



Richard J. Sturzebecher

June 7, 1935 - February 9, 2024

Richard J. Sturzebecher, 88 years old of Tinton Falls, NJ. formerly of Penfield and Perry, NY, passed away on Friday February 9, 2024. He was born on June 7, 1935 in Perry, NY to the late Adolph and Hazel M. (Bump) Stuerzebecher.

Richard was a 1952 graduate of Perry Central School. By 1958 Richard received a Bachelor of Science degree in Ceramic Engineering from Alfred University and in 1962 he graduated from Lehigh University with an MBA.

After graduating from Alfred, Richard was a member of the United States (US) Army Signal Corps (Captain) and assigned to Research at Fort Monmouth. Later he worked for Corning, Bell Labs, Western Electric and then Xerox. With his drive for innovation, Richard was involved with the development of fiber optics, and the breakthrough with toner along with other accomplishments. Richard understood the user's needs, the technology and finance required to accomplish these remarkable advancements.

By 1981 Richard accepted a position with the US Army CECOM at Fort

Monmouth, New Jersey and finished a distinguished 30-year career before retiring in 2011. He and his wife Sally of 66 years enjoyed the metropolitan area with various hobbies and was devoted to his family. His favorite hobbies were playing the guitar, country music, performing folk dance with the Red Bank Folk Dancing group, sports, travel, history and playing games and puzzles with his grandchildren.

He is survived by wife: Sally, sons: Karl of Elkridge, Maryland, Alex (Lucy) of Toms River, New Jersey, Dana (Robin) of Cary, North Carolina, grandchildren: Geena and Yoshi, Angelo, Riley, Owen, Ava and Quin along with many cousins and friends. Along with his parents he is preceded in death by his brother Robert and sister Helen Stuerzebecher.

Family and friends may visit from 2 - 4 pm on Saturday February 17th at the Bongarzone Funeral Home located at 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

“People will respond to you well and professionally if you’re a hard worker.”

- Richard James Sturzebecher

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(732) 918-6200

Tribute Wall

“Eulogy: Read on February 17, 2024 by Karl Sturzebecher

Like my father I love folk dancing and my favorite dance is Flamenco with my favorite teacher Natalia who said: “Karl. We have a Jewish saying: May his memory be a blessing. As long as he is remembered and his stories are retold - he lives on in your memories.”

When I went through the pictures with my brother and sister-in-law (Dana and Robin) for the video and also writing our Dad’s accomplishments, recalling my conversations with my Dad. I am truly amazed by this gentleman. He always did his BEST!... overcoming the challenges of life and he continued even into retirement looking for ways to help human kind.

He was an athlete. From high school basketball to college Football. And I remember Dad loading us up the car on a Saturday to see an Alfred college football game. We were also lucky because our Dad was out on the front lawn playing touch football with us or it was a heated summer basketball game on the front driveway. All neighborhood kids were invited no matter what their skill level was. We had FUN! I learned how throw a curve ball from my Dad. Even though my Dad didn’t play baseball but he knew how to throw!

He was a Captain in the Army ... He didn’t want to stay on the farm ... this man had bigger ideas and the United States Army Signal corps provided the perfect opportunity. He was a researcher, a scientist, an inventor and he had ideas for creating new products and ways of life. We today are using many of his ideas and don’t even know it. Every time you make a copy on copier with toner that was my father’s idea. When I was studying to be an electrical engineer it was my Dad that showed me exactly how electrons flow in a PNP transistor junction. Those were evenings of learning with him I will never forget!

Games .. My brothers and I had our quiet chest tournaments during

the holidays with him. Then there was the rowdy evening penguin card game every night after dinner in the winter. One of my favorite memories was sled riding during the YMCA family winter event. There was this old mansion with a 200 foot long path winding path down to the shores of Irondequoit Bay. I will never forget his smile riding these sleds going side by side.

My Dad would get out there and do things. Like 4th of July swim across Silver Lake in New York and back with my Uncle Herby without life jacket. When I was 5 years old, I became very angry at these so called friends for making fun my grandpa Carr. I walked out of the house yet it was my Dad walking with me while explaining his friend's were only teasing.

He loved country and folk music. His guitar playing was remarkable. He played at many services at Faith Lutheran Church in Rochester or the neighborhood Christmas parties back in Penfield. I remember sing a longs with him in the family room back in Penfield. There were Classic songs he would play and sing like: "Someone's in the kitchen with Dina," "There's a hole in the middle of the bottom of the lake" where you can add that log in the hole, then a frog on the log. The best song he loved to sing was "You are my sunshine." Now that I think about, he was sing to us. We were his sunshine.

Our Dad was a warm, decent loving man. He loved his family! He was generous and understanding... he accomplished the best part of his life which was the Sturzebecher clan with the grandchildren and soon a great grandchild coming this May. He was that person in the background that helped guide you in the right direction. Sure, there are life challenges - chaos and confusion and now we have to grow ourselves up and figure it out ourselves. The thing is ... He knew this and he left us with a with a song. Merle Haggard's version Remember Me I am the one who loves you." When you leave here today, please remember Richard James Sturzebecher. He was a blessing to us all. I personally will miss his big hugs. Father to son!

Karl Sturzebecher - February 19, 2024 at 09:23 PM

WA

“ We Love You, Dana, Robin, Owen & Ava purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



We Love You, Dana, Robin, Owen & Ava - February 16, 2024
at 07:47 AM

WA

“ We Love You, Dana, Robin, Owen & Ava planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

We Love You, Dana, Robin, Owen & Ava - February 16, 2024 at 07:47 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



February 16, 2024 at 04:56 AM

HP

“ I assembled a selection of photos of Richard at the Scandinavian dance and dance performances. (I uploaded 3 to this memorial page)

You can view them at
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/B4GzQBpDDgpxkjKc9>

You should be able to download photos if you want to
And you can view them one by one or choose the Slideshow option
form the menu (click on the three doth on the top right of the screen)

Hadas Parag (Garwood, NJ)

Hadas Parag - February 15, 2024 at 11:49 PM

HP

“ I have been dancing with Richard during the last 20 years – since I moved to NJ – at our Scandinavian dance group, occasionally at international folk dances, and the International folk couple dance. And then I danced with him even more once I joined the Monmouth Folk Dancers performance group, of which he has been a member for years.

A good dancer, a supporting dance partner, and always a very kind and gentle person.

At the last years he had many difficulties in dancing – hip, heart attack, dizziness. But he managed to continue dancing and even performing. He knew how to tackle a dance so that he could lead his partner to the right places, while he paced himself down. We were as upset as he was when his dizziness finally made dancing too hard and dangerous for him.

Hadas Parag (Garwood, NJ)

Hadas Parag - February 15, 2024 at 11:47 PM

HP

“ 3 files added to the album *Richard the Folk Dancer*



Hadas Parag - February 15, 2024 at 11:44 PM



“ *Celestial Love* was purchased for the family of *Richard J. Sturzebecher*.



February 15, 2024 at 07:04 PM

BG

“ *Brian and Dina Gould* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Richard J. Sturzebecher*.

Brian and Dina Gould - February 15, 2024 at 07:04 PM

LK

“ *Love, Geena, Tim, Riley, Julia and Karl* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of *Richard J. Sturzebecher*.



Love, Geena, Tim, Riley, Julia and Karl - February 15, 2024 at 03:12 PM

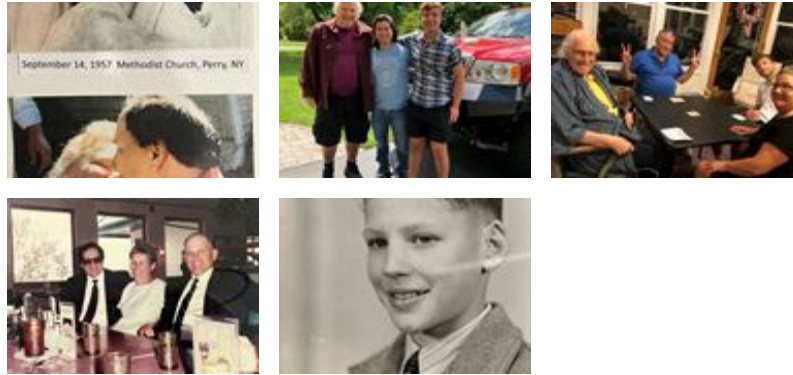
LK

“ Love, Geena, Tim, Riley, Julia and Karl planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

Love, Geena, Tim, Riley, Julia and Karl - February 15, 2024 at 03:12 PM

Bongarzone

“ 74 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 15, 2024 at 01:13 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album *Good Morning*



Karl Sturzebecher - February 14, 2024 at 10:07 PM

GM

“ Gene & Linda, Gene & Jenny, Jim, Melissa purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



Gene & Linda, Gene & Jenny, Jim, Melissa - February 14, 2024 at 08:13 PM

GM

“ Gene & Linda, Gene & Jenny, Jim, Melissa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

Gene & Linda, Gene & Jenny, Jim, Melissa - February 14, 2024 at 08:13 PM

LH

“ Love: Herb, Mitzi, Craig, Mary, Tim, Carolyn purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



Love: Herb, Mitzi, Craig, Mary, Tim, Carolyn - February 13, 2024 at 08:11 PM

LH

“ Love: Herb, Mitzi, Craig, Mary, Tim, Carolyn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

Love: Herb, Mitzi, Craig, Mary, Tim, Carolyn - February 13, 2024 at 08:11 PM

KR

“ Richard was a wonderful dancer, always moved smoothly and made his partner look and feel good. He especially enjoyed Atabaks polkateering, which he called "duck walks." I admired his creative efforts to solve energy storage problems for solar arrays. He is missed by all who know him!

Kathryn Riss - February 13, 2024 at 04:47 PM

YK

“ you. Mary Beth, Brian, & Katherine purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



you. Mary Beth, Brian, & Katherine - February 13, 2024 at 01:38 PM

AI

“ Ada & Igor purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



Ada & Igor - February 12, 2024 at 03:48 PM

AI

“ Ada & Igor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

Ada & Igor - February 12, 2024 at 03:48 PM

CS

“ Cadence Design Systems purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard J. Sturzebecher.



Cadence Design Systems - February 12, 2024 at 03:35 PM

CS

“ Cadence Design Systems planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard J. Sturzebecher.

Cadence Design Systems - February 12, 2024 at 03:35 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Richard J. Sturzebecher



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 10, 2024 at 05:19 PM