

Tratt, Richard E ^{obit.}
12-5-21 — 5-5-99

Tratt, Richard E. "Dick"

WHITEWATER—Richard E. "Dick" Tratt, age 77, died Wed., May 5, 1999, at Fairhaven Residential Facility. Dick was born Dec. 5, 1921, in Whitewater, the son of Ralph and Ruth (Salisbury) Tratt. He was married to Virginia Scharine Feb. 17, 1944, in Whitewater. He belonged to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Whitewater, a graduate of Whitewater High School in 1939. He attended Whitewater State Teachers College for 3 years, entering the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He served in the 9th Air Force, 406th Fighter Group, the 514th Fighter squadron. Dick flew 78 missions, receiving the Dist. Flying Cross and a Purple Heart. He was a member of the P 47 Thunderbolt Pilots Assoc. He was discharged at the rank of 1st Lt. Dick was also a member for over 50 years of the Wm. Graham Am. Legion Post #173 in Whitewater. He was a partner in the Scharine Bros. Implement Co. in Richmond for many years. Dick engaged in farming and auction services as a representative with Keefe & Assoc. and Wm. Stade Auction Service.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; a son, Terry (Karen) Tratt of Kalamazoo, MI; a daughter, Pam (Richard Jr.) Kraus of Whitewater; 3 grandchildren: Stephanie, Michael, and Christopher Tratt of Kalamazoo, MI; 2 nieces, Peg (Marv) Homburg and Judy Roll. Preceding him in death were his parents; 3 brothers: Walter, Tom, and Myron in infancy.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Sat., May 8, at ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH in Whitewater. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery, with military rites by the Wm. Graham A. Legion Post #173 of Whitewater. Friends may call Friday from 5:00 until 8:00 at the funeral home. SKINDINGRUDE FUNERAL HOME is assisting the family.
