



W. Richard de Wees

June 8, 1945 - August 14, 2023

W. Richard de Wees, age 78, of Parker Ford, PA, passed away on Monday, August 14, 2023 at home. Born on June 8, 1945 in Valley Forge, PA, he was a son of the late William and Edith W. (Compton) Dewees. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Fay V. Heffernen and Edith M. Toth.

Rick was a graduate of Phoenixville Area High School. He went on to serve with the Army National Guard of Pennsylvania for more than 5 years ending his enlistment with the rank of Sergeant. He continued to enjoy studying military history through his lifetime. Rick worked in the grocery industry for 42 years, first at the A&P in Phoenixville and then at SuperFresh in Wayne, PA. He was a Vice President on the Executive Board of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1776. He served as the shop steward for over 20 years negotiating union talks and contracts for his fellow employees. He supported and was most proud of the Quality of Work Life (QWL) program throughout the years.

Rick was passionate about and supported various charitable organizations throughout his life like the ASPCA, Samaritan's Purse and others.

For many years, in their Kimberton, PA, garage Rick and his dad built many large scale remote control model airplanes and enjoyed flying and fellowship with their club in the Trooper area. He was a member of several local hunting and gun clubs and excelled at target shooting competitions. As a young man, Rick also enjoyed motorcycling with his friends often for days at a time.

Rick was very proud of the de Wees family history, and he spent countless hours researching and gaining as much knowledge as possible. He loved to share that Colonel William de Wees served on the staff of General George Washington, and that Congress had called for reparations to the de Wees family for allowing the land to be used as the settlement for Washington's Army. This land would go on to become what is now known as Valley Forge National Historical Park. <https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2005/01/03/the-war-come-s-to-pennsylvania/>

Funeral services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Washington Memorial Chapel, in honor of the de Wees family heritage displayed in the chapel, P.O. Box 98, Valley Forge, PA, 19481. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Phoenixville Crematory, Inc.

610 S. Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I can only say how truly loved he was by my family. I grew up only knowing him as Uncle Rick; one of my Dads best friends. He was always included in every family event. He is the Godfather to my son and I o love you ever thought of him to take on such a serious role in my child’s life. I k ew he would always cover him in prayers. Until Heaven Uncle Rick!

debbie Hillegass - October 05, 2023 at 03:14 PM

DH

Auto correct; ugggh. He was the only one I wanted for my sons Godfather!

debbie Hillegass - October 05, 2023 at 03:20 PM

CC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Connie Corbin-Miller - September 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM

CM

“ VALLEY FORGE - composed by Victor E. Dewees - October 23, 1898

*In the historic Valley Forge, a place I love to roam,
no place seemed so dear to me as my humble little home.*

*From the top of Mount Joy we watched the Schuylkill
on its bright winding course in the valley below.*

*The trees put on their splendor of colors bright and gay
and one by one the leaves are falling and shall soon pass away.*

*The winds are howling through the trees this chill October morn
that winter soon shall come.*

*Get out your furs ye noble ones that loved your Washington
and climb the hills and view the plains this noble son has won.*

*Arise, arise ye noble ones and brave the storms
and stand upon the place where stood the blood stained feet of
those
in winters that have gone.*

*The dear sweet name of Valley Forge shall live forever more
and victories of her conquerors have been the joy of all.*

*Arise ye noble ones that loved you Washington
and stand upon the place where stood the blood stained feet of
those winters that have gone.*

- submitted by Ethel Dewees Richards

Connie Miller - August 24, 2023 at 10:56 AM

CM

“ A letter from Uncle Rick to his parents:

To Dad - I thank you for your many teachings of every day life. Making me understand that everything comes at a certain price, nothing but nothing is free. This value comes, or should I say, starts with this Great Land we're privileged to live in, and go's to "an honest day's work for an honest day's pay" for this and much more, I say Thanks!

To Mom I thank you for always being there the many times I've needed your support. You have taught me many things from cooking to cleaning, but, most importantly you've taught me to have a soft and kind heart. Many times I've forgotten to maintain these values for which I am sorry! I think now I'm back on the right track. Thank you for your kindness and for caring. God Bless you!

Love Always,

Rick (12/24/1983)

Connie Miller - August 23, 2023 at 09:37 PM

PK

“ Phyllis And John King lit a candle in memory of W. Richard de Wees



phyllis and john king - August 23, 2023 at 09:03 PM



“ 7 files added to the album *W. Richard de Wees*



Connie Corbin-Miller - August 23, 2023 at 08:03 PM