



Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek

February 6, 1944 - December 24, 2024

Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek, 81, of Pittsfield, passed away while resting, preparing to spend Christmas Eve beside his family Tuesday, December 24, 2024, just months before celebrating his 81st birthday. Born in Pittsfield, MA, on February 6, 1944, son of the late Stanley and Florence Harding Kurek, he attended local schools and graduated in 1962 from Pittsfield High School's Vocational Machine Shop Course.

Dick loved adventure and looked at his life as such, as it went out before him with many turns in it. He was always looking for a challenge and met it head on.

After finishing school, he went to work for GE in Pittsfield. Following their large layoff, he began work for Hamilton Standard in Connecticut, where he was employed until their layoff.

Dick decided to join the United States Army in April of 1963. He went to Ft. Dix, New Jersey for basic training. From there, he went to Ft. Eustis, VA for training in aircraft repair. From there, he was sent to Vietnam to work on various aircraft types. After Vietnam, he was sent back to Ft. Eustis, where he completed his three-year enlistment teaching aircraft maintenance repair.

After the Army, Dick had plans to get his license to work on aircraft for an

airline, but because he had to wait a year and half to start school, he got a job at Pratty-Whitney Aircraft CO in Connecticut until Pittsfield GE Naval Ordnance called him to work.

During this period, he met a wonderful lady named Rose Marie Stiles. She wanted to join his adventure, so they got married on April 28, 1967. They were together until 1990 and had three sons.

When Dick was ready to start school, they moved to Waltham, MA so he could attend East Coast Aero Technical School in Bedford, MA. He spent two years completing the Aeronautical Technician Course with honors under the GI Bill in February of 1969. He got his AP License, moved to Miami, FL, where he worked rebuilding military aircraft for the AirInternational Corporation until Executive Airlines in Boston called him to work at Pittsfield Airport, so back North they went!

Unfortunately, that job did not last long, as Executive Airlines stopped moving Pittsfield, so it was time to move on. Dick went to work at Marland Mold Co until Berkshire Gas hired him. He worked there for 36 years, retiring in 2010 as a service technician.

In Dick's ongoing adventures, he met another wonderful lady, Barbara Jenn Hctor, that was interested in his adventure. They married on August 2, 1998. They danced their way around the country on many wonderful trips in their RV and ship cruising until Barb passed on September 17, 2015.

While working at Berkshire Gas, Dick enlisted in the Air Force Reserves at Westover AFB. He spent 18 exciting years doing tours of duty at bases in the states and overseas in Europe. He was involved with Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as others. He retired from the Air Force in 1993 with a total of 21 years of military service. He was an Air Freight

Superintendent with the rank of Senior Master Sergeant when he retired.

Dick was very much involved with many Veterans Groups. In all these, he was involved with many activities and boards. He was selected by the Berkshire Veterans Coalition as Veteran of the

Dick also loved HO model trains. His grandchildren are going to miss the fun they had with Poppy operating his trains, but, thanks to him, they all know how to run them, too!

Dick leaves behind his son, Richard A. of Pittsfield, his son, Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel, Peter F. and his wife Vera (Malon) of Nashua, NH, along with three grandchildren, Rosie, Peter and TJ. There are also three step grandchildren, Emily, Julia, and Ian.

He is also survived by his sister, Charlotte O'Brien, and brothers Ken and Stanely, with his wife Kathy.

Dick was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, and his first son, Douglas, who died at birth. He was also predeceased by his sister, Dorothy Manship, brothers, Robert and Charles, as well as his parents.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services with full military honors for Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek will be Friday, January 3, 2025, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 9am at St. Joseph Church, celebrated by the Msgr. Michael A. Shershanovich, Pastor. Burial will be private. Calling hours will be Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 4pm to 6pm at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North Street, Pittsfield MA 01201.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dick's memory can be made to the St. Joseph Food Pantry in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Service

JAN 3. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Church
414 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

JW

“ To Dicks Family I wish to extend my deepest condolences. When Dick married Barbara and moved next door, the neighborhood changed...for the better. He was always the first to step in to help a neighbor, stop for a friendly conversation or to share a good story....and he had many. He remained involved in many activities and events and each year at the St Josephs picnic, my husband and I would enjoy watching him dance the polka almost nonstop. He was a friendly, caring man that will be missed by many. None more than his family and to them, we offer our sincerest sympathy.
Joanne & Herb Wyand

Joanne Wyand - January 02, 2025 at 02:25 PM

DL

“ Mr. "How can I help?". A truly kind person. One in a million. Loved his country, his family, his friends, and the people he volunteered with. Busiest man we will ever know. We met Dick about 45 years ago when we moved here from Western NY. He helped us move in and we have stayed friends ever since. We're heartbroken.
Condolences to the family. Bonnie & Dave Lachowski

David Lachowski - January 02, 2025 at 10:18 AM

NM

“ Nick Malnati purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek.



Nick Malnati - January 01, 2025 at 03:30 PM

DH

“HELLO SHY, SO SORRY OF DICK'S PASSING. MY WIFE ANGIE AND MYSELF NOW LIVE IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS AND CANNOT ATTEND DICK'S FUNERAL. SO SORRY, THIS IS A SAD TIME. I PRAY THE LORD BLESSES AND COMFORTS YOU AND THE WHOLE FAMILY!! GOD BLESS! YOUR COUSIN DOUG AND WIFE ANGIE.

Douglas Harding - January 01, 2025 at 02:05 PM

HW

“As his neighbor of many years, Dick and I took many 'union breaks" from snow blowing or grass mowing to discuss the problems of the world or one his many RV trips across the country. A neighbor who always went out of his way to help another during storms or whatever you might need!!! My wife Joanne and I were very sadden when he passed away..I'd say he lived life to it's fullest!!! RIP... herb wyand

herb wyand - January 01, 2025 at 10:49 AM

GP

“I served with Dick in the 58th Aerial Port Squadron. He was a good man and a good American. RIP my fellow in arms.

GARY PALMER - January 01, 2025 at 03:38 AM

RR

“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of SMSG Kurek. I served with Dick for several years at Westover AFB in the 58th Aerial Port Squadron. Dick loved his country and served it proudly. I always knew that Dick would be there when a mission needed to be accomplished.

God bless you Dick and may you rest in peace.

My condolences to Dick's family.

Ron Benoit, MSG, USAF Ret.

Ron Benoit, MSG, USAF Ret. - December 31, 2024 at 03:56 PM

TS

“ Condolences to the entire Family. Worked with Dick for many years at Berkshire Gas. A true Gentleman, always pleasant and helpful. May he rest in Eternal Peace. Very Sorry to a wonderful Family. He will be missed.

Tom & Suzanne Stefanik

Tom & Suzanne Stefanik - December 31, 2024 at 02:51 PM

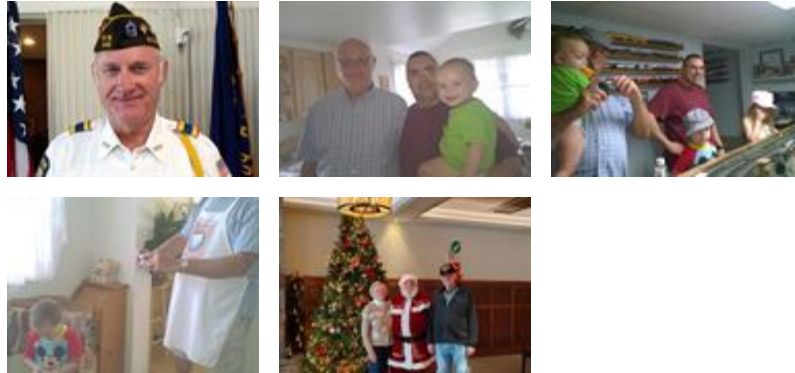
TH

“ I didn't have the honor of ever meeting Dick, but I am a friend of his son Pete's. He must have been a great man to raise such a great son. Thank you for your service Dick. Condolences to Pete and the family.

Tim Hunt - December 31, 2024 at 10:30 AM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - December 31, 2024 at 09:44 AM

BA

Dick & Barbara were good friends of my mother and myself. Loyal, kind and a friend to count on. He will be missed.

Barbara Arpante - December 31, 2024 at 05:21 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek.*



December 29, 2024 at 11:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek.

December 29, 2024 at 11:42 PM

PG

“ *To Dick’s Family,
We were shocked and saddened to hear of Dick’s passing. We always knew we would see him if there was a Veterans event taking place. We looked forward to that. It was also a pleasure to visit with him at various other city events and church events,too. Memories stay within us forever. We know you will keep them close to your hearts.Our prayers and sympathy to all of you. Rest In Peace , dear friend.*

Patrick and Marie Gormalley - December 29, 2024 at 08:11 PM

PD

“ *So sorry for your loss.
We love you and are praying for you.
Clarence, Pat and Molly*

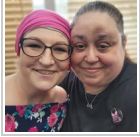
Patricia Dalrymple - December 29, 2024 at 07:11 PM

VE

“ *10 files added to the album Fellow Veterans*



Vera - December 29, 2024 at 06:28 PM



“ *Richard and family. I am so very sorry for your loss. Your father sounded like an amazing man. Thank you for his service. Please accept my family's deepest condolences. May you all find comfort in your memories with him and remember his love.*

Marci Bachand - December 29, 2024 at 06:19 PM

VE

Thank you Marci!

Vera - January 05, 2025 at 08:02 PM

VE

“ *12 files added to the album Fellow Veterans*



Vera - December 29, 2024 at 03:41 PM

VE

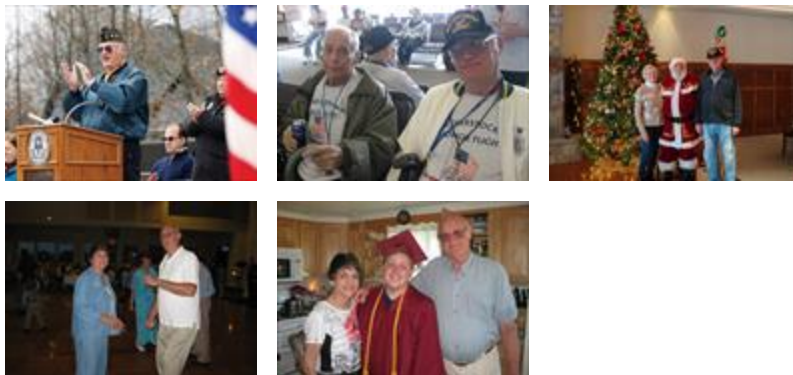
“ 10 files added to the album Memories



Vera - December 29, 2024 at 03:30 PM

VE

“ 5 files added to the album Memories



Vera - December 29, 2024 at 03:23 PM

VE

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Vera - December 29, 2024 at 01:24 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek.*



December 28, 2024 at 04:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Richard "Dick" Kurek.

December 28, 2024 at 04:28 PM