In memoriam Richard Di Vecchio, 1931-2018



The Directors of Lifetime Learners Institute are saddened to announce the passing of Richard (Dick) Di Vecchio, Chair of Curriculum and longtime active member.

Dick was born in Chicago in 1931, where he spent his childhood and young adult life. During the Korean War, he served admirably in the US Air Force. He earned his college degree on the GI Bill, and married Bunny, the love of his life. He spent his early career working at the Drake, one of Chicago's finest hotels. In the late 1960's he began work at McGraw-Hill Publishing, beginning as a copywriter, until his retirement as a Senior Editor.

His family, including daughter Danielle and son Chris, lived in Westport for many years. Upon retirement, looking for things to do, Dick joined Lifetime Learners Institute in its early years. Putting his business and organizational skills to work, he contributed greatly to the organization's success. He served as LLI's President for two consecutive terms as well as continuing as an active board member. Dick became Chairman of the Curriculum Committee at a time of real change for LLI and transformed it smoothly and successfully. He brought in new instructors, courses, team members, and established two additional semesters (Winter and Spring) to the schedule. Without his perseverance, dedicated hard work and confidence in his committee, Curriculum would not have achieved the success it enjoys today. He was a generous man and always thanked people for their hard work.

Once his children were on their own, Bunny and Dick moved to Oronoque Village in Stratford, a green and beautiful retirement condominium community, which offers seniors opportunities for an active life, new friends and many activities. Naturally, Dick got involved with the day-to-day activities at the Village, joining their Board of Directors where he was instrumental in reducing the condominium's expenses and offering his substantial expertise wherever needed. One of his most memorable contributions was creating a Men's Club, which included the popular annual pancake breakfast. Dick was pictured in full kitchen mode—with apron and spatula, churning out pancakes with a smile.

In addition to his professional career and many social obligations, Dick was devoted to his wife, children and two grandchildren, Marie and Henry. It was patently evident that he shared a warm and loving relationship with them all. They were first and foremost in his life and he spoke proudly about each one. At his memorial service, we learned things about Dick we never knew before...that he was an excellent cook, loved building model railroads and how he never missed a sporting event in which his children were playing.

Dick's great, friendly personality, intelligence, business expertise, compassion and thirst for knowledge made him the success he was in life. He will always be remembered for his kindness and generosity and will be missed by all who had the great fortune to know and love him.

Vicki Phair

Scholarship:

The family has requested a scholarship be set up in Dick's name. To contribute to the scholarship, please send a check made out to "Lifetime Learners Institute"

Please note "Richard Di Vecchio" in the memo line. Mail to: Lifetime Learners, Room W102 188 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854