



Mr. Richard J. Benson

August 28, 1934 - October 7, 2018

It is with profound sadness that the family of Richard J. Benson announces his passing following a battle with Alzheimer's disease on October 7, 2018. Dick was 84 years old. He was born in Albany, NY, the son of Joseph and Marion Benson, and raised his family in Dalton. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics from Siena College and a Master's degree in Education from North Adams State College. Dick also served with pride in the United States Army as a commissioned officer in Europe and later as a member of the Army National Guard.

He spent his 36 year career in education giving back to his community in the Pittsfield Public School system, beginning at South Junior High School as an English Teacher and later becoming English Department Chairman. He retired from Herberg Middle School, where he provided a positive impact in the lives of three decades of students. His students often recognized and called out to "Mr. Benson" everywhere he went for the remainder of his years. After retirement, he continued to pursue his passion for education by providing tutoring services to students at Berkshire Community College.

Dick was an avid skier, hiker, and outdoorsman who took great pride in his role as a member of the National Ski Patrol and Director of the Jiminy Peak Ski Patrol. Dick displayed his love for the outdoors, education, and literature in his membership in the Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, National Council Teachers of English, Massachusetts Council of Teachers of English, and the National Education Association.

Dick is survived by his devoted wife, Annemarie Oefelein Benson, whom he married on June 30, 1962 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in New Lebanon, NY, as well as his two loving daughters, Heidi Benson and Jennifer Buckley and his son-in-law Tom Buckley; his five adoring grandchildren, Abigail, Mallory and Chandler McNelis and Siena and Dalton Buckley; his brothers, J. Lawrence Benson and Thomas M. Benson; and nieces and nephews throughout New England.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Richard J. Benson will be Saturday, October 13, 2018 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA, with the service starting at 10:30 a.m. with the Rev. Peter Naranjo, officiating. Burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Saint Agnes Academy or to the Dalton Senior Center, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home in his memory. DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ONLINE, but may be made through the Dwyer Fuenral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home
776 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-5094
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

OCT 13. 10:30 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

TB

“ I didn't realize it when I was younger, but Mr Benson had been more than just an English teacher. He would often come in with some sort of life lesson. I remember his classes as being difficult, but as I got older, I realized it was me, and he could see the potential in me, as he did with all of his other students. I do remember him fondly, and he will be missed.

Thomas Barriere - July 22, 2025 at 02:26 PM



“ 39 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - October 12, 2018 at 05:14 PM

EP

“ Annemarie,

May the fond memories you hold in your heart bring you comfort. Dick was a true gentlemen and was so fortunate to have you as partner and advocate.

Ed and Patricia Perlak

Ed Perlak - October 12, 2018 at 09:17 AM

DO

“ Dick was always a strong supporter of the Arts in our community helping to build the Public Mural Program. His smiling face and that twinkle in his eyes made everything just seem right whenever I needed someone who cared. I will miss Dick and this City will always be grateful for his kind manner. Rest in Peace.

Dan O'Connell, Pittsfield, Ma.

Daniel O'Connell - October 11, 2018 at 07:17 PM

JB

“ Anna and girls,
What a fine gentleman. So sorry for your loss.
Dave and Joan Blazick

joan blazick - October 10, 2018 at 11:38 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard J. Benson.



October 10, 2018 at 10:49 AM

GD

“ *My thoughts are with you, Annemarie and your family at this sad time. Although i didn't know Dick for that many years, I always enjoyed him and his quiet demeanor. He obviously influenced the lives of his many students and friends and will be missed. I look forward to seeing you soon and reliving the good times you two enjoyed. Love, Georgie*

Georgianna Dana - October 10, 2018 at 10:02 AM

AH

“ *Fondly remembering the perfect gentleman. Ann Henchey*

Ann Henchey - October 10, 2018 at 06:28 AM