



Richard James Simonds

July 15, 1933 - June 15, 2019

Richard J. Simonds passed away on Saturday, June 15, 2019, at the age of 85.

Richard was born on July 15, 1933, in Winchester, MA, to Donald and Florence (Cady) Simonds. He attended prep school at Hebron Academy, received a degree in economics from Tufts University and an MBA from University of Chicago. He served in the US Navy as Lieutenant JG on the Naval Ocean Tugboat, USS Hitchiti at Pearl Harbor, HI, serving as the navigator as well as deep-sea diver. He met Roberta Little from Chelan, WA, while in Hawaii, and they were married in Chelan in 1960. The Simonds made their home in Wheaton, IL, from 1965 – 1998 where they raised two sons, Derrick and Andrew. He and his family enjoyed weekends at the historic family property of Pier Cove, MI, where he helped establish the Pier Cove Ravine Trust.

Dick was a smart, creative and easy-going man with a lot of friends and a passion for hobbies and activities. He grew up in a sailing family and sailed competitively all his life. He was a licensed glider pilot as well as a master woodworker, building wooden boats in his free time. He was a musician and played the clarinet and enjoyed listening to jazz and classical music. He loved golf, playing all his life and always choosing to walk instead of ride whenever he could. He played often at historic Chicago Golf Club where he also served as president. Dick spent his professional career as a corporate insurance broker in Chicago with Aon Corp.

Dick and Roberta retired to Chelan, WA, in 1998 where he volunteered as president of the Lake Chelan Rotary Club and president of the Lake Chelan Historical Society. He was proud of rowing his home-made rowing shell the entire length of Lake Chelan to raise money for the Chelan Historical Society. He was well known for a Saturday radio segment called “Nugget of Knowledge” on Chelan’s KOZI radio station, where he shared stories of historical events in and around the Lake Chelan area.

Dick is survived by his wife Roberta “Peach” Simonds, sister Joanne Scott, sons Derrick “Gus” and Andrew, and grandchildren Chelan, Madison, Colton and Dexter.

A private celebration of his life will be planned for later this summer. Memorials can be sent to the Lake Chelan Historical Society (P.O. Box 1948, Chelan, WA 98816) or the Pier Cove Ravine Trust (2264 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville, MI 49408).

Comments



“ Dear Peach and Family:

Dick and I both grew up in Winchester and graduated from Winchester High School - myself in 1950, Dick in 1951. We both went on to Hebron Academy for a year and then continued on to separate colleges - Dick to Tufts and me to Wesleyan.

In our young days we both sailed and raced "snipes". Dick's boat "Sinbad" consistently beat me every time! My revenge was on the ping pong table. I have so many wonderful memories of time spent at his family's summer house in Osterville, Cape Cod, and also to their home on Nantucket.

Peach, I remember getting together with you and Dick and having a wonderful time together. Soon after we lost touch as life was very busy for both of us. I did not realize that we both lived in the Chicago area at the same time. I now happily live in Danby, Vermont with my lovely wife. . Peach, I would love to talk to you and catch up, so sorry for your loss.

To my best friend from childhood: " I miss you"

Peter Redding
reddingpa@gmail.com

Peter Redding - June 25, 2019 at 09:50 AM



“ Peach and family, sincere condolences.

I had the privilege to meet Dick in 2007, gave him an airplane ride around the lake area. Every time I was around we used to talk about all sort of subjects, Boating and aviation were usually the focus. Spinner of course was part of our little hangouts.

Visited many times his beautiful boat project in the baseman. At each visit I've learned something new and interesting from Dick.

I shall miss him.

Roland Vrambout.

Roland Vrambout - June 21, 2019 at 11:13 AM



“ Peach and family, I just wanted to extend my sincere sympathies. I met Dick through the Chelan Rotary and he became both a friend and mentor to me. I always appreciated his smile, dry wit and thoughtful comments, I respected the way he would get involved in things that he felt mattered to the community (museum, pilot house, Christmas lights just to name a few). His involvement was always dignified, respectful and reflected careful thought and reflection. Plus he was willing to himself into the middle of the effort, building or helping direct.

I am truly thankful he was part of my life.
Rich Watson

Rich Watson - June 19, 2019 at 04:17 PM