



# A lasting memorial has been given to Spirit of Hope Church in memory of Ralph Crews

May 28, 1918 - December 28, 2013

Ralph Wilson Crews, Lt. Col. USAF, Retired, of Golden Valley, MN passed away on December 28, 2013 at the age of 95. He was born on May 28, 1918 to Walter and Mabel Jeremy Crews in Saxe, Virginia. He attended the two-room Saxe School, Drakes Branch High School and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, now known as Virginia Tech, in 1942 with a degree in civil engineering. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Corps and immediately left for Europe on the Queen Mary and served in WWII in England France, and Germany. When he returned in 1946, he was assigned to Lowry Field in Denver, Colorado where he met his wife, Betty Joanne Anderson. He had assignments in Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Ohio, California, and Wyoming. He attended Ballistic Missile School at Ft. Bliss and received a MBA from the University of Chicago in 1953. He served 22 years in the Air Force and he retired as Lieutenant Colonel.



After retirement from military service he moved his family to Golden Valley where they joined what was then the Golden Valley Methodist Church in 1966. He was a member of Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church for 47 years, spanning two name changes of the church. He enjoyed the people of the church and served as a bookkeeper and offering counter. He and his wife, Betty were members of a social group called the "Kum Double Klub," and delivered "Dinner at Your Door" for many years. He especially enjoyed the great hymns of faith. Four of his five children were confirmed at the church.

He came from a Methodist family, and in his youth was a member of Southall Memorial Methodist Church in Saxe, Virginia.

His funeral was on December 31, 2013 at Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church with Pastor Ed Dubose officiating. He is buried at Glen Haven Cemetery in Crystal.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Joanne, of Golden Valley, his five children, Richard Crews of Encinitas, CA, Mandy Heard (husband Don), of Eau Claire, WI, Betsy Carnahan (husband James) of Edina, MN, Stephen Crews of Jacksonville, FL, Kenneth Crews (wife Elizabeth) of Los Angeles, CA. Also survived by 9 grandchildren, Elizabeth Mascaro (husband Anthony), Terry Heard (wife Melissa), Gary Heard, Emily Carnahan, Margaret Carnahan, Paul Carnahan, Alex Crews, Veronica Crews, and Arthur Crews.