



Richard A. Eklund

June 10, 1944 - January 13, 2015

Hampton, NH – Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. “Dick” Eklund, USA, (Ret.), 70, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, MA after a valiant battle against leukemia.

Dick was born June 10, 1944 in Norwood, MA, a son of the late Oiva and Ann (Waitkevich) Eklund.

Raised in Walpole, MA, he graduated from Walpole High School with the Class of 1962 where he played hockey and football, was Captain of the football team and Class President. Dick graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1966 where he had been recruited to play hockey and was also a star lacrosse player. After earning his commission, he was deployed to the Demilitarized Zone of Korea. Upon his return he was assigned to the Army Aviation Center at Ft. Rucker, AL, where he earned his pilot wings. Dick was then deployed to Vietnam as a twin engine U-21 pilot and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service and the Air Medal for sustained aerial flight in support of combat ground forces. On October 21, 1969, while on leave in Hawaii, Dick married the love of his life, Lydia (Reynolds) Eklund.

Upon his return from Vietnam, he served as an instructor pilot for the U-21 “Ute” aircraft at Fort Rucker. Following his active duty service, Dick flew for Delta Air Lines and continued to serve in the Army Reserve. He earned his master’s degree in systems management from the University of Southern California and was promoted to Delta Captain on the DC-9 in January, 1988, moving up to the 767-ER by the time he retired. While at Delta, Dick served as Council 9 Chairman for the Boston based Delta pilots, represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, International. A pilot volunteer and advocate, Dick was a mentor to new pilots. His knowledge and leadership benefited fellow pilots in retirement, insurance, strike preparedness and legislative affairs. Dick also served as Chair of New Hampshire Veterans for Wes Clark in his presidential-hopeful campaign.

He and Lydia moved to the NH Seacoast in 1973 where he loved to hike the mountains

and boat on Sebago Lake in Maine where they bought a cabin. An avid sportsman, Dick hiked every mountain he could find while on overnights during Delta trips throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He and Lydia travelled all over the world but some of their most precious times were with family, at home, by the pool, or at the cabin where he taught his nieces and nephews to waterski, fish and ice skate. He remained in the Army Reserve and with Delta, until his retirement from both in 2004.

In addition to Lydia, his cherished wife of over 45 years, Dick is survived by his brothers, David and his wife Mary of Tiburon, CA and Kenneth and his wife Tammy of Dallas, TX; his sister, Deb Costa and her husband Tony of Mendon, MA; his nieces, Emily Paasche, Laura Eklund, Alison Eddy, Edie Puig, Trish Cabral, Margot Neufeld and April Richardson; his nephews Jason Eklund, Andy Moseley and Adam Moseley and Dick's most beloved of his nine dogs, his poodle, Lola.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1 to 4 PM on Sunday, February 8, 2015 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Entombment with full military honors will be held at a later date in the columbaria at West Point Cemetery, alongside his fellow soldiers. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the NH SPCA, P.O. Box 196, Stratham, NH 03885 or to Leukemia Research for Dr. Amir Fathi, Massachusetts General Hospital, Development Office, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 1310, Boston, MA 02114, or online at www.giving.massgeneral.org/donate.

Cemetery

Events

West Point Cemetery

West Point, NY,

FEB **Celebration of Life** 01:00PM - 04:00PM

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Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ; Hampton, NH, US, 03842

Comments



“ So Sorry for your loss, I did not know Dick but I as a 18 year old bought his GTO while he was away in the service in 1969. I have had "his" car ever since and is still in the condition that I bought it (perfect) I always had a goal of meeting and showing him the car.

Rick Nashawaty

Richard Nashawaty - November 28, 2016 at 06:20 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Dick's passing. Dick had stopped by the house this past summer and it was so good to see him and talk about old times. I grew up on Bullard Street with Dick and have great memories of the times we had together, swimming and fishing on New Pond, playing football & basketball, and just being a great friend to me.

I will never forget Dick. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Richard Cesareo.

Richard Cesareo - February 08, 2015 at 01:02 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Dick was a great guy and always a pleasure to fly with.

John and Jane Maloney

John and Jane Maloney - February 08, 2015 at 12:01 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to all members of the family and sorry to say I cannot make it for the Celebration of Life I have great memories of playing football behind the Ecklund residence on Bullard Street as one of the Coolidge Road boys team versus the Bullard Street Boys team; which featured Richard Cesario, John Mustonen, Dick Ecklund among others, for the Bullard Street Gang and of course Dickey Lambson, Dave Johnson, Donald Ingram, and myself Frank "Fuzzy" Ferzoco for the Coolidge Road Gang. We were only 12 or so years old and played tackle with no pads or helmets, we didn't need them we were a tough bunch, and they certainly evoke great memories. Skating on New Pond, Norfolk Aggie Pond with Dick in those great pick up hockey games were also treasured memories as well. I am truly disappointed that I cannot make it to share in person these and other great memories I had with one of the greatest guys that i knew growing up in Walpole.

Frank Ferzoco

Frank Ferzoco - February 08, 2015 at 08:47 AM



“ Is this "Fuzzy" Ferzoco? I remember you well from my little kid days! So good to hear from you. Thank you for reaching out. Best, Deb (Eklund) Costa

Deb Costa - February 08, 2015 at 09:41 AM



“ Mary Mielcarz lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Eklund



Mary Mielcarz - February 06, 2015 at 04:42 PM



“ Lydia, Find all the comfort you can in the love and kind words of your family and friends. They won't replace the emptiness in your heart, but they help! Fondly, Susan Farrell

Susan Farrell - February 05, 2015 at 10:08 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard A. Eklund.



February 05, 2015 at 12:19 PM



“ MIKE CLOUTIER lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Eklund



MIKE CLOUTIER - February 04, 2015 at 02:30 PM



“ Although I do not know your family- I felt a nudge to send my sympathy along to all of you. May you find comfort and peace in your hearts. Lydia, may the love of family and friends sustain you and your memories uplift you... God Bless.

Renee - February 04, 2015 at 10:51 AM



“ Renee lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Eklund



Renee - February 04, 2015 at 10:45 AM



“ 43 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - February 02, 2015 at 01:12 PM



“ 74 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - February 02, 2015 at 10:18 AM



“ For Ken Eklund.

Ken, I am so sorry for your loss of your younger brother, Dick. My thoughts are with you and your family. Your high school classmate Helen Swanson Zinter, Hull, MA



Helen Zinter - January 29, 2015 at 10:32 AM



“ Lydia

So sorry to hear of Dick's passing. Dick and I were best friends in high school 1962. Such a great guy. I met you a couple of times at the reunions. When I moved to Walpole from Auburn Mass back in 1958 Dick was the first person that I met. He was always there for me and me for him. So sad
Bob Nethercote Cohasset, Mass

Bob Nethercote - January 25, 2015 at 08:26 PM



“ Hi Bob, Thank you for reaching out. I remember you well even though I was just a little PIA sister and it is great to hear from you. Deb (Eklund) Costa

Deb Costa - February 08, 2015 at 09:39 AM



“ Dear Lydia, Thank you so much for thinking to call me today. As you know, I loved Dick and always looked forward to seeing you and him whenever you had a project at the house that needed doing. The way in which he handled himself during his illness really was an inspiration to me and I will never forget that. My heart goes out to you - I know how much you loved him.
Please know that I am here to offer any assistance that you may need in this very difficult time.

Love,
Joe Terravecchia

Joe Terravecchia - January 23, 2015 at 06:56 PM



“ My condolences to your family on Dick's passing. In the times I flew with Dick I remember him as friendly, competent and always professional !
Dave Carson
Delta Ret.

Dave Carson - January 23, 2015 at 01:47 PM



“ Dear Lydia,
My heart goes out to all of you at this time. Dick was a fighter right to the end. He was a wonderful and kind man. He will be remembered and missed by so many. He may have left this earth, but he will be in your heart forever. Treasure all your beautiful memories. My deepest sympathy and love.
Janet Emard

Janet Emard - January 22, 2015 at 08:21 AM



“ Dear Lydia (and Lola),

From all your friends at Mass General, we will be forever grateful for having the opportunity to know Dick. His courage, humor and grace, even in the most difficult of circumstances, was an inspiration to all. May the many wonderful memories you shared together be a source of comfort and healing in the days ahead. God bless,

Bob O'Brien

Bob O'Brien - January 21, 2015 at 12:25 PM



“ Love you forever and more, SP! Your sister Yammie :-))

Deb Costa - January 21, 2015 at 11:07 AM