



Richard Peckham

March 1, 1924 - August 19, 2012

Richard Stark Peckham, 88, of Fort Myers, Florida passed away August 19, 2012.

He was born March 1, 1924 in Concord, New Hampshire the son of Warren and Alice (Huntley) Peckham

He proudly served in the United States Army during WW II. He received a purple heart, a bronze star, a wounded warrior who with many helped ensure the future of our country and the free world.

After the war, Richard graduated from the University of New Hampshire and entered the US Army Medical Corps and was posted to Guatemala. He did malaria research work designed to find treatments for the disease and there met and married Elizabeth Luttmann in 1950.

After their marriage, they moved to South Bend, Indiana where Richard finished his formal education at the University of Notre Dame, graduating with a PhD in Biology.

In South Bend Indiana the first 3 of their 9 children were born. After graduating, Richard moved his family to Corpus Christi Texas , where he began his long and distinguished teaching career at Del Mar College. The

next 3 Peckham siblings were born in Texas.

In 1959 He moved his family again to Poughkeepsie, New York where he took a new position as a professor at Dutchess Community College. A few short years later in 1964 the family moved again to Newburgh, New York where Richard spent more than 30 years teaching Biology to nursing students at Mount Saint Mary's College. In New York the last 3 of 9 children were born.

A runner during his high school days, Richard took up the sport again for exercise and soon became an avid racer, competing in more than 200 races including several marathons. He won awards in many races and ran for more than 20 years into his late 70's.

Richard had a wonderful sense of humor and was always ready with a joke or dry witticism. Later in life he wrote jokes and gags as a hobby and sold them to many cartoonists, who would draw the pictures to match his written humor.

Richard was a self made man who worked hard, was reliable and self reliant. He was not a wealthy man but he and Elizabeth always had everything they needed and as long as he was alive those around him benefited from his generosity.

Throughout their lives Richard and Elizabeth maintained strong relationships with their extended family in Guatemala. Elizabeth's parents, Edna and Fred, her brothers Johnny and Fred, their wives Ruby and Titta and their many children were always on their minds and many visits over the years kept them close. Together they shared the losses and happiness of life and all grieve today and yesterday at the passing of the elders.

Richard retired In 1987 and in 1993 moved with his beloved Elizabeth to Fort Myers, Florida where they spent 14 happy years until Elizabeth died in 2007.

They were members of The Church of the Resurrection and volunteered many hours to Catholic Hispanic Social Services and The Right to Life.

After Elizabeth passed away, Richard lived briefly in New Jersey and New York before returning to Fort Myers. Richard's health began to decline until he died in August of 2012 surrounded by his family.

He leaves to cherish his loving memory, 9 children and their spouses, Michael and Bernardita Peckham, Catherine Walden, Stephen Peckham, Frances and Paul Kosko, Anne and Michael Roslin, Geraldine Peckham, Jane and Alan Potts, Susan and James Jasinski, and Roberta and Brian Cleveland, 23 grandchildren, Mike, Jon, his wife Leah, Hannah, Emily, Stephen, Melissa her husband, Tom, Gillian, Kelsea, Paul, Jessie, Jason, David, William, John Luke, Nick, Dylan, Alison, James, Zachary, Alex, Brittney, Samantha and Daniel, and great grandchild Maeple and one more due in January 2013.

He was a highly educated and generous man who loved and cared for his family until the day he died.

His beloved spouse of 57 years, Elizabeth is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

He will be buried there with military honors in the spring of 2013. Attendance at the burial ceremony in Arlington can be arranged through family members.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Richard's loving memory may be made to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908 (www.hopehcs.org)

Funeral arrangements under the direction of Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc., 4224 Cleveland Ave, Suite 1, Fort Myers, Florida 33901 239-

274-0088. Online condolences may be made at www.gendronfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Peckham*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Richard Peckham*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *My condolences to Dick's family.*

I remember him as quick witted and active in faculty affairs at MSMC. One of the 'war horses' who helped make the Mount to be what it is.

Dick and all of you will be in my prayers - especially this Sunday.
Kate Lindemann

Kate Lindemann - September 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM