



Renard George "Renny" Kampstra

November 29, 1922 - May 19, 2013

Renard George (Renny) Kampstra, 90, passed away at his home in Montgomery, TX on Sunday, May 19, 2013. He was born on November 29, 1922 in Chicago, IL to the late George and Teenie (Brower) Kampstra. Renny is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Lucy of Montgomery, TX; children Marjorie (Bob) Smith of Muskegon, MI, James (Sue) Kampstra of Chambersburg, PA, George (Hilary) Kampstra of Springfield, VA, and Cindy (Casey) Riney of Montgomery, TX; grandchildren Alison Kampstra, Jimmy Kampstra, Carly Riney, Nick Riney, Lindsey Riney, and Georgie Kampstra; sister Babe Smit; brother George (Betty) Kampstra and several nieces, nephews and special friends.

Renny grew up in south suburban Chicago and graduated from Chicago Christian High School in 1940. He was employed by Western Electric and attended night school at Illinois Institute of Technology. Employment and studies were interrupted by World War II. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to the 450th Bomb Group as Flight Engineer/Top Turret Gunner on a B-24 Heavy Bomber. On June 16, 1944, while bombing a target in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, Renny's plane was shot down by Luftwaffe fighters. He and seven of his 10-man crew parachuted into Hungary where they were captured. After weeks in the Budapest Jail, Renny was transferred to Stalag Luft IV, a Prisoner of War camp. In early February, 1945, to escape the advancing Russian forces, the Germans evacuated Stalag Luft IV and led

the POWs on a 3 month, 600 mile forced march west across Germany during the harsh winter. In late April, Renny and 3 of his buddies managed to escape and met up with the US 9th Air Force near Celle, Germany. He arrived in the U.S. in May, 1945, one day after VE Day.

Following discharge from the service, Renny married the love of his life, Lucy Fischer. He began a career in shoe manufacturing, an occupation that led him to positions in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Saudi Arabia. He retired in 1992 to Bradenton, FL, and later to Montgomery, TX in 2008.

Renny and Lucy were members of the Christian Reformed Church in Evergreen Park, IL, the Methodist Church in Anna, IL, the Waynesboro, PA Presbyterian Church, the Bradenton Christian Reformed Church in FL, and the First United Methodist Church in Conroe, TX. In Bradenton, Renny was a member of the EX-POW organization.

In Montgomery, Renny traveled to Washington DC on Honor Flight #1 and enjoyed weekly meetings with a local veteran's group with whom he enjoyed camaraderie, food and friendship. Special thanks to Jack McClanahan for generously hosting our deserving veterans. Thanks to all who contributed to the Honor Flight program. Thanks to Brenda Beaven, the staff and students of the Montgomery ISD who donated time and money in support of local World War II heroes.

Visitation will be held 10:30 am, Friday, May 24, 2013 at the First United Methodist Church in Conroe. A Celebration of Life Funeral service will follow at 11:30 am. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Renny's name to Autism Speaks, or the Salvation Army.

You are invited to leave a written condolence to his family at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Renard George "Renny" Kampstra*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Jim and Sue,
We were sorry to hear of your dad's passing and wish to extend our sympathy. My dad (Orville Strasser) always spoke highly of him.*

Darral and Judy Bakner r - May 27, 2013 at 07:30 PM



“ *Dear Jim and Sue, My sympathy to you and your family at your dad's passing.*

Deborah Musey Kriner - May 26, 2013 at 09:48 PM



“ *Our sympathies and best memories to the family. Mr. Kampstra was a friend and honored veteran. Jim, Kathy and I send our prayers and condolences.*

Steve & Kathy Sheldon

Steve Sheldon - May 24, 2013 at 09:07 PM

DS

“ DEAREST LUCY,
I HAVE NOT KNOWN THE BOTH OF YOU VERY LONG BUT THE
FIRST TIME I SAW YOU IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS I
KNEW YOU BOTH TRULY WERE VERY SPECIAL. I ONLY WISH I
HAD MORE TIME TO GET TO KNOWN YOUR DEAR "RENNY"
MORE. OUR BASIC CLASS LOVES YOU BOTH. IF YOU NEED
ANY THING OR MY HELP JUST GIVE ME A RING I WILL BE
THEIR. YOU ARE A BLESSING AND I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO
BE THEIR WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, OR
ANYTHING ELSE.

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,
LOVE YOU,
DIANNA STOVALL
(936) 524-3272

Dianna Stovall - May 24, 2013 at 03:52 PM

GH

“ Lucy,
Thou it has been a long time since we have seen each other. i still
remember working with Renny in chicago and waynesboro. he was
good friend and coworker. our prayers are with your you and your
family.

gary &norma Hollen - May 24, 2013 at 12:32 PM

GK

“ Dear Lucy and Family,
We send our sincere sympathy to all of you. We remember fondly
your years here in Waynesboro. What a pleasure it was to attend
church with you and know you. May God give each of you Peace as
only He can give.
Love in Christ. The Kirk's

George&Dottie Kirk - May 23, 2013 at 10:14 PM

CG

“ Back in Waynesboro, PA, your family has never been forgotten. With deep sympathy from the Waynesboro Presbyterian Church at this time of sadness. My parents and I remembered you fondly during your time in Waynesboro.

Carole A. Gerhardt - May 23, 2013 at 09:42 PM

TR

“ George and family ~ Our condolences are with you and your family. May you find comfort and peace at this difficult time. It is clear your Dad was an amazing man and you will miss him terribly ~

*In Peace ~
Terry and Teri Rihel*

Terry and Teri Rihel - May 23, 2013 at 01:35 PM

TS

“ Dear Mrs. Kampstra and family,

As a teen, I remember you, Mr. Kampstra and your children at the Waynesboro Presbyterian Church. A great family! My deepest sympathy to all!

Tammy (Shull) Siegrist - May 23, 2013 at 11:50 AM

SH

“ My condolences and prayers to the whole family. Cindy, your father was an amazing man! I know how much you love him and how proud you are of him!
Many blessings to you!
Much love,
Sherri Hardy

Sherri Hardy - May 22, 2013 at 10:14 PM

MZ

“ Your father sound like he was an amazing man. You and your family are in my prayers.

Marianne Zemanek - May 22, 2013 at 12:18 PM

KC

“ Lucy and family, words cannot express how much Renny came to mean to our family over the past 30 years. What a wonderful life and adventure you two had. I remember him meeting me and teasing me about my Texas accent and sayings. Whenever I say "fix'n to", or "might could" I think back to his sweet tease and crackling eyes all of those years ago in Saudi Arabia. Who would of thought that he would end up with Texas born and bred grandkids! What a blessing he was to all of us. Rejoice in his homegoing to heaven. We are sorry for your loss.

Kim and Rob Chambers - May 22, 2013 at 11:59 AM

AS

“ I ran across this passage and thought this is what your father might be feeling. So rejoice for him and keep peace in your heart. We love you and if you need us we are here waiting with open arms.
"Your enjoyment of the world is never right till every morning you awake in Heaven , see yourself in your Father's palace, and look upon the skies , the earth and the air as celestial joys...as if you were among the Angels." by Thomas Traherne

Alicia H./Taylor Requeno, student - May 22, 2013 at 10:07 AM

RV

“ Cindy, prayers and support are with your entire family as we all mourn the loss of such a great man. Love to you and to your family.

Rebecca Villemez - May 22, 2013 at 09:15 AM

DW

“ *Cindy -
My prayers and blessings are with your entire family!*

Dawn Wiseman - May 22, 2013 at 09:10 AM

CP

“ *We heard the news and we are very sorry for your loss!*

CJ and Pam - May 22, 2013 at 08:54 AM