

Neil Dillon Mikesell

May 26, 1932 - January 1, 2016

Neil Dillon Mikesell was born on May 26, 1932 in New Plymouth, Idaho, the only son born to Alvin & Laura Mikesell. His mother died shortly after giving birth and so his care and raising was given over to his maternal grandparents, Harry & Florence Dillon.

He was raised on their farm, and was known as Neil Dillon. He took his father's name later when the school needed to file permanent records. He enjoyed shop classes in High School and showed a strong aptitude for mechanics, and was instilled with the desire to work on machines of all types. Through a mutual friend he met Ava Alberta Dohner, a California-born young lady who lived in the nearby town of Fruitland. She preferred not to use her first name, so most people knew her as Alberta, but to Neil she was always lovingly known as "Bertie". The sweethearts were married just a week after Neil's graduation in 1950.

To provide for their growing family, they both worked at Ore-Ida Potato Products in nearby Ontario, Oregon, where he was a Shift Supervisor. He tried to pursue his mechanical interest through correspondence courses but family came first, along with the farm work and the job, didn't allow time to study. They bought their first home and moved to Ontario, leaving the farm life behind. It was while living there that they made the decision for him to go to Minneapolis, Minnesota to study Transport Refrigeration courses offered by Thermo-King Refrigeration Corporation. He was there but a short time when he called to say that he missed his family so much that he wanted to come

home. Instead, the family was loaded in the car and headed to join him with their belongings stuffed in a trailer, being towed behind.

After graduation they moved the family to Whittier, California in 1963, where he worked for Kings County Truck Lines Montebello. Although he started as a Refrigeration Mechanic, he soon became adept in Small Engine & Diesel Engine Maintenance & Repair, along with Truck Brakes & other truck related services. He also did some automotive service work out of his home to supplement family income.

In 1972, the family moved to Mom's dream home in Hacienda Heights, CA, on a hill with a partial view of San Gabriel Valley. The long commute, heavy smog, and other adverse working conditions began to affect his health, so they decided to relocate.

They moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho in 1975 and he began work for Edwards Brothers Trucking Company, but soon the warm weather of Southern California lured them back to Hacienda Heights where he went to work for Wells Cargo Trucking in South Gate. After a few years he started working for Consolidated Freight Ways in Santa Fe Springs. When they closed that shop and relocated to Mira Loma, they moved to Walnut in 1982 to enjoy the rural atmosphere of the small city as well as shorten the work commute to the new truck terminal.

Increasingly debilitating back problems forced him to take an early retirement at age 56. After his wife retired, they were able to briefly pursue their dream and enjoyed traveling in their motor-home until the driving became too painful, and were forced to give up the adventure.

They moved several times in the following years to different cities, but stayed within the Los Angeles & San Bernardino area until moving to Missouri in 2012.

He was a loving and wonderful husband and father, who set the example for his family, offering faithful support and stability, teaching them to always do what's right, not for reward of men, but because that it is the right thing to do. Above everything else, he was a Christian who loved the Lord. Together with

his wife, he introduced his children to God, showing them the loving kindness and forgiving grace of the Heavenly Father. His service to the Lord included serving as a Deacon, ministering to the congregations of several of the Churches where he was a member.

He cherished the time spent with his family, often taking them for drives around town or the countryside. He enjoyed taking long drives...anywhere. Some of the best and fondest memories were of vacation road-trips and camping with his family.

They were married for 63 years, until Mom passed away on December 18, 2013.

His desire was to live to be 100 years old, but Dad wasn't one to set goals because he believed in the sovereignty of God. He went home to be with the Lord on January 1, 2016.

Mom & Dad are together again in the presence of their Heavenly Father in the mansions that were prepared for them. They are also joined by two grandchildren: Nathan Wheeler and Jeff Mikesell.

He is survived by his step-brother, Marlin & wife Dorothy Nelson; his half-sister, Joanne her husband Delmar Orren; & his sister-in-law, Elaine Dohner. He leaves sons and daughters: Linda & Gary Hindman, Alan & Maria Mikesell, Janet & Mike Rankins, Peggy & Daniel Neubert, and Betty Mikesell.

He leaves grandchildren: Magdalena & Salvador Damian, Joshua Mikesell, James & Lin Dillon, Victor & Keain Dillon, Kevin & Sheri Dillon, Kimberly & William Brandt, Andy and Andrea Neubert, Angela & Philip Rowland, Brian Rankins and Annette Wayerski, and Scott Rankins.

He leaves great grandchildren: Jailin, Bradley and Blain Dillon; Audrey Damian; Kylie, Kaleb, McKenzie & Zoey Brandt; Amie, Penelope, Gordan & Peter Neubert; Micaiah, Emmett, Joey & Hananiah Rowland; Logan, Marion & NovaLee Wayerski; Olivia & Paisley Rankins.

We, his family, remember him with love and gratitude for pouring himself into us, always putting us before self so that our lives would be enriched.

We will all miss him terribly!

A celebration of Neil's life will be held at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 8, 2016 at the Trinity Southern Baptist Church.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Family and friends may leave online condolences at www.kidwellgarber.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

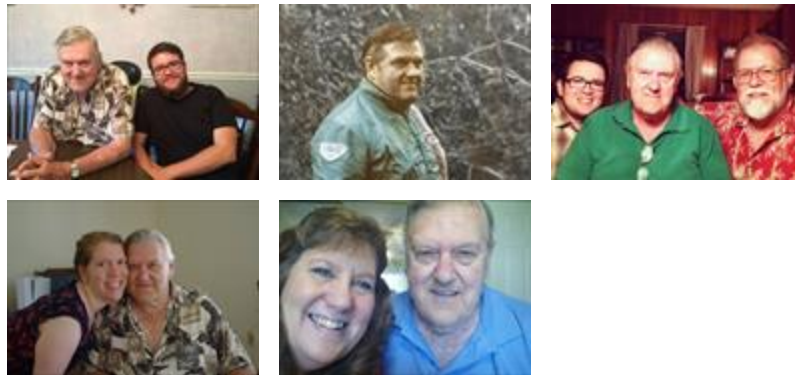
JAN 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church
13537 Church Rd.
Versailles, MO 65084

Tribute Wall

PE

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



peggy - February 09, 2016 at 07:56 AM

PE

When I went to look at the memory wall, I realized that none of us had shared on the wall. But, dad, you are missed very much. I think of you every day... how happy you were to spend time with family... just to sit and watch the children play. And it was wonderful that you were a "hi-tech" senior citizen. Not many can make this claim but you texted, face-booked, and programmed your cell phone as well as any of us.

Memories I will always cherish are things like sitting on your lap (even as a married woman), holding your hand and hearing you say you love me. Listening to stories either read from a book or from real life. Playing hide-and-seek. We all remember the time we searched the house for what seemed like hours only to find you in the corner of the kitchen (our home free spot) reading the newspaper.

Love you, dad!

peggy - February 09, 2016 at 08:02 AM