



Chris Robert “Bob” Mechling

Chris Robert “Bob” Mechling (Brigadier General, US Army, Ret.), 86, passed away unexpectedly after a short but serious illness on September 28, 2018, surrounded by his loving family.

Chris was born to Charles Mechling and Mary Jensen on March 3, 1932, in Faith. The family lived in Sturgis from 1938-1941, moved to California to work in the shipyards during WWII, and finally back to Sturgis in 1947.

After graduating from Sturgis High School,

Chris served in the Korean War from 1950-1952. After the war, he attended Black Hills State College earning a BS Ed in 1955.

Chris taught school and coached both at Buffalo and Sturgis for several years prior to accepting a full-time position with the South Dakota National Guard. He spent 45 years in the army uniform working his way to the ultimate rank of Brigadier General. Chris was a proud military man through and through.

As a lifetime resident of Sturgis, Chris practiced a strong civic duty. He sat on many boards: Park, Library, School, Water, Industrial Development; as well as serving 6 years as the Mayor of Sturgis. He was a club member: Lions, Elks, and Kiwanis. He was a member of the American Legion, the VFW, the National Guard Association of the U.S., the Retired Officers Association, the Chamber of Commerce, the Boulder Canyon Country Club, and the Grace Lutheran Church. He will miss Sturgis and Sturgis will miss him.

Chris married Ruth Thompson in 1953. They raised 5 children: Mark, Kelly Magdanz (Thomas), Todd (Michelle), Kris Little (Rick), and Shawn. He loved his 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He is survived by the above and his brother, Paul. He was preceded in death by his parents and 2 brothers, John (Bill) and James.

Memorials have been established to the American Cancer Society and to Grace Lutheran Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

OUR DAD
“THE LAST OF THE GOOD GUYS”

In Loving Memory Of

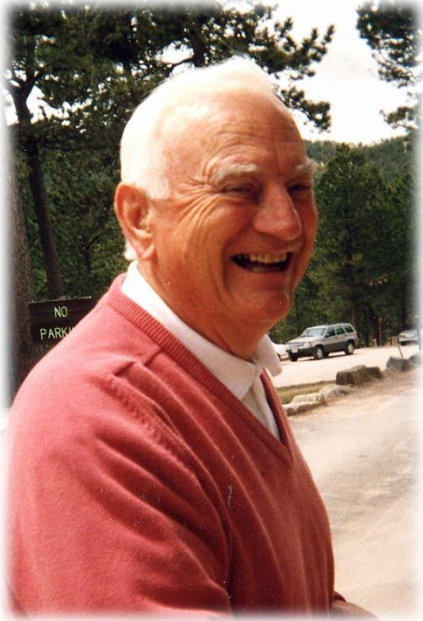


Chris Robert “Bob” Mechling

1932 ~ 2018

“The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow.”

-General Colin Powell



*To Those Whom I Love
& Those Who Love Me*

*When I am gone, release me,
let me go.*

*I have so many things
to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself
to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had
so many good years.*

*I gave you my love,
and you can only guess*

*How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.*

*Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home."*

In Loving Memory Of

Chris Robert "Bob" Mechling

Born

March 3, 1932
Faith, South Dakota

Died

September 28, 2018
Rapid City, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiant ~ Pastor Kris Garlick

Accompanist ~ Marcia Potts

Soloist ~ Marlene Kotab

Musical Selections

"My Way" "Danny Boy" "The Lord's Prayer"
"Amazing Grace" "Onward Christian Soldiers"

Pallbearers

Keith Smit ~ Paul Bisson ~ Charlie Gray
Bucky O'Connor ~ Tom Hermann ~ Kathryn Daane

Honorary Pallbearers

Ann Bertolotto ~ Jeanie Shyne ~ Bev Patterson

Military Honors

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard
SD Army National Guard

Inurnment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and refreshments in the
Son Shine Room in the church basement following the committal service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*