



Willard Dean Ward

July 13, 1937 - October 3, 2015

Willard "Dean" Ward, 78, of Grand Island, died on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at Golden Living-Lakeview.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7p.m. at All Faiths Funeral Home on Thursday.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday at All Faiths Funeral Home. Pastor Steve Warriner will officiate. Military honors will be rendered by United Veterans Honor Guard and the U.S. Marines. Burial will take place at 3p.m. at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery.

Dean was born on July 13, 1937 in Cascade, ID, son of Willard and Flora (Foster) Ward.

He is survived by his children, Scott (Teri) Borgmann of Lincoln, Mike (Teresa) Ward of Rock Springs, WY, Teresa (Tim) Naeve of Chapman, and Cheryl (Chris) Croft of Green River, WY; brother, Wendell Ward of MO; sisters, Lorena O'Dey of Norfolk and LuEtta Clark of Pierce; grandchildren, Joshua Ward, Courtney Ward, Candon Croft, and Caitlyn Croft; along with many extended family and racing friends.

Dean is preceded in death by his parents, and brother, Myron Ward.

He was raised on a farm near Sargent, where he graduated. On September 3, 1956 he was drafted to the U.S. Marines. He served his country until September 3, 1962. Because of his time in the service, Dean was always patriotic and proud of all who served. Following his time in the service he was able to attend UNL where he received his degree in Civil Engineering. For many years he ran heavy equipment and helped build I-80 from Lincoln to Omaha. Dean also loved to fly, he was the pilot for the corporate jet for Heinzeman Engineering.

Dean's true passion was Competition Dirt Track Racing. For over 30 years he competed, earning him inductions into the Nebraska Racing Hall of Fame and Belleville High banks Hall of Fame in Kansas. In recent years he was Racing Advisor for Terry Klatt Racing Enterprise. Most weekends Dean would spend at the races with his family.

Memorials are suggested to Nebraska Racing Hall Of Fame or the Grand Island V.F.W.

Cemetery Details

Ft. McPherson

Maxwell, NE

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Gathering

OCT 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Willard Dean Ward*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willard Dean Ward.*



October 07, 2015 at 05:22 PM



“ *I have many memories of the years we spent together going to and from race tracks. The one that stands out the most is the time Mel was driving the pickup pulling the race car on the trailer. Ed was riding in the cab with him and Dean, Shorty, and I were in the back of the pickup on the way to another race. I felt the pickup slowing down so looked in at Mel. He was asleep and so was Ed! I knocked on the window but he didn't wake up until his cigar fell out of his mouth and he picked it up. Don't remember how Dean did at the track when we got there but am thankful we made it. Always tried to call him on his birthday as he was just 2 days younger than I am. Will miss him.*

Ron Thaut - October 06, 2015 at 11:40 AM



*Lots of good times in the early sixties going to racetracks in central Nebraska and northern Kansas as a member of Ward's little army.
John Halbersleben*

John Halbersleben - October 06, 2015 at 06:43 PM