



Richard "Dicky" Lewis French

March 31, 1936 - March 5, 2022

Richard (Dicky) L. French of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2022. Dick was born on March 31, 1936, to Darrell and Clara French in Bee Branch, Arkansas. He had fond memories of his youth growing up on the family dairy farm with his parents and brothers and surrounded by both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He joined the Airforce after graduating high school in 1954 and was stationed in France. He met Jeannine Marshall in France and they were married on June 17, 1956. They had three daughters, Shirley and Kathlyne were born in France and Valorie was born in Fort Collins. Dick and Jeannine spent many happy years together and raising their family until her passing in 1995.

Following his service in the military he settled in Fort Collins where he worked for AT&T as an electronic engineer until he retired 1999. Throughout those years he met and maintained many close friendships with his co-workers, whom he lunched with monthly throughout his retirement.

Dick's family grew when he met and married Sharon Turk of Fort Collins, Colorado on July 7, 2001, and welcomed her children and their families into his life. They happily pursued their many interests together until his death.

Dick was a notorious story teller and jokester with a big and happy heart. He

never met a stranger and loved sharing stories about growing up in Arkansas, his worldly travels while in Europe and with AT&T and his “treasures” found metal detecting. He had lots of hobbies which included history, racing, polka music, Volkswagens, dune buggies and some that led him into business ventures such as Tiger Steel and French’s Candy Store. Later, he bought a hotdog cart and sold burritos on steel deliveries mostly so that he could meet and make more friends. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jeannine French and his parents Darrell and Clara French. He is survived by his present wife Sharon French, his daughters Shirley (Dave) Lindsay, Kathlyne “Tach” (Ron) Costello, and Valorie West, his step-children Laurie (John) Whitman, Kelly (Joe) Lee, and John (Laura) Turk, his grandchildren Cale, Ron, Samantha, Michaeline, and Lindi, his step-grandchildren Karl, Derek, Brennan, Gabriel, Gage, Clancey, Emery, Austin, Laurielle, Cate, Claire, Caroline, Davin, and Hunter and 19 great-grandchildren, his brothers Jerry (Kathy) French, Don (Corretta) French, and his nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at Bohlander Funeral Chapel in Fort Collins, Colorado on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. with a reception immediately following. A military burial will be held at Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins, Colorado, following the reception. In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made in his name to the US Dept of Veteran Affairs.

The service will also be live-streamed on the Bohlander Funeral Chapel website.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 10:00 AM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Graveside Service

MAR 11. 12:30 PM (MT)

Grandview Cemetery
1900 W. Mountain Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall



“ *Bohlander Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Richard "Dicky" Lewis French*



Bohlander Funeral Chapel - March 11, 2022 at 11:00 AM

RT

“ *Had the privilege of knowing Dicky and Sharon for over a year, started as caregiver but felt like family. Dicky and I shared stories, jokes and military humor. He was always smiling, didn't want to complain about his body. He wanted to continue to do all the activities around the home even though his body wasn't able to. Dicky always gave me a hug and a kiss on the cheek and said "You know I love you like a sister." Dicky is dancing and fixing things in heaven.....*

Rosa Thompson - March 14, 2022 at 02:18 PM

AT

“ I grew up with Dicky. We have had many wonderful times with our grandparents, French and McKnight, our numerous cousins and siblings. We shared Sunday church and then to Grandma French's for lunch. I'm blessed I got to see him in 2018 and meet Sharon and see how happy they were. I know that he is with our loved ones at the side of our loving Savior Christ Jesus. With condolences and love, Anna (Annie McKnight) Thomas



Anna Thomas - March 11, 2022 at 12:59 PM

PM

“ I worked with Dicky off and on for 27 years up at Buckhorn, and enjoyed many of his stories of growing up in Bee Branch. In particular I remember stories of encounters with skunks and "batting bumblebees" with his brother Jerry.
Paul McKelvey

Paul McKelvey - March 10, 2022 at 10:26 PM

JS

I worked with Dicky and you too Paul for many years, but being up here in Wyoming I didn't get the news about Dicky's passing until today. I have nothing but great memories of working with Dicky. He was a good friend and person. I wish the best for his family.
Jerry Smith

Jerry Smith - August 06, 2022 at 06:37 PM

RM

“ Chris and I send our sincere condolences to Sharon and the family. Dicky was a special friend and we had many fun experiences together. We shall meet again.

Rick Mattingly - March 09, 2022 at 11:02 AM

TE

“ Sharon and family,
I shared office space with Dicky at AT&T in the 90's. He was always ready with a joke or a witty remark. I enjoyed hearing his stories about Bee Branch, metal detecting, his family, the good ol' days at AT&T and whatever else would come along. Dicky was always interested in learning more about the people around him. I think that is why everyone loved Dicky. You always remember how someone makes you feel. Dicky always made me feel good. I will miss him, I loved him like a brother. Rest in peace my friend!
Tim Ettleman

Tim Ettleman - March 08, 2022 at 11:47 PM