



## Richard Rea Reed

February 17, 1938 - December 12, 2024

Dr. Richard Rea Reed

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Dr. Richard Rea Reed, a devoted family man, orthodontist, and cherished member of his community, passed away on December 12, 2024, at the age of 86.

Born on February 17, 1938, to Rea and Anne Reed, Richard grew up in Burlington, Vermont, where he would later return to build both his career and a life rich with love, laughter, and service. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Marilyn MacKenzie, and her husband, Dick Mackenzie; his sons, Timothy Reed and Christopher Reed; and his granddaughter, Caitlin Donohue.

Richard leaves behind his beloved wife of 66 years, Barbara, whose steadfast partnership was the cornerstone of his life. He is also survived by his two daughters, Jane Dodson and Annie Spencer and her husband, William Spencer; his niece, Leslee Mackenzie; his eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his loyal dog, Piper.

Richard's life was marked by his love of golf, spending summers on Lake Champlain, and a deep commitment to helping others. Whether perfecting his golf swing, enjoying his boat on the shimmering waters of the lake, or guiding patients toward brighter smiles, he embraced every role with passion and humility.

Education and service were defining pillars of Richard's life. After completing

his undergraduate studies at the University of Vermont, he pursued his dream of dentistry at McGill University, where he earned his dental degree. During this time, he married his college sweetheart, Barbara, and together they embarked on a journey that blended family, career, and adventure.

Following his dental studies, Richard served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. His time in the Navy introduced him to the field of orthodontics, which became his professional calling. He pursued advanced training at the University of Buffalo, earning his certificate in orthodontics and a master's degree in 1967.

Returning to Burlington, Vermont, Richard founded Champlain Orthodontic Association, serving countless patients across the region for 41 years. His pioneering spirit and dedication to excellence transformed orthodontic care in Vermont, leaving a legacy that will endure for generations.

Outside of work, Richard's heart was anchored in his family that he adored. His boundless generosity and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others were evident in every aspect of his life. His memory will live on in the smiles of those he helped, the laughter he shared with so many on the golf greens, and the enduring bond of his cherished family.

A celebration of Richard's life for all his Florida friends will be on Friday, December 27, 2024 from 4:00-6:00 at The River House at Verandah. A celebration of his life for all his Vermont friends up in Burlington will be shared at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or any charity close to your heart in honor of Richard's lifelong dedication to helping others.

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ *Bob & Joyce Desautels & Family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Richard Rea Reed.*



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**Bob & Joyce Desautels & Family** - December 23, 2024 at 09:52 PM

BF

“ *Bob & Joyce Desautels & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Rea Reed.*

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**Bob & Joyce Desautels & Family** - December 23, 2024 at 09:52 PM

MM

“ *The loss of this man is so heartbreaking. However, I find comfort in knowing that he lived life to its fullest potential. My Uncle Shoeman always had a smile on his face whenever I saw him. Growing up, I made so many fun memories with him at his lake house in Vermont. From boat rides to tubing, he always made sure we were having a good time. He was so sweet and loving. I wish I had the chance to see him one more time and give him a hug. I know that our family will continue to keep his legacy alive. I will forever love and miss him. Sending love and prayers to the Reed Family during this tough time.*

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**Molly Manczak** - December 20, 2024 at 08:24 AM

DW

*Sending our deepest condolences to Dicks wife family and friends. May he rest in peace 🙏*

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**Debra R Worth & Thomas Worth** - December 22, 2024 at 02:00 PM

RS

*Barbara and Family: I just learned about Dick. My deepest condolences. Dick was a wonderful classmate and football player. Dick Shepard BHS 1956*

Richard Shepard - January 12, 2025 at 02:28 PM

CB

*Dick Reed was not only a cherished colleague but one of my best friends. Though humble in all he did he was outstanding in his knowledge and skill in his professional life. He was formidable opponent on the golf course and the racquet ball court. I bought too many breakfasts after losing a Friday match. He and I would frequently sit on his deck just to connect, to talk about family, politics, the state of the world and to express appreciation for our blessings. I will miss him deeply. Chuck Bowen*

Charles R Bowen - January 24, 2025 at 03:47 PM

DP

*I was one of Dr. Reed's first patients when he had only about 10 boxes of impressions on his shelf. He made going through orthodontia tolerable for this high schooler who is now 71. I brought both of my children to Dr. Reed for treatment as well. He remembered me and immediately asked to see my teeth!*

Dianne Prebo - May 16, 2025 at 04:47 PM

KS

*Sorry to hear of Dick's passing. Good friend for many years. RIP . Ken Spagnuolo and family.*

ken Spagnuolo - May 17, 2025 at 06:42 PM

KS

*sorry to hear of Dicks passing. Good friend for many years. RIP*

ken Spagnuolo - May 17, 2025 at 06:44 PM

PA

*Just learned of Dick's passing. A good man, and always encouraging to me professionally. Condolences!  
Peter J. Abell DMD*

Peter Abell - June 05, 2025 at 01:46 PM