



## Warren "Brad" Bethke

August 28, 1923 - May 16, 2014

Warren "Brad" Bradley Bethke, age 90, of Richland Center died Friday, May 16, 2014 at Our House Memory Care in Richland Center. Brad was born August 28, 1923 in Richland Center the son of Leo and Marie (Bloedow) Bethke. He entered the U.S. Army in January 1943 and was discharged in January 1946. On August 27, 1947 he married Dorothea "Sis" Thompson at the Third Presbyterian Church in Dubuque, Iowa. Brad worked as a steamfitter for many years until his retirement in 1986.

He is survived by his 3 children, John (Cheryl) Bethke of Richland Center, WI, David Bethke of Richland Center, WI, Mary (Larry) Suemnicht of Sheboygan Falls, WI; 5 grandchildren, Andrea (Jeff) Perry of Deerfield, WI, Bryan (Gina) Bethke of Madison, WI, Allison Bethke of Richland Center, WI, Ashley (John) Fiedler of Sheboygan Falls, WI, Brandon Suemnicht of Sheboygan Falls, WI; 4 great grandchildren, Ella Perry, Henry Perry, Alise Fiedler, and Joshua Fiedler; other relatives and friends. Brad is further survived by his extended family Butch and Janet Aber.

He was preceded in death by his wife Dorthea "Sis" Bethke on January 14, 1989; parents; a daughter Cindy Aber, a brother Emmert (Josephine) Bethke; 2 sisters, Lavina Venes and Deede (Nick) Svalina.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at Noon at the Clary

Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. Pastor Craig Peach will officiate with burial in the Richland Center Cemetery where Military graveside rites will be conducted by the Local Military Honors Unit. Friends may call on Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 10:00 AM until the time of services at Noon. On line condolences can be made at [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ *John, Mary Beth and David-*

*So sorry to learn of your Dads' passing. My parents, Lee (Smitty) and Maralyn (Babe) Smith were longtime friends of your folks. I remember visiting their home MANY times. There is a photo on this site of Uncle Brad sitting at the kitchen table with his dog. In the background you can see the wallpaper w/ the little mexican man in a sombrero- I remember that.*

*Several years ago my sisters (Nan and Tricia) and I stopped and saw your Dad at home while we were in Big Town setting flowers at our folks graves. After we told him who we were he shared some great stories of when he, your mom and our parents were all young. Priceless.*

*Again, so sorry for your loss.*

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**Jan Smith Mailey - Melrose, MT - May 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ *John, David and Mary*

*We were very sad to hear of Brads passing. Although its been many years, we have many great memories. Take care, our thoughts are with you.*

*John & Colleen*

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**John & Colleen Schmitz - Cary, NC - Friend - May 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

RN

“ John, David and Mary, Your Dad, Brad, was one of the many people from R.C. that I remember with great fondness! Having Brad and your Mom, SIs, as neighbors reminds me of how 'neighbors' should be. Kind, generous and always there to help out. Playing in the back yard, climbing trees, wandering in the woods, are the memories that bring smiles to me. I think our parents tolerated a lot from us! Watching your Dad working in the back yard, and all the trees he had planted and all the gardening he did! He got me going on vegetable gardening and thanks to him, it's still an important part of my family life. I remember him as kind of a stern, no nonsense kind of man but he could also laugh and show his warmth with ease. I am sad to hear of his passing but the pictures you've posted show how much he enjoyed his kids and his grand kids! Although I can't be there to celebrate his life, know that he and you are all in my thoughts and prayers!

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**Rhonda Schmitz Fairgrieve - Port Orchard, WA - neighbor** - May 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ John, Cheryl, and family  
You have our deepest sympathy.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Bob & Brenda Bindl - Richland Center, WI - Friends** - May 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM