



Richard F Martel

May 2, 1935 - February 10, 2021

THURSDAY'S VISITATION AND FRIDAY'S FUNERAL MASS HAVE BEEN CANCELED. The family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy and understanding in this difficult time.

Richard Martel, 85, of Oceanport, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on February 10. Richard and his late wife, Bonnie Gillespie Martel, were residents of Oceanport for over 55 years. Richard and Bonnie are survived by their four children, Richard Jr., Christopher, Stephanie, and Olivia. Also by their daughter-in-laws, Carlene Martel and Mary Martel, as well as their son-in-law, Christopher Giberson. Richard was also survived by his two sisters, Lorraine Therrien and Arlene Bouchard. Richard has three beautiful grandchildren, Ellie, Grace, and Martel, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Incredibly smart and a bit quirky. Eager to solve problems, weighing each option carefully as he went. Amused by his own good fortune. Overall, Richard had a slow and steady approach to life. His persistence and dedication to live simply and live with honor is evident in the vast array of people whose life he touched along the way. He loved his wife and his family more than anything and was always eager to share proud stories about them with whomever would listen. Richard had a sharp mind and could often be

found using his intellect to help people. In fact, when he was only ten-years-old, back in his hometown of West Springfield, Massachusetts, Richard had a special knack for fixing broken radios. And by the time he was only twelve, he would graduate to fixing the neighborhood's TVs. He had the patience to read any kind of instruction manual and then the enthusiasm to explain it back to you, step-by-step.

Richard attended UMASS-Amherst and due to ROTC, was sent to Fort Monmouth to formally join the Army the very day he graduated from college. His time served was dedicated to helping make sure the telecommunications portion of that branch's operations ran smoothly. The way he described it to his kids in later years, it sort of sounded like he was a top secret agent! Who knows if that was the case but it always sounded exciting. Either way, his efforts were important to him and to the service.

As an electrical engineer, he was involved in such cutting edge projects as the first breathalyzer and the first speed radar gun. Later in his career, he became heavily involved in construction, actually overseeing a multi-million dollar expansion at CentraState Medical Center. A bit shy and reserved, Richard was fine with taking the lead when it came to technical matters and quietly reveled in doing so. This could be at his place of employment, when he would volunteer building houses with Habitat for Humanity, or at his own properties. A voracious reader and an introvert at heart, he knew his strengths and he was content with them.

He loved simple pleasures like the roar of a corvette, the sweetness of a black and white milkshake, and jazz or classical music (his two favorites) as they played in each room of his house. He loved going on boat rides, especially when it meant seeing fireworks together. And he always loved flying his little plane. Whether it was his family, a neighbor, a co-worker, or someone he had just met, Richard was always focused on giving back. It just came naturally to

him to try to be of service to those around him and to provide any sort of help that he could.

We love you, Dad. Rest in peace.

Visitation will be Thursday, February 18th from 4-7pm at Bongarzone Funeral Home, Tinton Falls. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please consider giving to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in Richard's honor as those were the two charities closest to his heart.

For directions and online condolences, please visit Richard's memorial page at www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com

Due to limited capacity, we ask that you keep your visit brief so that all guests will be able to offer their condolences. Masks must be worn on the nose and mouth inside the funeral home at all times. Thank you for your kindness during this difficult time.

Cemetery Details

Woodbine Cemetery & Mausoleum

1173 Eatontown Blvd
Oceanport, NJ 07757

Previous Events

CANCELLED

FEB 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ

Tribute Wall

KG

“ Rick, Chris, Stephanie and Olivia .. our thoughts and prayers are with you during this tough time on the passing of your dad. Dick was one of the most wonderful neighbors ever! We shared so many stories all the time! Whenever something broke in our house and we asked him for a recommendation of a contractor, he would say “don’t waste your money, I’ll be right over”! He fixed things no matter how long it took him! Such a sweet and caring man. During the Sandy Storm, Lisa was living here alone and we were in Maryland. She was very unnerved by the storm and he came over and calmly showed her how to operate the generator and talked her through any of the things that could happen and how they could handle whatever came along together. He was a God send to her, she always says he was one of the kindest men she ever met! And he loved our German Shepherd dogs too! First Banner and now Baron! When I would be walking Baron (who is a handful) he would always say “who’s winning today”! My response was almost always ... Baron is winning! And I think your dad really enjoyed my baked goodies I would drop off to him on the holidays! Dick left his mark on all of our lives for so many years and will always be loved and missed ❤️ Ron, Karen and Lisa

Karen Gornto - February 18, 2021 at 01:52 PM

GI

“ Gina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard F Martel.



Gina - February 17, 2021 at 10:46 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard F Martel.*



February 15, 2021 at 01:33 PM



“ *Dick Martel was a great friend: kind, generous ,intelligent, fun to be with, helpful, and caring. My wife Fran and I enjoyed many times with him, Bonnie, Rick, Chris, Stephanie, and Olivia. We joined them on the beach, in their backyard, and at both our dinner tables. Dick had a nice laugh I think I can recall. He worked hard to maintain and improve some investment property he owned in Red Bank. The Martel family was an important part of our lives while we lived in the Oceanport area; - Frank Dworak*

Francis Dworak - February 15, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ *Much love, Aunt Lorraine and Aunt Arlene purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Richard F Martel.*



Much love, Aunt Lorraine and Aunt Arlene - February 15, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Richard F Martel.*



February 13, 2021 at 06:44 PM



“ *Sending our condolences from afar in ARizona . Such warm memories of Dick that will always be there. Many “chance meetings “ over our garbage coral fence as he often tinkered on the cars. He was as the character named Wilson on the other side of the fence in the Home Improvement Sitcom to me. We would converse about “the kids “ . His children were his whole world - He was so proud of you and so loved you Stephanie, Olivia , Rick and Chris and dear grandchildren. Always available to be a helpful friend and neighbor to share his wisdom knowledge and skills. We remain grateful for his presence in our life. May he Rest In Peace with his beloved Bonnie riding Heavens Highway together in a Corvette free spirits again. Love and Prayers to you Stephanie Olivia Rick and Chris ❤️🙏 Theresa and Jeff Felzenberg*

Theresa Felzenberg - February 12, 2021 at 11:52 AM



“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Richard F Martel*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 10, 2021 at 06:34 PM