



# Rex Powell

Life-long Fremont Co. resident Rex Floyd Powell, died Thursday evening, Aug. 28, 2014 at the Homestead Assisted Living Center in St Anthony of causes incident to his age. He was 90 years old.

He was born Jan. 4, 1924 at Egin, Idaho the first of seven children of Floyd Henry and Katie Mason Powell.

His favorite memories of his early childhood were of the summer of 1929 when his family lived at Trude Siding in Island Park. His father was a tie hack for the Union Pacific Railroad, and the family lived in a wood-sided tent. He returned to the site many years later with his own family and was able to locate what he thought was the location of the tent.

Rex attended elementary school at Egin and Edmunds High School. He left school to help support the family. He was working in Plano in Dec. 1940 when his father died of an infection in the days before penicillin was available. He worked for the Civil Conservation Corps. He entered the U.S. Army during World War 11 and served in the Battle of the Bulge and served in Paris and in Czechoslovakia.

Returning to St. Anthony after the war he met and married Verona Ida Garrett on May 11, 1946. The couple lived at Staley Springs on Henry's Lake in Island Park while Verona worked in the cafe there. He worked for Nielsen Brothers doing interior finish on the LDS Temple in Las Vegas, NV. It was in Salt Lake City the couple's first daughter Brenda was born. He worked at Cudahay Meat Packing and was a member of the Army Reserves and was called to active duty in Korea that fall. He left Verona and Brenda in St. Anthony to live with her parents, Earl and Ida Garrett, while he was overseas.

He served for a year and returned home. He worked as a fuller Brush salesman, for Frome Motors selling Fords and for Garrett Ready Mix. He poured concrete for FAA installation on the top of Mt. Sawtell.

Three more children were born to the couple during the 1950, daughters Cathy and Danette and at last a son, Bryan Floyd.

Rex worked for the St. Anthony Police Dept. serving as Chief for 20 years and retired from the City, he worked for Stoddard Lumber, now Willmore Lumber, hauling finished products throughout Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Verona went with him on many of those trips.

He served on the St. Anthony City Council and was a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was appointed by then-governor Cecil Andrus to the Idaho Traffic Safety Commission and was active in the Idaho Peace Officers Association.

Rex and Verona traveled the western U.S. with his brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Nadyne Powell, visiting such places as Mount Rushmore and Glacier National Park. They enjoyed camping out at family reunions. Rex enjoyed using his metal detector to explore, and whittling and fishing. He played the guitar and the harmonica and entertained the staff at the Ashton Living Center and at Homestead with his harmonica.

Rex's life was devoted to his country and his family. He proudly flew the American flag in his yard, lighting it so it could be flown day and night. He saluted the flag every morning. He received a certificate from the French government for his service during the war and attended reunions of his WW11 unit. Just days before his death he received his 40 year membership pin from the St. Anthony V.F.W. Post.

Rex is survived by his wife of 68 years, Verona; Daughters Brenda Lobdell, Spokane, WA. Cathy Koon, St. Anthony 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren; two brothers Jay Powell, Pocatello, ID.; and Lee Powell, West Yellowstone, MT. He was preceded in death by his parents, his step father, Wayne Richards; children Danette and Bryan and siblings, Jack, Wayne, Marilyn and Yvonne.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the St. Anthony Third LDS ward church with Bp. DelRay Davenport, officiating. Friends may call Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bidwell Funeral Home and Wednesday one hour prior to the services at the Church. Burial will be in the St. Anthony Riverview Cemetery where Military rites will be conducted by the St. Anthony V.F.W. and American Legion. The family suggest donations to the South Fremont Education Foundation or other charity of choice