Dr. Max C. Richardson

Dr. Max C. Richardson, 81, of Niskayuna, New York, passed away on August 17th. Max leaves behind a legacy of achievement and perseverance that will continue to inspire his children and grandchildren. He contributed much and took so little. Max was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and grew up in Piggott, Arkansas as the third child of Don and Margaret (Cotner) Richardson. He graduated from Piggott High School and then attended the University of Missouri on a ROTC scholarship. He served in the Navy as a Lieutenant JG on the aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Forrestal, where he achieved Officer-of-the-Deck and did two Mediterranean Cruises. On completion of his Naval commitment, he went to California Institute of Technology to receive a master's degree in chemical engineering and then to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn a PhD in nuclear engineering. He worked at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna as a nuclear engineer for 33 years designing nuclear reactors for the Navy. He was a part of the team that designed the nuclear reactors for the Nimitz-class aircraft carriers. A lover of the outdoors, he enjoyed riding his bike throughout the Capital District. He took bike tours of Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and rode across New York State. He participated in several Multiple Sclerosis Bike Rides in support of a longtime family friend. Max was also an avid reader of historical non-fiction, his favorite author being David McCullough and his book The Great Bridge, the Epic Story of the Brooklyn Bridge. His love of WWII history took him to France to walk the beaches of Normandy and to travel throughout Italy and Sicily. He enjoyed vacationing at his winter home in Indian Harbour Beach, Florida. He loved baseball and coached his sons' Little League teams. The Saint Louis Cardinals were always champions in his eyes. He was a walking encyclopedia of baseball facts, quoting player statistics with ease. His vegetable garden was a real joy. He supplied his neighbors with his bounty of tomatoes and zucchini. Max was a member of Shenendehowa United Methodist Church and served on its Finance Committee. His love of reading drew him to volunteer at the Whitney Book Corner and the Schenectady County Library Book Sales. Survived by his wife of 50 years, Roberta (Langdon) and their three children, Jeffrey (Leslee) of Palm Bay, Florida, Douglas (Gina) of Winchester, Massachusetts and Rachel of Washington D.C.; five grandchildren, Matthew, Rilee, Max, Owen and Alexander; and his brother, Jim (Roma) of Piggott, Arkansas and several nieces and nephews living in the south. A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 22nd at 11 a.m. at Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park, New York and will be followed by a reception at noon. A private interment will occur at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church at 971 Route 146, Clifton Park, New York 12065.

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