



Richard J. Stephenson

October 30, 1930 - December 15, 2020

Richard J. Stephenson, age 90, passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at Fort Hamilton Hospital in Hamilton, Ohio. Richard was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years JoAnn (Dempsey), his parents, and his sister Barbara A. (Stephenson) Lyter. He is survived by two children – Connie J. Walker (Rob) and Thomas G. Stephenson (Susan); four grandchildren – Erin E. Walker, Ross C. Walker (Melanie), Sarah L. Stephenson (Atul Deshmukh), and Margaret R. Stephenson; and four great grandchildren – Wilson, Liesel, and Hogan Walker and Vivian Deshmukh. Richard was born October 30, 1930 in Hamilton, Ohio to George H. and Martha K. (Clauser) Stephenson. He graduated from Hamilton High School in 1948 and attended Miami University where he lettered in varsity basketball. He was married on April 5, 1951. Richard began his career working for Gulf Oil. He started R. J. Stephenson, Inc. in 1967 (later renamed Stephenson Oil Co.) supplying heating oil to homes. He expanded that business to include wholesale and retail sales of gasoline, diesel, and lubricants. He expanded further by adding car washes and convenient stores. Other business he ventures into included The Red Ox Drive-Thru in Oxford, Ohio, a smoked rib carryout business, and selling lawn and garden equipment. He retired from Stephenson Oil in 1990. Richard lived most of his life in and near Hamilton, Ohio. He lived at his farm near Millville for 18 years where he raised Beefmaster cattle. In 1995, he and Jo built a home on Daufuskie Island in South Carolina. Later, they built a house and moved to Berkeley Hall in Bluffton, South Carolina. They moved back to Hamilton in 2015 and he lived there the remainder of his life. Richard was a natural and gifted athlete who not only participated in but excelled in all sports including, baseball, softball, basketball, tennis, handball, table tennis, swimming, hunting, fishing, and golf (maybe excelled in golf is a bit generous – but he sure enjoyed it and had many lasting friendships and shared memories from it). Richard was always involved in the communities he lived. He was a past President of Taft High School Boosters Association and served on many boards including the Y.M.C.A., Mercy Hospital, First National Bank, Berkeley Hall, the Ohio Petroleum Marketers Association, and the Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board. He was also Chairman of the Board for Home Federal Savings and Loan in Hamilton, Ohio. He was a devoted member of The Presbyterian Church of Hamilton and was active in Church while living in South

Carolina. Also known as Dick, R. J., Steve, Grandpa, Pappy, and Rocky, Richard was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend who embraced, endorsed, and supported family and friends. The family expresses appreciation and gratitude to Colonial at Home devoted caregivers, the Hamilton Paramedic Service, Fort Hamilton Hospital emergency facility, and especially the fifth-floor nursing staff for their care and compassion. The family gives praise and thanks to God for all His blessings and the gift of allowing us to share in Richard's life. Memorials can be made to The Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, Ohio, 23 S. Front Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011 or Great Miami Valley YMCA, 105 North 2nd Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011. Interment services will be private. Memorial Service and Celebration of Life gathering may be announced at a future date. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Comments



“ I just found out about RJ's passing. What an amazing man and as my father's best friend, that he was. The best friend a person could of had to my dad. He gave so so much to our family and I hope he knew how much he meant to us and to my dad. I'm sure they're talking about all the fun crazy things they did together! I just mentioned him to my husband recently and was rekindling the stories he told me about him and my dad, shortly after my mom passed away at the cemetary, where I ran into him and Connie when they were visiting Jo's. I was picking up flowers that the wind had blown over by my mom and dad's grave and was putting them back where they came from, when I saw two people walking towards me, I thought, oh they probably think that I'm stealing flowers! But then it was RJ coming to visit Jo's. We stood and talked for awhile and he told me some stories about him and my dad that I have never heard about. I was so happy to have seen him that day, such a blessing! My condolences to you all.

Lee Marie Wise

Lee Marie - January 31 at 12:24 AM



“ Dear friends, so sorry to have just heard. He was a "keeper". We have great memories of all of us in Florida in our youth. Keep your memories close, as we do. We talk, laugh and cry still when we think of Mom and Dad. Your parents are reunited. Take care and May God Bless. Beth and Phil Griesinger

Beth Griesinger - February 21 at 01:43 PM



“ I remember “Uncle Steve” my whole life. The memories always make me smile. He always made me feel special. I will never forget how important his friendship was to my parents. They were lucky to have had each other in their lives. Now, they're all back together again



jody Platt - December 30, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ It is with deep sadness we extend our deepest condolences. RJ and Jo were two of our favorite people when we moved to Berkeley Hall. We would go then to Brown's Run's Christmas party b/c they highly recommend it!! We, too, have returned to Ohio to be with our family. We had many happy years with them. They were already sorely missed by us. We shall always remember them with a smile.
May God hold you in his hands and comfort you with happy memories.
Sincerely,
John and Sherry Langhorne



Sherry Langhorne - December 21, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ Stephenson family,
I want you to know that all of you are in my prayers for peace and comfort. I take it as a honor and a privilege to have known R.J. He was such a kind hearted man. It wasn't like work when I was his caregiver. I truly think of him as a friend. I will miss him. Love, hugs and prayers. Debbie Francis.

Debbie Francis - December 21, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ Stephenson Family:

We have so many fond memories of RJ! He was such a giving person and always fun to be around. He was such a true friend to those that he loved. We will always remember the fun times together.... We are so sorry for your loss.

Susan and Dan Flahive

Susan Flahive - December 21, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ Tom and Susan, we were very sorry to read of Richards passing. He sounds like he was quite a man and a fantastic father. We know he'll be missed.
Armand & Judy Bloch

Armand & Judy Bloch - December 20, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ All , What a great man RJ was and will be forever in my mind. Larger than life with his bear paw hands and passion for everything he was into. He always left a big swath wherever he went and took care of his people . A great mentor and friend to me and my family. I am smiling as I recall his enthusiasm for the silly adventures he concocted. Rest In Peace RJ.

Timothy Spoerl - December 20, 2020 at 07:35 AM



“ You all know how very special he was to me. My 'other papa' was the best. I will truly miss seeing him during my Hamilton visits.
All of the humorous stories from over the years will help mend the pain for you all. Best husband, father, grandpa, and friend anyone could have. I consider it one of my most cherished blessings to have known him. Thank you for sharing him with me.

Kate Antenen Vonder Bruegge - December 19, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ Tom and Connie, your dad was such a kind caring soul. Always enjoyed being around him and your mom. He was definitely one of a kind. We need more people like him.
Debbie Bucheit

Debbie Bucheit - December 18, 2020 at 06:44 PM