



## **Obituary for Clifford Dean Williams**

*Clifford Dean Williams, 82, of Fort Dodge, passed away on Friday, September 25, 2015 at his home following a brief illness.*

*Services will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at the Gunderson Funeral Chapel, and at 10:00 a.m. at Corpus Christi Church with Rev. Frank Lona celebrating the Mass of the Christian Burial. Interment will follow at Oakland Cemetery with military honors presented by V.F.W. Post #1856. The visitation will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9 at the Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Services.*

*Clifford Dean Williams, the son of Clifford E. and Gladys (Gretsinger) Williams, was born in Detroit, Michigan. He moved to Fort Dodge with his family as a young boy and attended Fort Dodge schools, graduating from Fort Dodge High School in 1952. He also attended Wayne State University in Detroit. Dean joined the U.S. Army, served in the Korean War, and was stationed in Japan until his honorable discharge in 1954. Following his military service, he returned to Fort Dodge and wed Teresa Avelleyra in 1955. She died in June of 1963. Clifford was an employee of George A. Hormel Co. until his retirement in 1982, when the plant closed. He also served in the National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve for thirty years, retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant in 1992. Dean and Diane Johnson were united in marriage October 31, 1964 in Fort Dodge, where the couple has since made their home.*

*Dean was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, P31 Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, American Legion Post #130, and the VFW Walter Porsch Post #1856, where he also served on the Honor Guard.*

*Dean was a prominent member of the Amateur Softball Association of America, served as president of the Iowa ASA, Deputy State Commissioner, Deputy State Umpire-in-Chief, ASA District Commissioner and he established the Fort Dodge Softball Association in 1964, serving as its president until the year 2000. He also served as vice-president and president of the Fort Dodge Umpires Association, teaching umpire classes at Iowa Central for 25 years. Dean coached, managed and played for the Sandy's Distributing Fast Pitch softball team from 1964-1971.*

*Dean treasured his 50 years with softball, and also the many lifelong friendships that were gathered during that time. He also initiated the building of Harlan Rogers Sports Complex, together with Mr. Rogers and the city of FD, when the softball league outgrew the old Gas & Electric ball park by the Des Moines River. His team played the first softball game in the new park in July 1968. This was one of his dreams come true. Dean loved to travel, and during their retirement he and Diane visited 26 foreign countries, including 3 trips to Japan. They spent time every winter in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and also enjoyed sightseeing in many states.*

*Deeply saddened by his loss is his wife of 50 years, Diane. Dean is also survived by his son David (Patty) Williams, Valencia, CA; daughters Peggy Sells, Barbara (Brett) Bachman, and Jacqueline (Roger) Brown, all of Fort Dodge. He had 11 grandchildren: David & Christopher Williams; James, Jacob, Christina and Cassandra Sells; Jesse & Justin Beck; Jordan, Justine and Jondle (Roder) Koepke. He is also survived by 5 great-grandchildren: Tawnie, Hannah, Trenton, Cameron and Petra.*

*Dean was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife (the mother of his children), and an infant brother, Neal.*

*Memorials may be left to Unity Point Hospice in FD, or VFW Post #1856.*