



Dale F. Copley

January 31, 1919 - December 12, 2015

Dale F. Copley, 96 year old resident of rural Randall, passed away on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at St. Otto's Care Center in Little Falls. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Friday, December 18, 2015 at First Baptist Church in Long Prairie, MN, with Pastor Matt Stacey officiating. Burial will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, north of Little Falls. A Visitation will be held from 4-7 P.M. on Thursday, December 17 at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN, and from 10 to 11 AM Friday at the church.

Dale Floyd Copley was born on January 31, 1919 in Meadow, South Dakota to the late Daniel and Tillie (Tepley) Copley. He entered into the United States Army in 1942. Dale served overseas in Europe, helping liberate the people from concentration camps in Germany and Austria. While stationed at Colorado Springs, Colorado, Dale was united in marriage to Clara Ann Kendrick on December 24, 1943 at a Presbyterian Church. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, the couple purchased the family farm in Parker Township, near Randall. They operated the dairy farm until retiring in 1984. During the 1950's Dale worked for Consolidated Telephone. He also operated a saw mill. After retiring, Dale kept busy and took on many hobbies, such as woodworking, wood carving, and various crafts including painting and making pot holders. During the winter months, Dale and Clara traveled south with their camper. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and keeping a vegetable garden.

He was a member of Randall VFW # 9073 and attended First Baptist Church in Long Prairie.

Dale is survived by his children, Rev. Kenneth (Elizabeth) Copley of Fishers, IN; Barbara Copley of Randall, MN; and Craig (Jodi) Copley of Petuluma, CA; sisters Jeanette Schwanke of Little Falls, MN, Mildred (DeWayne) Schwanke of Cushing, MN, and Betty Bigalke of Little Falls, MN; 11 grandchildren Daniel, Rachel, Sara, Ruth, Hannah, John, Lydia, Esther, Tara, Michael, and Allison and 9 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel and Tillie Copley; wife, Clara; and sister, Geneva Venske

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church- Long Prairie
401 South 4th Street
Long Prairie, MN

Service

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church- Long Prairie
401 South 4th Street
Long Prairie, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dale F. Copley*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - December 15, 2015 at 11:38 AM



“ *Dale F. Copley*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dale F. Copley.*



December 17, 2015 at 11:02 PM

“ Dale Copley was born in January 1919. He voluntarily enlisted in the Army during WWII and was stationed at Fort Carson (’twas Camp Carson back then) before deploying overseas to the European Front. Oh, the stories he would share with me, reliving those early days here when Carson was a brand new post.



"It was so new," he would reminisce fondly whenever we discussed our shared Army veteran status. "I remember scraping the stickers off the barracks windows right after they were installed."

He always shared the story of his company having to road march three full days to the top of Pikes Peak and back, digging hasty positions in the snowdrifts atop the mountainous peak in early July. "I was in charge of the mules back then. They were an onery bunch but they were always good for me. "

Very quickly he rose to the rank of E6 and spoke in more sober tones of combat and warfare. His unit eventually went to Germany and there liberated Nazi POW and Jewish Concentration camps. "Remember what I am telling you, " he would admonish me seriously as he described in great detail the human suffering he witnessed first-hand. "Do not forget. "

He returned home to his bride and raised three children on a farm in Little Falls, Minnesota. He spent his whole life working and learning. When he stopped farming, he turned to woodwork and made gorgeous hand-made furniture for adults and children alike. When he got too old to woodwork, he turned to rug making. Well into his nineties, even after being admitted to a nursing home, he would tell me how he was teaching the nurses on staff how to make his special rag rugs created from the handle of a discarded toothbrush and cut-up rag strips from old blankets and t-shirts.

I spent many hours at his side as a child watching him plant his

garden, skin rabbits and squirrels, spray the fruit trees growing in his yard. As an adult and many miles removed, I would often seek his advice about my children.

His name is beloved around Little Falls and the surrounding area. So many locals have purchased his wood work and rugs or at one point or another received bountiful baskets of farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from his hard labors.

He passes on at age 96. So many memories, so many stories, so much comfort and love that he passed on to me, his "favorite Korean" as he called me for as long as I can remember.

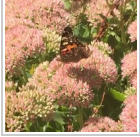
Oh grandpa, my heart wishes I could've been there one more time. One more conversation, just one more memory shared.

As a granddaughter I will hold dear your memories and stories passed down to me. As a fellow veteran I proudly salute you for your sacrifice and service.

RIP with all my love,

Your Favorite Korean

Ruth Burger - December 17, 2015 at 10:08 PM



“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Linda Peterson - December 17, 2015 at 01:35 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Dale F. Copley.



December 17, 2015 at 12:54 AM

CS

“ *That smile on his face is a summary of Dale's personality. I too remember him as my Sunday school teacher. His towering height, massive hands, friendly demeanor and love for the Lord made him perfect for handling a bunch of boys!*

I'll never forget those hands! As I became a teenager and Dale served as an usher he would always meet the young bucks with a big smile and a crushing handshake! Milking cows, fieldwork, gardening, baling hay and running a sawmill had made him tough as nails on the outside and yet you could see from that smile that he loved the Lord Jesus and cared for people too.

I remember the great hospitality at the Copleys. They were always involved in church functions, having company, hosting "coon feeds" etc. I remember pheasant hunting on their land and hearing "big fish" stories on a regular basis.

I often wonder if some of our time in Glory won't be spent hearing the stories of the heritage of God's grace that threads its way through the lives that have been touched by faithful men such as Dale Copley. He touched my life and I am grateful.

May the Lord bless the memory of Dale to his family left behind. May the Lord give each of you His peace and joy during this time of remembrance and loss. We know he is enjoying the presence of the Lord! One day soon we who are trusting the Lord will see Dale and all our loved ones who have gone on before!

Chris Sutton

Christian Sutton - December 16, 2015 at 07:51 AM

JN

“ Dale was my Sunday School Teacher for a few years, at First Baptist, in Little Falls.

A small space had been carved out, above and behind the baptismal, with a very narrow, precarious stairway to navigate to reach this "classroom". Dale surprised us every Sunday with his ability, as a very tall man, to squeeze his way into this room to teach his boys. At one point, they shifted our class of pre-teen boys, out of this dungeon, to meet in the Sunday School bus, out in the parking lot - i don't think we were that rowdy.

Another memory, was the day my Dad drove us to Dale's farm on a Sunday after church. Our family cat had made a hobby of hunting birds at a neighbor's bird bath, so rather than put the cat down, we "donated" it to the mouse patrol in Dale's barn.

Greetings to Ken and Barb. The world has lost a very kind soul in your Dad.

Jim Norr

Jim Norr - December 14, 2015 at 12:33 PM

WW

“ Wendy Waltman lit a candle in memory of Dale F. Copley



Wendy Waltman - December 13, 2015 at 09:53 PM

WW

Barb and family sincere sympathy sent to you, so sorry to hear about your dad! Thoughts and Prayers!

Wendy Waltman - December 13, 2015 at 09:56 PM

DK

“ Dale was a genuine friend! He was a faithful church member and worker who served the Lord while I was pastor at First Baptist Church in Little Falls. He was so kind to our children during their growing up years. When we would visit them at the farm unannounced they would stop whatever they were doing just to visit. They shared their garden produce with us, especially the fresh strawberries. We would share one half of a grass-fed beef that Dale raised and butcher it in the farm yard. Our children loved to watch him milk the cows. Our son was so caught up with the process that he didn't realize he was standing in the manure gutter, Needless to say his mother made him walk through the weeds again and again to clean off his cowboy boots. Dale cut me a white oak slab 7' long. It was beautiful but I didn't I would do with it. Did some sanding on it but soon forgot about it. It was on a shelf in Denver for 15 years and followed us to Owatonna for a number of years until I decided to give it to a taxidermist friend who loved to catch huge northern pikes. I am certain it will hold a trophy fish some day.

Dale was not only genuine he was one of those special ones whose life so impacts yours.

His wonderful family, whom he is so proud, are a testament to the quality of life and integrity of life of their father, Dale Copley.

Donn Kittle

/

Donn Kittle - December 13, 2015 at 09:15 PM