



Mr. Richard J. Shay

August 13, 1932 - June 24, 2016

Richard J. Shay, 83, of Cortland, passed away June 24, 2016 at Iroquois Nursing Home, Jamesville, New York. Mr. Shay was born August 13, 1932, in Binghamton, the son of Dr. William and Marion Shay.

Richard grew up in Cortland and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1950. He received his bachelor's degree from LeMoyne College in 1954 before serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1954 - 1957. While in the Marine Corps, he served as Infantry Platoon Leader and Military Police Company Executive Officer. Following his military service, Richard attended St. John's University College of Law where he received his juris doctor degree in 1961.

He served the Cortland community as a private attorney, beginning in 1962 with the law firm of Haskell and Foley, which became Haskell, Foley, and Shay. During that time, he also served as Cortland City Prosecutor. In 1969, he was elected County, Family, and Surrogate Court Judge, holding that position until 1975, when he was appointed Special Prosecutor for Central New York for the Attorney General nursing home investigation. In 1977, he resumed private practice with the firm of Haskell, Foley, Meldrim and Shay, which later became Shay, Meldrim and Mack. In 1979, he was elected Cortland County District Attorney, serving the county in that capacity until 1997. After leaving the district attorney's office, Richard served as a United States Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration until 2001.

Richard was the founder, first president and member of the Board of Directors of Volunteer Family Counseling Service, Inc., now known as Family Counseling Services, Inc. He also served on the board of directors of many additional local organizations, including St. Mary's School, Boy Scouts, March of Dimes, Lourdes Camp, Cortland County Business Development Corporation, Alliance Bank, J.M. Murray Center, Cortland YMCA, and the Newman Foundation at SUNY Cortland. He also served on the Cortland City Board of Education. Richard enjoyed teaching administrative law as an adjunct assistant professor at SUNY Cortland.

Richard devoted much of his time to coaching basketball. He coached at St. Mary's High School (1962-1970), George Junior Republic High School (1972-1975), McGraw High School (1976-1978) and St. Mary's School eighth grade (1980-1984).

He is survived by his children, Maggie (John) Bardsley of Cortland, John (Lisa McChesney) Shay of Severna Park, MD, Patrick (Marybeth Leonard) Shay of Newburyport, MA, Eileen Shay of Rochester, Daniel (Kerry Graham) Shay of Madison, CT, Andrew (Sheila Andrade) Shay of Guilford, CT, and Robert (Jennifer Mudge) Shay of Atlanta, GA; 18 grandchildren, Katie, T.J., and Clare Bardsley, Daniel, Molly, Michael, Robbie, Annie, Jack, Billy, Matthew, Danny, Logan, Griffin, Everly, Grace, Emily, and Colin Shay; a sister, Sandra Forrest of Watkins Glen; a brother, Tony (Joan) Shay of Summerfield, FL; sisters-in-law, Ann Mulholland of Jupiter, FL, and Ginny Mulholland of Point Lookout, NY; and several nieces and nephews.

Richard is preceded in death by his loving wife, Dorothy Mulholland Shay, his son, Edwin M. Shay, and his brothers-in-law Eugene Waters and Edwin Mulholland.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00a.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church with Father Joseph Zareski as celebrant. Prayers of committal will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

The Shay family will be present to receive friends from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in the chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home, 69 N. Main Street, Cortland.

The family asks that contributions in Richard's memory be made to St. Mary's School, 61 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045.

Tribute Wall

PM

“ *Our sincere condolences to the entire Shay family.xhwxh*

Pat and Jim McChesney - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

BR

“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Barb Rood - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

MA

“ *Sad to hear of Richard's passing. My sincerest condolences to his family.*

Manuel Andrade - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

PD

“ *We are sorry of the pasting of Dick, He gave so much to the the community. When we think of the Shay family lots of "kids" full of life and joy, just caring people! We are thankful we knew the Shays it has made us better individuals. Our prayers for all the family!*

Pat & Gary David - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

EB

“ *We are sorry we are unable to be with you at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at the passing of your dear dad. The Tribute of him in the newspaper is only a fraction of the impact on the Cortland Community. On going is the beautiful family he and your mom helped to shape. You are the tribute to them! May God bless you all as you begin to absorb this change in your lives. We all are thankful for his service and the community is better because of it. May God grant him eternal rest. Love to all.Ed & Mary/aka:Mom-Dad/ Grammy & Poppy*

Ed & Mary Bardsley - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

EB

“ *We cannot forget, nor will we ever forget how much your dad (and your mom) did for our dear daughter, Annette, during her illness.Ever grateful,The Bardsley Family*

Ed & Mary Bardsley - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

DC

“ Mr. Shay, or "Coach" as we knew him, was a fine gentleman and man of faith. It was a privilege to know him. Dc. Tom Cuskey Iroquois Nursing Home

Dc. Tom Cuskey - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

L(

“ I just wanted to say how sorry I am to hear that your father has passed away. I always thought the world of your dad when I use to come to your mom and dad's house when my mom was cleaning and then more so when I worked for him, Tom and Marty. Words can't describe how much my heart breaks right no for each of you. Hugs and prayers.

Laurie Forbes (Rood) - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

LC

“ Please accept the most heartfelt sympathies of Le Moyne College. We hope the love and memories that you will forever hold in your heart bring you peace and comfort during this difficult time. Le Moyne College, Office of Alumni and Parent Programs Syracuse, NY

Le Moyne College - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM

JC

“ I first met Dick in September of 1971 on the day I was being interviewed for a probation officer position. He was then County Judge, and I was taken to his chambers by the Probation Director, who told me ahead of time that if Dick didn't like me ["gave me the fish eye"], I wouldn't get the job. I got the job, and every good thing that happened to me for the next 31+ years of my working life started that day. I was honored to work in his courts and to witness the wonderful genesis of Family Counseling, and to be able to confide in him and have his mentorship through his years as District Attorney. He remained a faithful friend even beyond my retirement and always had a good word for me. I will always remember him as a key "leg up" person in my life' and count his friendship and encouragement among my great blessings. Praying for his beautiful soul and wonderful family.

Jim Cunningham - May 18, 2018 at 10:57 AM