

Ralph Edward Mousel: Black Hills National Cemetery

On April 5th of 1929, Ralph Edward Mousel's story began in Rapid City, South Dakota.¹ His parents, Lourella (Louie) and Ralph Mousel Sr. were married in Rapid City in 1925; that same year they welcomed their daughter Pearl into the world who would later marry Red Pesek.² Ralph Jr., although four year younger, grew up in the Rapid City area beside his sister and attended Cathedral High School. He had a passion for sports, hunting, fishing and his dog, Sadie; he was a lifetime member of the NRA (National Rifle Association).³ He graduated Cathedral High School with the class of 1946. Following graduation, he enlisted in the Navy. He served proudly as Seaman 1st class with the US Navy after World War II (S1 USN WWII).⁴ He was mustered out, or honorably discharged, on March 15, 1948. After his time in the service he returned to Rapid City where he attended South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for a short time. In 1950 he married Agnes LaCroix and they had seven children, all raised in the Rapid City area. In 1960 he discovered a passion and skill set for carpentry and started Mousel and Trautman construction with Harold Trautman. Then, with his wife Agnes, he started A.L.M Construction which soon became Mousel Construction. Ralph remained in the construction business through the 1980's.⁵ Throughout his seventy-seven years Ralph established passions for gardening, hunting, fishing, construction, baseball, and playing cards with his buddies. His brother in law, Red Pesek, established the Rushmore Little League which he enjoyed watching. When Ralph lost his battle to cancer at age seventy-seven on June 2, 2006, his wife Agnes, seven children, sixteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren held a mass for him at the Church of St. Therese. They also formed a memorial fund for the Rushmore Little League instead of accepting flowers. His interment service was held at Black Hills National Cemetery by VFW Post 1273 of Rapid City.⁶ His grave is marked with his military achievements and a simple reminder to his loved ones that he has "Gone Hunting".



¹ "Ralph Edward Mousel," Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/29939254/ralph-edward-mousel>.

² "Ralph Edward Mousel," Rapid City Journal, https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/obituaries-for-january/article_4ebc560a-7cf2-594f-ad42-b0802080653b.html

³ "Ralph Edward Mousel," Rapid City Journal, https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/obituaries-for-january/article_4ebc560a-7cf2-594f-ad42-b0802080653b.html

⁴ "Ralph Edward Mousel," Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/29939254/ralph-edward-mousel>.

⁵ "Ralph Edward Mousel," Rapid City Journal, https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/obituaries-for-january/article_4ebc560a-7cf2-594f-ad42-b0802080653b.html

⁶ "Ralph Edward Mousel," Rapid City Journal, https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/obituaries/obituaries-for-january/article_4ebc560a-7cf2-594f-ad42-b0802080653b.html

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