

Robert John "Bob" Chihak



Bob was born May 27, 1927, in Rapid City, SD, to John and Rozella (Pipal) Chihak. He was the youngest of three children; sister, Lynetta, and brother, Wally, a naval pilot. By the time he was 3, he had a fishing pole in his hand and from then on fishing became his number one passion in life. Due to his father and mother working, he was left in the hands of his big sister who would leave him at age 3 under the apple tree when the farmer came running after the children who were stealing apples. He said he never knew if he really made it home or not.

Bob grew up on Omaha Street when there were dirt roads and hobos. He often said they would have to watch the chickens so that the hobos would not run off with any. He talked often of Coney Island right across the road from their place. While in school at RC Central, he along with many classmates was drafted into the service in August 1945. Bob spent 3 years in the US Army, much of it as a medic and would tell how he took the train with the others to boot camp. These boys came home and graduated with his future bride's class on May 26, 1949.

Robert John "Bob" Chihak, 89, Sturgis, died, Friday, March 31, 2017, at the Ft. Meade VA Medical Center.

He married Betty Evans June 24, 1951. To this union were born 5 children; Debbie (Bob) Looby, Judy (Ken) Miller, Karla (Sean Makepeace) McDonald, Bobby (Becky) and Paula (Don Bertalot) Basker; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren round up the family tree. Betty remained his loving wife for 65 years.

Many times Bob would talk about walking the dirt road from Sturgis to Deadwood. In his younger years, he worked as a taxi driver, a Western Union delivery boy, a metal shop worker and many other jobs. He worked hard. Bob found his most favorable employment at the Gamble's Store in Rapid City, where he worked in various departments including sporting goods. He was offered to come to Sturgis and run the store there of which he eventually purchased. Bob was a proud store owner when Main Street was Main Street, customers came first, and there was no 9 to 5. This store caved in during the May blizzard of 1983 and he and Betty went on to purchase the Gamble's store in Belle Fourche.

Bob served as an Elder in the Rapid City First Presbyterian Church. In 1995, he was presented a certificate by the VA Medical Center Director of Ft. Meade for 6,067 hours and 15 years of volunteer service to veterans. In August of 1968, he and Betty purchased their cabin on Camp 5 road. He grew to love this place and there he and his dog, George, would find their solitude. Bob was both an Honor Guard member which made him very proud, and the Commander of the Sturgis American Legion for many years.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Deanna Lynn O'Connor; son in law, John McDonald; his siblings; and his parents.

A memorial has been established to the Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.



In Loving Memory Of



Robert John "Bob" Chihak

1927 ~ 2017

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following committal at the First Presbyterian Church basement. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



In Loving Memory Of

Robert “Bob” John Chihak

Born

May 27, 1927
Rapid City, South Dakota

Died

March 31, 2017
Fort Meade, South Dakota

Funeral Services

Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiating

Rev. Denzel Nonhof

Accompanist

Brenda Schaffer

Musical Selections

“My Way” “Swan Lake”
“Peace Like A River” Hymnal # 428

Pallbearers

Chris Looby ~ Jay Looby ~ Chisolm McDonald ~ Jonah Pickett
Loren Freeman ~ Tom Eddings ~ Leaf Harrison ~ Lucas Barraza

Military Honors

Sturgis Veteran’s Honor Guard

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota