Richard Edwards

August 15, 1931 - June 18, 2014

Richard W. Edwards died after a lengthy illness on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at the Victory Village retirement community in Lindenhurst, Illinois. He was born August 15, 1931 in Sullivan, Illinois, the son of Ralph E. and Ruth (Wilson) Edwards. The family moved to Streator, Illinois, where Richard (called Dick by his family and friends) attended elementary school and high school. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in the Teaching of Biological Sciences and General Science at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1953. Upon graduation he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve and served as a supply officer at Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota. Following his tour of military service he returned to the University of Illinois to complete a master's degree in Biology and then began teaching high school biology in Skokie, Illinois. After a few years he accepted a teaching position at Highland Park High School where he taught for many years until his retirement.

Dick was very fond of traveling and spent many of his summers combining travel and study to broaden the scope of his teaching in the biological sciences. He was particularly fond of regions in the far north and his travels took him to such places as Canada, Baffinland, Siberia and Greenland. He also spent some time at a U.S. Naval research station on an ice island in the Arctic Ocean. But most of all he was fond of traveling to Alaska and spent many summers exploring its remote corners in his truck camper.

In retirement his travels eventually took him to five continents, including four trips to Antarctica.

Richard is survived by his sister Nancy (Frederick) Littmann of Stevens Point,Wisconsin, his brother John (Margaret) Edwards of New Holland, Pennsylvania, and 6 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. A celebration of his life will be held at the Village at Victory Lakes, 1055 E. Grand Ave. Lindenhurst, IL 60046 on July 15, 2014, at 1:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Richard's name may be made to the Richard Edwards Scholarship Fund and sent to Daniel Venturi, 146 Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 1107, Lake Villa, IL 60046. On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.ringafuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Village at Victory Lakes
1055 E. Grand Ave.
Lindenhurst, IL 60046

Tribute Wall

Richard Edwards

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM

Richard Edwards

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM

HG

Dick was a great guy! It was always fun to listen to him talk about his adventures to Alaska, well before it was a popular destination. He was a real adventurer. He was a colleague at HPHS who was never afraid to share his "opinions".
I've known him since 1969. One fond memory was when I had to go to HPHS one day right after school was out for the summer--it was 1974. We were walking down the hall with our 2 year old daughter. He stopped, talked, and handed her a coin (a nickel, I think), and said to her "Hear, young lady. Start saving for college!"
I will miss him, especially at our "retired faculty" breakfasts.
Rest in peace, friend.

Harlan Goldberg
Glenview, IL

Harlan Goldberg - July 03, 2014 at 02:17 PM

SK

I got to know Dick better after my retirement from HPHS in 1999 when we shared many stories about each of our travels at the retirees breakfasts. Dick was especially excited for me about the trip that my husband and I were taking to Antarctica in 2010, where Dick had been four times. I always enjoyed talking with him and sending some photos to him of our photo safaris in Africa as well as from our Antarctica trip. He sent me the wonderful nature DVDs that he had made. His enthusiasm was contagious as was his overall zest for life.

Sylvia Kerpel
Wilmette, IL

Sylvia Kerpel - June 30, 2014 at 12:36 PM

HS

We also had a friendship of 40 or more years. Shared many experiences in our teaching at Highland Park HIgh School and travels together. The wildest being the March of 1995 Iditarod Race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. I hope others will be able to share your two beautiful nature CDs of native birds and wildflowers.

Penny Spencer
Adrian, Michigan

Hildreth Spencer - June 29, 2014 at 12:16 PM

LD

We had a lasting friendship surviving 4 decades. Dick will forever be in my heart. I will miss our many laughs and shared dinners at Hackney's. I will miss his nature presentations and discussions about using his computer. I will miss the stories from his many adventures around the world. He loved to be outdoors and wanted take one more trip to Alaska in his RV. He is at peace. Linda

linda davis - June 22, 2014 at 10:07 PM

MB

Dick and I graduated From Streator Township High School 65 years ago and have always kept in touch. Will miss his yearly "newsletter" of his travels that always accompanied his Christmas card. RIP dear friend.
Marge Balke,
Grand Ridge, Illinois

Marge Balke - July 12, 2014 at 09:09 AM