



## Dick Haid

May 14, 1931 - February 9, 2019

We Remember Richard Lewis Haid, 1931-2019

Dick Haid lived a long, full life suffused with the love he gave to others which they returned. Dick was a husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many. He died suddenly but peacefully on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at Berkeley Square, in Hamilton, Ohio.

Richard Lewis Haid was born in Hamilton on May 15, 1931, to Arthur G. and Dorothy (Griffis) Haid. Dick was deeply loved by Leslie, his wife of almost 59 years; his children John, Elizabeth (David Lautner), Thomas (Patricia), and Peter; his grandchildren Kevin and Spencer Haid, and Lily Lautner; and his cherished brother Alan Griffis Haid (Elaine).

Dick was a child of the Great Depression; his father Art suffered a 50-percent cut in his wages the day the newborn "Dickie" returned from the hospital, but Dick nonetheless enjoyed a very happy childhood, despite sitting at the last or second-to-last desk in his Jackson Elementary School classrooms, back when students sat according to their class ranking.

During World War II, Dick was an assistant air-raid warden, serving under his mother, who was the warden for her block on Park Avenue. Dick was in actuality a message runner but was issued his own World War I-era helmet.

Dick spent the majority of his youthful years' summers as a camper at YMCA Camp Campbell Gard and had an occasional week at home only when his mother Dorothy demanded it. Dick experienced such wonderful summers because Hamilton newspaper publisher Homer Gard, the founder of Camp Gard and a dear friend of Dick's mother, told her, "The camp is already running at a loss, so Dick might as well stay out there for the whole summer."

Dick's slow start academically had no effect on his lifelong love of learning and self-improvement. Dick graduated from Hamilton High School in 1949, Granville, Ohio's Denison University in 1953, and Bloomington's Indiana University School of Business in 1957, where he earned his master's degree.

From 1953 to 1955, Dick served his country for two years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He served first aboard the destroyer escort U.S.S. Radford, which survived typhoons at sea and shelled targets in North Korea. After being stationed at Pearl Harbor and Okinawa, Japan, Dick was transferred to U.S. Naval Base San Diego, where as a company commander he trained 2,000 recruits at a time. Dick later concluded, and would proclaim proudly, "I'm a lover, not a fighter!"

Following his naval service, Dick worked in Chicago for three years for Marsh McLennan, at that time the nation's largest insurance brokerage firm. In 1959, Dick met the former Leslie Alice Richardson when both went on the same American Youth Hostel canoe trip to Michigan. They were married on September 17, 1960, in Des Plaines, Illinois, and after their honeymoon they moved to Hamilton where they later bought a home in Highland Park. Dick joined his father in what became the Parrish & Haid Insurance Agency. After his father retired, Dick led Parrish & Haid for more than two decades.

Dick loved Hamilton and its people, their histories, and the city's industrial and

German heritages. His Grandfather August Haid arrived in Hamilton in 1890 from the Kingdom of Württemberg, then became a blacksmith and wagonmaker; Eugene S. Griffis, Dick's other grandfather, served as treasurer of the city's American Frog & Switch Co.; and his Great-Grandfather John C. Hooven was a co-founder and the first president of Hooven, Owens & Rentschler's Corliss Engine Works. On Dick's mother's side, in 1801 his fifth-great-grandfather, Revolutionary War veteran David Griffis, settled in what became Liberty Township, Butler County, after his wagon broke down there. Dick later helped restore the historic cemetery in which his Revolutionary ancestor is buried.

Dick was a lifelong member of the Hamilton First United Methodist Church, and earlier in his life held many of its positions as a church officer. He took pride in his Griffis ancestors' having joined the congregation in the early 1860s and his Hooven forebearers' having done likewise in the next decade.

As a younger man, Dick was very active in the Hamilton Jaycees – the Hamilton Junior Chamber of Commerce. Dick also served at one point as the Hamilton Jaycees' president. Dick was selected in 1962 as the Outstanding Young Man of Hamilton, and in 1967 he was named the Outstanding Ohio Young Insurance Agent.

Dick did not have a desire to run for political office, but he was a skilled organizer generally, as well as an experienced campaign manager. He led longtime Congressman Tom Kindness's successful campaigns for mayor of Hamilton and his first congressional term, as well as Tom Rentschler's two successful campaigns for election to the Ohio House of Representatives.

When the city's citizens sought to persuade Miami University to build a branch campus in Hamilton by raising matching funds, Dick aided this effort. Dick's

father served as a fundraiser under Peter E. Rentschler, and Dick served under his own father. One of the organizations Dick solicited for donations was the U.S. Postal Service in Hamilton. Dick remained forever thankful and deeply impressed that 99 percent of the local Post Office employees he approached contributed toward the new campus.

In 1969, Dick received his Chartered Life Underwriter designation, having earlier earned his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter credential. This made Dick one of the few men in the nation at that time to hold both designations. Dick then earned his master's degree in financial services in 1984, and his master's degree in management in 1990.

Eventually, Dick decided that he wanted to “guide himself into a new future” and so “fired himself,” as he put it. When Dick sold Parrish & Haid in 1989, it was Hamilton's oldest independent insurance agency, having been established in 1872. Dick now acted on his lifelong goal of earning a doctorate, and in 1994 he was awarded his Ph.D. in adult development by the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dick liked to say that he received his doctorate and his Medicare card in the same year.

At this point, Dick underwent a complete change of career, to work as a consultant and personal coach in the areas of family business and clients' “third quarter of life.” In the latter field, Dick helped persons to determine what they really wished to do with their lives, and how to achieve this. If he were in line to attend a movie or a show, Dick often would strike up a conversation with the stranger behind him and ask that person about his or her personal goals – sometimes to Leslie's embarrassment.

One of the honors that most pleased Dick was being selected numerous times to be a presenter at the Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, New York. This was the Chautauqua movement's original location and the inspiration for the

national Chautauqua movement for adult education and self-improvement. Additionally, Dick was a member of the World Future Society, at a time when futurists were not yet so numerous, and he made presentations at several World Future Society international conventions.

Dick was one of the founders of the Butler County Vinicultural Society, whose members held tastings of the wines they produced. He additionally was a member of the Butler County Torch Club, a national organization whose members wrote papers on various topics and presented them to their fellow members.

At the same time, Dick continued his work – whether professional or personal – to serve others, which gave him great satisfaction. One of Dick's greatest joys was serving the Lane Public Libraries as a trustee and concluding his service as president of the libraries' board. With his wife Leslie, Dick and several other persons co-founded Habitat for Humanity in Hamilton.

Dick was, like his father, a member of the Hamilton Rotary Club. Dick's special interests were the Rotary Science Fair for younger students, and the Rotary international youth-exchange program. Dick and Leslie sent three of their children abroad for one year through the Rotary exchange program while also hosting many incoming international students, and in the summer of 1978 their entire family traded homes for a month with an English Rotarian.

In his later years, Dick worked to protect the Camp Campbell Gard totem pole from the elements, particularly because noted Hamilton artist and author Robert McCloskey had carved and painted it. Dick then worked with other Hamiltonians to achieve the totem pole's conservation. Once Hamilton's Heritage Hall was established in the Mueller Building (the former Municipal Building), Dick joined its board of directors, who succeeded in protecting that building and displaying the totem pole and other McCloskey artwork in it.

Following the recession of the early 2000s, Dick served for several years as a co-leader of the Hamilton Job-Search Support Group, where he assisted individuals and couples facing unemployment.

In his senior years, Dick was one of the city's "Historic Adventurers" – a group of friends interested in Hamilton's industrial heritage. Although most of these men were not spring chickens, they still went underground, literally, to explore the city's old factories and downtown Hamilton's famed and now-buried hydraulic canal.

Perhaps Dick's most enduring legacy is his work to protect from development the former Streamus Farm, which bordered Dick's home in Fairway Hills and was adjacent to Miami Woods. Dick's efforts, which were taken up by Karen Whalen and the Hamilton Community Foundation, led to Miami Woods' nearly doubling in size to its present 101 acres.

In addition to his wife and children, Dick leaves behind him his younger brother Alan and sister-in-law Elaine; sister-in-law Mevelyn Richardson and Richardson nieces and nephews; Haid cousins Bill Haid (Kathleen), David Haid (Blanche), Harriet Mulcahy (Shawn Mayer), and Holden Smith; Hooven cousin John Renick (Pat); and nephews Stephen Haid (LaDonna Hoskins), Rusty Haid, David Haid (Karen), and James Haid (Laura).

Dick's family will hold his memorial service on Saturday, February 16, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 225 Ludlow Street, followed by a reception at Berkeley Square's Theobald Hall, 100 Berkeley Drive. In lieu of flowers, the family instead suggests memorial contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church, the Hamilton Community Foundation's Arthur G. Haid and Dorothy G. Haid Memorial Fund, or the Berkeley Square

Foundation.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Pius Manavalan for his very caring treatment of Dick; the staff of Berkeley Square for their conscientious care of him; and the Hospice of Hamilton, likewise.

Online condolences are available at [www.weigelfuneralhome.com](http://www.weigelfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB **16**. 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
Hamilton, OH 45011

# Tribute Wall

KC

“ I am thankful for his help when I was a teenager, his family please accept my late condolences, I am in California and only just now read, truly great man and family, with heavy heart for our loss, Ken

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**Ken Cantrell** - February 21, 2019 at 11:53 PM

GB

“ When I was working at the Lane Libraries (Youth Services) Dick came to my office often and challenged me to reach out of my comfort zone (always a good thing in my mind) and try new things. Where to put the McCloskey Totem Pole was one of our early discussions. It was fun to be him. As a Library Trustee and Friend he encouraged my Library career in Hamilton, Ohio. Later on when we were both on Heritage Hall Advisory Board together we did a variety of projects to celebrate Robert McCloskey. Dick was supportive of a creative idea! I will accept the ache in my heart and stomach and and go to his memorial today. Love to John and Leslie, Gratia

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**Gratia Banta** - February 16, 2019 at 10:38 AM

NP

“ Keeping the Haid family in my thoughts and prayers. I have fond memories of Mr. Haid at NLH, such a warm and kind man. So sorry for your loss.

-Nancy Parish

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**Nancy Parish** - February 15, 2019 at 03:43 PM

HM

“ Warm memories of Dick shared by Harriet, Shawn, Deborah, Gary and Bob.

*I'm sure his presence will be remembered by friends and family.*

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**Harriet Mulcahy** - February 15, 2019 at 11:04 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dick Haid .



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February 15, 2019 at 10:31 AM

KC

“ My deepest sympathy to Leslie and the Haid family; I have many fond memories of Mr. Haid and the Haid household on Fairway Drive. Mr. Haid was a wonderful man and his kids are a testament to his integrity, vision, and faith. I am sending you all lots of hugs and good karma. Godspeed Mr. Haid! XOXO

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**Katherine Carr Christen** - February 13, 2019 at 04:49 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Elizabeth Latuner** - February 13, 2019 at 09:06 AM