

Al Hunter 1931-2011



Al Hunter, 79, passed from this life Thursday, January 13, 2011, at his home in Windsor Heights. Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 16, at Westover Funeral Home where the family will greet friends from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services with firefighter honors will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 17, at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, 1240 66th Street, Windsor Heights.

Al was born Oct. 4, 1931, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, graduated from Central High School in 1949, and joined the Aberdeen Fire Department as a sophomore. Al was drafted into the US Army and served as a 2nd Lieutenant and fire chief in Pusan Korea, where he oversaw 22 engine companies and trained Pusan and Korean Army firefighters. Al received a citation of valor for his service from the Pusan mayor.

After being honorably discharged, Al relocated to Sioux City, Iowa, where he attended Morningside College and graduated with a degree in Sociology and Psychology. After graduation, he worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Woodbury County, and then as a caseworker for the Boys and Girls Home and Family Services. During that time, he volunteered for Woodbury County/Municipal Civil Defense Fire-Rescue as a Training Officer and later hired as Operations Manager.

Al married Flo Hunter on December 29, 1970. In 1971, Al was appointed as the Emergency Medical Services Chief for the State Health Department, where he developed emergency medical training programs across Iowa, including his home town of George, Iowa.

In 1978, he was appointed Fire Chief of Windsor Heights—the first career fire chief for the department. During his 26-year tenure with the Windsor Heights Fire Department, he trained many firefighters and emergency medical technicians and he also led many classes at the Ames Fire Academy. Upon his retirement, Al was named Windsor Heights Citizen of the Year and inducted into the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association Hall of Fame in 2008.

He was a member of the Windsor Heights Firefighters Association, Iowa Firefighters Association, Polk County Fire Chiefs Association, Windsor Heights Lions Club, West Des Moines Elks Lodge #2752, and Windsor Heights Lutheran Church.

He will be missed by his loving wife of 40 years, Flo; sister, Maxine Deacon, Las Vegas, NV; sons, Jeff Reinders, Sioux City, Tim Reinders (LuAnn), Des Moines, and Todd Reinders, Des Moines; grandchildren, Christine Reinders, Boston, MA, Stephanie Reinders, Ames, Caitlyn

Reinders, Waverly, Travis Reinders, Des Moines, Henry Reinders, Waukee; niece, Cindy Williams and her children, Austin and Josh, Medford, OR; and many other close relatives and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Windsor Heights Fire Department or WesleyLife Hospice.

Al dedicated his life to the development and improvement of emergency and rescue services and firefighter emergency training. As has been quoted by Mayor Jerry Sullivan , “He was a terrific leader who contributed greatly to enhancing the quality of life in Windsor Heights. He will be missed.” Al considered it his honor to have served the people and community of Windsor Heights.