



Richard "Dick" H. Kolander

December 2, 1934 - November 26, 2018

Richard "Dick" H. Kolander, age 83 of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away Monday, November 26, 2018 surrounded by his family. Dick was born on December 2, 1934 to parents Henry and Katherine (Danner) Kolander in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He met and later married Martha Fairbanks on September 20, 1958. He spent his life unselfishly and unwavering loving and caring for the love of his life. Together Dick and Mart enjoyed laughing and surrounding themselves with friends that loved life as much as they did. They welcomed everyone into their home, and generously shared their slice of life.

He was proud of his German heritage, which showed in his enjoyment of German Park and cooking sauerkraut dinners. He enjoyed many outdoor activities including golfing, boating, hunting, snowmobiling, and traveling. One of his favorite activities was giving back to the community he lived and worked in with the local Kiwanis Club. The men and their wives he met through the Kiwanis Club became family to him. He was an active member of Bethlehem United Church of Christ of Ann Arbor and later Christ Our King Lutheran Church of Saline. He looked forward to going to Florida each winter and spending time with even more friends.

His greatest joy came from being with his wife, children and grandchildren. Together, he and Marty provided a beautiful home, many adventures, and a zest for life as an example to his children. Although he worked hard and many hours, his biggest priority was always his family and those he loved. Through his love, generosity, and advice he earned an important place in the hearts everyone he met.

Dick started his career as a salesman for the Ann Arbor Newspaper and later transitioned into the automotive industry working for Boyer Automotive in the early 1960's. He eventually purchased Boyer Automotive and expanded it into seven locations serving Washtenaw County known as the Parts Peddler Automotive Supply. One of the proudest aspects of his business endeavors was mentoring and helping his employees' succeed in business and in life.

Dick is survived by his wife of 60 years, Martha Kolander; his children, Daniel (Sarah) Kolander and Betsy (Bret) James; his grandchildren, Robert Kolander, Danielle Kolander, Sadie Kolander, Henry Kolander, Westin James, Kate James, and Jennifer Ferguson.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at Christ Our King Lutheran Church, 3255 Saline Waterworks Road, Saline, at 2 pm. A memorial gathering will take place at 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, at Dick's request, please thoughtfully consider contributing in his name to: Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307, 248-651-9011 or

<https://www.leaderdog.org/donate/>

Events

DEC **Memorial Gathering** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

2

Christ Our King Lutheran Church

3255 Saline Waterworks Road, Saline, MI, US, 48176

DEC **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

2

Christ Our King Lutheran Church

3255 Saline Waterworks Road, Saline, MI, US, 48176

Comments



“ Marty and family - I remember all the good times we had with the Kiwanis group, you shared your lovely house with us many times. I also believe that we bowled together in the smokey Colonial Lanes. I am very sorry I could not make the funeral due to other commitments. I have sent a donation in Dick's name to the Leader Dogs for the Blind. Hope your sister, Jane, whom I often worked with at St. Joe's, is doing well. Take care of yourself, you had a wonderful marriage.....Mary Hill

Mary M. Hill - December 03, 2018 at 10:44 PM



“ Dear Bretsies...the Kolander's always knew how to have fun and my son Bret fell in love with not only you, Bets but fell into a wonderful family as well! ...I enjoyed beer and burgers with y'all at Dan's Bar, watching & cheering Michigan on to many victories, and pouted for their losses which was a "higher" volume of alcohol sales for Danny, ya know, "cry in your beer ;-) And a "nontraditional, traditional annual Christmas Eve dinner at you pop's favorite Chinese restaurant...great food, lotsa fun and a new experience for me! And least I forget his fond "nick name"...Dickie!

I hope and pray that you know how saddened Ray and I am for your loss. I only wish that Ray could've been in my life to share these experiences but he does have fond memories of the times we did share with you and your loving parents.

May you know that he is at peace and always be thankful for fond memories of him, and for the love he had for all of you! We send our thoughts and prayers and God bless and be with you at this special time. We love you. Sheri & Ray Crapo

Sheri & Ray Crapo - December 01, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ Betsy and family, I know we only met one time, but I consider your whole family my family. And my heart aches to know the pain you and your family are going thru, I can't imagine the pain you have or the sadness you have. My condolences to you and your family I will keep you and your family in my prayers and if there is anything you need please don't hesitate to call.

Alfredo Sanchez - November 30, 2018 at 07:20 PM



“ James Family, I remember meeting Dick one summer when you were all out for dinner. He was a classy gentleman. I know he was a significant, positive influence in your lives. We are sending heartfelt sympathy to you.

The Evinks

Mary Jane Evink - November 30, 2018 at 12:33 PM



“ Betsy and Family - so very sorry for the loss of your father. I know what an important part they play in our lives. It sounds like your Dad was a pretty amazing guy and will be missed by many. What a legacy to leave behind. Know that your friends are keeping you in our thoughts.

Barb Lulofs

Barb Lulofs - November 30, 2018 at 09:24 AM