



## Colin C. Carpi

August 23, 1931 - December 10, 2015

Colin Caton Carpi of Penn Valley, PA, passed away peacefully in the company of family on December 10th after a prolonged struggle with progressive heart failure. He was born on August 23rd, 1931, in suburban Philadelphia to Fred and Madeline (Caton) Carpi. A devoted family man he dedicated his later years to helping his children and others of the extended Carpi family. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Ruth Anne Dirkes of Malvern, daughters Jennifer Moller of Newtown Square and Lisa Gorsch of Charlottesville, VA, sons Colin, Jr. of Bala Cynwyd, David of Philadelphia, James of London, UK, and Peter of Boston, and beloved grandchildren Austin, Spencer, Lindsay, Haley, Sophie, Christopher, Quinn and Clayton. His brother Clive resides in Alexandria, VA. He was previously married to Laura Pleasants Miller of Gwynedd Valley, PA.

Colin was an honors graduate of The Haverford School, Princeton University and Harvard Business School. At Haverford and Princeton he was a star on the varsity soccer teams. An adventurous type, he spent one summer vacation riding the rails in Canada, seeking employment at various oil drilling sites in Saskatchewan and Alberta, progressing as far north as Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. While at Princeton his entrepreneurial impulses became evident as manager of the university's radio station and when, together with several classmates, he designed an automated seeding machine for farming application and obtained a U.S. patent.

Immediately after graduating from HBS he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and completed Navy Officer Candidate School at Newport. An avid pilot and aviation enthusiast, he was assigned to the staff of the Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington where he spent the duration of his naval service. His support for a local Great Valley helicopter designer culminated when the new helicopter was used to whisk Colin and first wife Laura away on honeymoon from the wedding reception in June 1957.

After discharge from the service Colin joined the New York management consulting firm, Booz Allen and Hamilton. When Booz Allen made him a partner he was the youngest person the firm had ever granted partnership. His many consulting engagements brought him into contact with small family-owned furniture companies in rural New York and Pennsylvania. Believing the firms to be undervalued, Colin left Booz Allen, raised capital and began buying selected firms. In 1966 he created General Interiors Corporation, which became the owner of the prestigious Pennsylvania House, Kittinger, Cushman and Dunbar brands of fine furniture. General Interiors was a major force in the furniture business for nearly 10 years, at which point an acquisition made it the home furnishing division of General Mills.

Colin had always been interested in the technical aspects of evaluating stock prices. After leaving General Interiors, he founded Chartwell, an investment service that, in the pre-Internet age, used highly-detailed charts of stock price performance and trends for a subscriber customer base. He was in the forefront of developments in computer graphics, technology that he needed in order to move Chartwell into the digital world. At Chartwell, as at General Interiors, Colin dealt with technological gurus and financiers at the top of the business world.

As the son of a senior executive of the renowned Pennsylvania Railroad,

Colin retained an interest in railroading throughout his entire life, which was manifested in an enduring hobby. Beginning in his teenage years, when he designed and built an elaborate model train layout, using cardboard scraps, broomsticks and other mundane materials, he continued to build and assemble a large collection of locomotives and rolling stock representative of the grandeur of railroading's heyday.

Colin pursued lifetime learning. He was equally conversant discussing history, philosophy, economics, mathematics, life and physical sciences, religion, engineering, architecture, music and numerous other realms of knowledge. He was especially interested in specific opportunities within these realms to improve the human condition.

Dedicated to his family, Colin devoted much of his passions and efforts to raising and developing his six children, eight grandchildren and other family members. He took equal pleasure in meaningfully helping other non-family members who crossed his path. He was a fervent believer in human potential and his greatest joy in life was helping others realize and further their potential. He was a supreme optimist who always had an engaging smile and kind words for everyone he encountered. Colin's family dearly loved him. They will forever miss the man who loved them deeply and championed them all.

A funeral service and burial will be held at Saint Christopher's Church, 226 Righters Mill Road, Gladwyne, PA on Sunday, December 27th, 2015 at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations made to St. Christopher's Church.

# Cemetery Details

**Adjoining Churchyard**

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

DEC 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
226 Righters Mill Road  
Gladwyne, PA 19035