



A. Richard Martinelli

February 5, 1934 - August 18, 2015

GUILDERLAND – A. Richard Martinelli, 81, entered peacefully into eternal rest on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at Ellis Hospital after a brief illness, surrounded by his loving family.

Richard was born in Schenectady on February 5, 1934 a son of immigrant parents, Aurelio and Assunta Gemi Martinelli. He graduated from the former Nott Terrace High School in 1951 and began his long and illustrious career with the General Electric Company. He attended Clarkson University under a work study with the General Electric, receiving a BS degree in mechanical engineering. While at Clarkson, he participated with the ROTC program and enlisted in the US Army upon graduation. He spent 3 years in Germany in the 24th Engineer Division. His propensity for language enabled him to speak Italian and German. Richard traveled locally and internationally, with the General Electric large steam turbine program, selecting, purchasing and overseeing their installation. After his retirement in 1995, he started a consulting business, ARM Technical Services.

He was a member of the Society of Engineers and the Elfyn Society, volunteering many hours to the modification of electronic toys, which enabled children with disabilities to experience countless hours of education and joy. Richard loved to travel, and was an avid golfer and bowler. Above all of his accolades, family and friends were most important to Richard. He was a colorful storyteller and loved to make people laugh.

The Martinelli family is deeply grateful to the staff on E-2 at Ellis Hospital, for their kind and compassionate care.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 18 years, Mary Travis Martinelli, whom he married on September 29, 1996; his loving children, Carol Martinelli-Sharma and her husband Anurag, of Clifton Park, Geoffrey Travis (Lori Decker), of Schroon Lake and Jennifer Travis (James 'Si' Johnston), of Colonie, devoted brother, Gino Martinelli and his wife Judy, of Schenectady; grandchildren, Peter, Gregory and Steven Sharma, Alyssa and Mackenzie Travis; his special buddy and friend Tommy Plucknette; many dear, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends also survive.

Services will be held on Monday at 9 am from the Rossi & Ditoro Funeral, 501 Union Street and then to St. John the Evangelist Church, Union Street, where a Mass will be celebrated at 10 am. Interment will follow in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Glenville.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call at the Rossi & Ditoro Funeral Home on Sunday from 3 to 6 pm.

Memorial contributions may be made in Richard's memory to the Foundation for Ellis Medicine, 1101 Nott Street, Schenectady, NY 12308.

Comments



“ Richard Martinelli was a friend to the children of Early Childhood Education Center, a preschool program for children with disabilities. He adapted toys so that children could access them through a switch, enabling them to play along side their peers without disabilities. He made many a child smile when they could make the bubbles blow by using a switch. To see the joy he brought children, look at the photos on the website: www.ECECNy.org.
He made the impossible possible.

Marsha Williams - Albany, NY - Friend/Director of ECEC - August 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ He was such a great guy and will definitely be missed! He did so much for St. Margaret's Center and was always so excited to deliver more adaptive toys and see them being used! I am very glad i got to know him over the past couple years.
Nick

Nick Z - Albany, NY - Friend - August 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry to hear of this sad news. Such a good man and good neighbors. Our deepest condolences, Jim & Connie Cotazino Jarratt, 4054 Ryan Place

Jim & Connie Cotazino Jarratt - Guilderland, NY - August 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ It will always be a pleasure to have volunteered with Dick in the Toy Modification Program. His quick and ready wit, good nature, and compassion for all children is an inspiration. We will miss him and remember him fondly.
John Hoff

John Hoff - Scotia, NY - Friend - August 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We would like to extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Martinelli's family. Rich provided modified toys and electronics to many of our individuals at the Center for Disability Services. He also provided us with lots of great stories! We are grateful to have known such a wonderful man. We will miss his visits.

Sincerely,
New Karner and Smith Center Day Habs

kelly foran - NY - August 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Bonnie and I wish to express our personal condolences on the loss of Dick. "God comes to earth to tend His garden and when He returns to Heaven he takes the best home with Him." Our Prayers are for all the family.

Earl & Bonnie Barnes

Earl Barnes - Schenectady, NY - Friend - August 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Dicks friends at the Toy Modification Program wish to extend our condolences for the loss of a very special man. Dick worked diligently to try to have all disabled children in the Capital region supplied with modified toys. He will be missed, not only for his efforts, but for his great sense of humor; he always had a great story to tell.

Rest in peace Dick.

Earl Barness

Earl Barnes - Schenectady, NY - Friend - August 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard was such a good man. He delivered modified toys to our preschool program. He was clearly passionate about his work. He loved to show us the new toys and share ideas about what they were working on next. He genuinely cared about his work, always wanting feedback and checking up on how the children liked the toys. These toys have brought so much happiness to our students and allowed them to have experiences they might have otherwise missed. While his passing saddens us, the memory of the joy he took in what he did will forever warm our hearts. Thanks for everything, Richard. You will be missed.

The Spotted Zebra Learning Center - Albany, NY - Client - August 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM