glorifying God

The Approach to God

Opening Song: *How Great Thou Art* PH 483 (1,3,4)

Sentences:

John 11:25-26

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Romans 8:37-39

1 John 3:1

Nick Sytsma

Savannah Reed

Noah Bawden

Lincoln Bawden

Prayer

Celebration of Life

Song: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* LUYH 581

Scripture: *Psalms 16:7-11*

** Heidelberg Q&A #1

We Remember Richard:

Children

Video: *You Are My Sunshine*

Richard and Judson

The Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: *Philippians 1:18-27*

Message: To Live is Christ!

Prayer of Application

The Response to God's Word

Song of Praise: *Blessed Assurance* PH 490

Benediction

Doxology: *By the Sea of Crystal* PH 620

* Stand if you are able

** Heidelberg Catechism – printed on insert

PH: Gray Book in the pews

Sayings/Verses Found tucked away in Richards Bible:

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.” – Mother Teresa

“To live in the hearts, we leave behind is not to die”
–Thomas Campbell

“Every day may not be good,
but there is something good in every day!”

“Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly” Richard lived by these words!

“The Gospel of Christ is the highest blessing to give and the greatest blessing to receive.”

“This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

Pallbearers: Nick Sytsma Alex Reed
 Peter Sytsma Adam Bawden
 Charles Sytsma Al Boscha

Officiating: Pastor Anson Veenstra
Accompanist: Jane Friesema
Arrangements: Wilson Funeral Home

Thank you for your presence here today, and for the love and support given to the Sytsma family. We invite you to stay for a light lunch and time of fellowship immediately following the service. Following the lunch, we are planning a brief committal service (2:00) at West Lawn Memorial Park (9000 Washington).
