



Richard Michael Force

April 20, 1944 - January 30, 2018

Richard M. Force, born in Albany, New York April 20, 1944 and died January 30, 2018. He lived most of his young life in Groton Connecticut. He grew up there being active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the Order of the Arrow and Eagle Scout. He moved on after graduation from the Fitch Senior High School to Yale College and then on to Yale Graduate School earning a Master of Arts Degree. After graduation he settled in Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania doing postgraduate study.

He married Beth Ann McFarland in November 1976 and was Executive Director of Main Line Project Learning, a cooperative program for Federal Funding in the Lower Merion, Haverford and Radnor School Districts.

He served as President of PAFPC (Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators) and NAFEPA (National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators). One of the highlights of his career was testifying before Congress on behalf of the children qualifying for federal funds in the United States.

He was active in local governance serving as President of Wynnewood Valley Civic Association and moving on to be President of the Federation of Lower Merion Civic Associations.

An accomplished pianist, he played the piano on return from work each day stating that it was “his martini” before dinner. Another avocation for Dick was sketching wherever he happened to be in his travels.

Dick always had time to help those in need and enjoyed serving as Deacon at

the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

After retirement, he and Beth Ann moved to Bethlehem in 2010 to be closer to his family, a son, Richard M. Force, Jr., daughter-in-law, Megan Force and grandchildren, Isabella and Jaxon. His sister, Barbara Bartos, resides in Carlisle Pennsylvania.

An 11:00 a.m. memorial service is scheduled for May 5, 2018, at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation for Research, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I write on behalf of the ARTZ Philadelphia community to share our love and condolences with Beth Ann and with Dick's and Beth Ann's wonderful family. Beth Ann and Dick used to travel all the way down from Bethlehem to participate in our ARTZ @ The Museum conversations about art at Woodmere Art Museum -- at least a 1 1/2-hour drive each way. This was a testament to Beth Ann's love for and devotion to Dick and to anything that might enhance his well-being. Dick was an incredible presence in our programs, sharing remarkable insights with all of us as we looked at works of art together. Sometimes those insights came in the form of eloquent gestures with his hands when words were no longer accessible to him. We all agreed that Dick's expressive hands and face were more articulate than most people's spoken observations. As was the irreverent twinkle in his eye whenever he was inclined to share laughter with the group -- which was often.

Dick and Beth Ann contributed beautiful watercolors to our first public exhibition of works by people living with dementia and their care partners. In every way, they were at the core of our community -- regardless of how far away they lived -- and they will remain so in our hearts.

*Susan Shifrin
Executive Director, ARTZ Philadelphia*

Susan Shifrin - February 09, 2018 at 11:05 AM