



## Richard N. Stravino

February 20, 1944 - January 27, 2018

Richard (“Dick”) Stravino, died at home in Rotonda West, FL on January 27, 2018, in the arms of his wife and lifelong sweetheart, JoAnne, with his children, Laura and Michael, nearby. He was three weeks shy of his 74th birthday.

Dick (who also answered to Rich or Richie) was born on February 20, 1944 in Jamaica, Queens, NY, the only child of Nicholas and Anne Stravino. He moved with his family as a teen to New Hyde Park, and graduated from Delahanty High School, where he met the love of his life, Josephine Palagonia. Dick and JoAnne married in 1966 and lived briefly in Lynbrook, NY before building a house and their family in Malverne, NY. Despite spending the last fourteen years of his life in Florida, Dick was a dyed-in-the-wool, proud New Yorker and Long Islander.

As he and JoAnne married and raised their family, Dick held a wide-range of jobs in business, sales, and banking before landing in commercial real estate, a field he enjoyed for many reasons, not the least of which because it allowed him to retire and move to sunny Florida in

2004. His work and home life reflected his extroverted nature, gift of gab, and ability to forge relationships with numerous types of people (except the really uptight ones).

Through the years, Dick and JoAnne’s house was always the center of numerous gatherings for friends and family.

He loved being around people, and was at home in front of the barbecue and behind a martini or glass of scotch. Dick spread his love of life during his extensive travels through Europe and the Caribbean, making new friends along the way and enjoying the local cuisine.

Dick was a hands-on dad before it was hip, getting his kids ready for school and being the primary parent at home on days when JoAnne, a nurse, was working early morning and weekend shifts at the hospital. He coached little league baseball and roller hockey teams that Michael played on, and could be found reliably in the auditorium during Laura’s school concerts

and plays. Dick had an amazingly green thumb; his side yard vegetable garden on Long Island was a labor of love that yielded an array of produce, from arugula to zucchini. Dick was an ardent sportsman, and many fond memories were made during the hunting trips

he took with his

buddies over the course of decades. In later years, Dick was more likely to bring his camera than a rifle into the woods, to capture scenes of wildlife and nature. Dick also loved to be out on the water, boating and fishing, and lived his whole life with coastline readily accessible. After

moving to Florida, he stayed extremely active with fishing, golfing, bicycling, softball and pickleball until his recent illness.

Dick got no greater pleasure than that from being surrounded by family and friends. In addition to his wife and children, Dick is survived by his daughters-in-law, Lael and Karen, his adored grandchildren, Nicholas, Andrew, and Giuliana, and many beloved cousins and friends too many to list. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Dick's family wishes to thank the caring staff of Florida Cancer Specialists, the Infusion Center of Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and Tidewell Hospice.

To honor Dick's memory, please call a family member and have a real conversation.

Texting doesn't count. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or Tidewell Hospice, Inc.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 11 AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 5265 Placida Road, Englewood, FL 34224, with Father Richard York officiating.

Englewood Funeral Home with Private Crematory has been selected to handle arrangements. You may share a memory with the family at [www.inglewoodfh.com](http://www.inglewoodfh.com)

# Comments

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“ We are shocked and saddened over here on the Isle of Man. Neighbors on Rotonda for several years it was truly a privilege and honour to have shared so many happy times with Dick and Joanne. We had tried to get over to Florida earlier this year but after surgery it just wasn't possible. How we wish that it had been. Just a great guy and friend. Never to be replaced and always remembered with complete joy. Take care Joanne. Miss you. J&J

**John Tinsley** - February 05, 2018 at 09:58 AM



“ Dick was like an older brother to me, best friend to my husband and a wonderful role model to my children who are now grown up. He and Joanne have been good life long friends. Dick and Bob worked together at the PAL in West Hempstead, NY for many years. They helped create revenue and it was a great place for kids to have a safe place to go to learn sports. Dick was a great deer hunter and often he and Joanne had great block parties with live music and fabulous food. Dick was famous for roasting a pig and it disappeared as soon as it was done. My son had a mentor since my husband had passed away and Dick always was upbeat, caring and was the real deal. I am still in shock that he is gone. Joanne was the perfect match as they worked as a team. Jo mentioned that they will be reunited fishing and sharing a beer together. God bless the Stravino family as I truly miss Dick and of course Joanne due to the distance living in Florida.

**Karen Albanesi** - February 05, 2018 at 01:32 PM

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“ Jovita Sabenicio lit a candle in memory of Richard N. Stravino



**Jovita Sabenicio** - February 01, 2018 at 11:49 AM

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“ With not a lot of family in the States, the Stravinos have become our “adopted” family throughout the years. Truly a God send, the Stravinos have always welcomed us with open arms since I can remember. From holidays, birthdays and Communion Grandpa Dick was always there. One of my earliest memories of Grandpa Dick was about 20 years ago when he and Grandma JoAnne went to one of our dance recitals. Years later he told us that was one of the best laughs he's ever had (I guess the overpriced tickets were worth it.) I wonder if you'll still be mistaken as Bruce Willis up there in heaven. One of a kind, you'll be greatly missed.

“May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

Joanne & Alyssa Sabenicio

Joanne Sabenicio - January 31, 2018 at 05:41 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Al and Peggy Medford - January 31, 2018 at 11:44 AM

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“ It is with great sadness I write this, but yet when I think of him and all the fond memories of when I was a child, it fills me with warmth and smiles. It is so easy to look back and hear his laughter and think of his superabundant jovial mood he brought to the Medford house. It is funny how time passes by...years now...and how someone such as Mr. Stravino, can leave an everlasting imprint on your brain. He brought energy and good cheer to those family parties and I can't thank him enough for all the joy he brought to my parents throughout the decades we have known him. He will certainly be missed. My deepest condolences to the family. You are in our hearts and prayers.

Jessica Medford - January 31, 2018 at 08:07 AM



“ We were very sorry and saddened to hear of Dicks passing. You have our most sincere condolences. I was the manager of the Red Raiders softball team and enjoyed having him on the roster. He was a great competitor and, added a lot to the team with his effort and advice. He had a great sense of humor and loved to kid around. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Sincerely,

Jim & Todd Schott

Jim Schott - February 01, 2018 at 08:48 AM

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“ Please accept our sincere condolences on Richards passing. He was a very outspoken on our senior softball raiders team and enjoyed letting everyone know where to play and knew where the batter would hit. His position was short stop and I was at 3rd base and I ignored his chatter but that wouldn't upset him and I enjoyed

baiting him. Sometimes we would meet at the YMCA to work out. We will really miss Dickie.

Marion Garling - January 30, 2018 at 05:55 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album red raiders softball team



Marion Garling - January 30, 2018 at 05:02 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album red raiders softball team



Marion Garling - January 30, 2018 at 05:00 PM

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“ Condolences to Dick's family. He was a stand up guy. I had a nice conversation with him about 2 weeks ago when he noticed me in the hallway at the hospital, I am so glad we had 20 minutes to just talk. May he Rest in Peace.

Sam Besase - January 30, 2018 at 03:01 PM

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“ What a beautiful and fitting tribute to an amazing person. I really wish that I could be there on Thursday, but I know that he would understand.

We send everyone our best and we share their grief in his passing and pride in the positive imprint that he left on so many people.

He will be missed, but never forgotten, as his humor and outlook on life has affected countless people and makes me feel very fortunate to have had him as a close relative, and to have been impacted by him.

With love,

Chris (and Sophia and Luke) Denicolo

Chris Denicolo - January 30, 2018 at 01:42 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



George - January 30, 2018 at 10:46 AM

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“ We are very sorry for your loss. I always remember your Dad smiling and laughing (and occasionally singing and dancing at the family get togethers). I always enjoyed seeing him show up on summer Saturday afternoons (when the pop-in was much more fashionable) and my Dad would tell me to go grab two beers and two chairs and set them up in backyard where they would spend a few hours laughing and telling stories. He will be sorely missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Peter and Priya Medford

Peter Medford - January 30, 2018 at 09:05 AM

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“ Sorry for your loss such a great Man  
Christine & Lenny Otoole

christine - January 30, 2018 at 07:20 AM

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“ So sorry to hear about Dick, i have so many memories of the good times we had,  
John and Gerry Palestro

John Palestro - January 29, 2018 at 11:10 PM

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“ Mr. Stravino was one of my Dad's best friends and has made my parents laugh for the past 40 something years. I grew up in his hometown and would see him at baseball games and summer parties in the backyard. Those parties would typically entail lots of laughter and games and then end with music blaring and 'My girl' singalongs after a few bowls of punch. When he would visit the house, he always asked how I was doing and showed genuine interest in my responses. We were fortunate to get to visit with him and Mrs. Stravino at our wedding and a few years ago in CT.  
We wish Mrs. Stravino, Mike, Laura and your families all the best through this difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

**Mike Medford** - January 29, 2018 at 09:01 PM

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“ How do you sum up the extraordinary life of our dear friend Dick Stravino? You can't....he was one in a million. He was a ball of energy and a force of nature. He was a wonderful friend. Though we moved away geographically from Long Island in 1996, Dick and Joanne remained a steady presence in our lives. Al will sorely miss the phone calls ...."Stravino" prominently displayed in the caller ID, while Al rushed to get a cocktail to share lots of laughter and lively discussions that stretched long into the evenings. He was a terrific coach and a great softball player in the Sunday morning adult softball games in Malverne. We were priveleged to spend many summer holiday weekends together and our children remember those parties fondly. Laughter was the main ingredient. He took care of anybody who crossed his path. We send our love and prayers to JoAnne, Laura, Michael and all the family. Dick will always be a part of our lives.

**Al and Peggy Medford** - January 29, 2018 at 03:08 PM

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“ Our deepest condolences to Dickie's family on the loss of a very special guy. We met Dickie on the ESC pickleball courts about 2011 when we had just moved to Florida. We were truly blessed to have shared some of this earthly life with him. A genuine down to earth kind of guy that always kept us laughing. Dickie's "hat" on the courts was one of a kind and will be remembered fondly. He will be missed.  
John and Carla Foard

**Carla L Foard** - January 29, 2018 at 02:22 PM