



Richard Herbert Meyers

September 9, 1943 - February 18, 2019

Richard H. Meyers, 75 of Haymarket, VA passed away on Monday February 18, 2019.

Richard was born in Miami Florida, to the late Herbert Meyers and Marie Meyers (Lazzara).

He is survived by his sister Kathleen Meyers of Bethlehem, PA and his wife and love of his life of 48 years, Frances Meyers (Colletti). Together they raised two daughters, Sandra Jean Blake (Meyers), of Fredericksburg, VA and Jennifer Meyers-Heeter of Haymarket, VA. Their happiness continued as their family grew by two son-in-laws Phillip Blake and Kristopher Heeter and four grandchildren; Granddaughter, Taylor Meyers and their 3 Grandsons Connor and Austin Blake and Mason Heeter. There were no titles he loved more than husband, Dad, and Pa-pop.

Rich grew up in Brooklyn NY and was the first in his family to attend college. He graduated from Pratt Institute with an Engineering Degree. Immediately after graduation, he moved to VA and was employed with the Bureau of Weapons, Department of the Navy in Washington DC, which later became Naval Air Systems Command (NavAir). Richard's projects included the Carrier Aircraft Inertial Navigation System (CAINS), which was the navigation system for five carrier aircraft, the F-14, S-3A, E-2C, RF-4B, and A-6E. Another

involved the Navy's first use of Commercial Navigation Systems for land based Naval aircraft. The first use of the commercial systems was in the P-3C and C-130 aircraft. In that contract were requirements for Air Force One. President Nixon was the first President to fly on Air Force One using this system on a trip to China.

During his over 30 years with the Navy he was constantly continuing his education. He attended the National War College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

He retired from the Navy as the Deputy Program Manager for Avionics in 1997 and received the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, one of the highest awards given to a DOD civilian. Retirement didn't last long though, Richard got bored and went to work part-time during tax season for H&R Block and was a part time consultant at the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). His major project at IDA was to help develop, the Department of Defense navigation related export controls on navigation related technology and equipment. These export controls were known as the Militarily Critical Technology List (MCTL) used in negotiations under a program called COCOM with 12 Allied countries. Rich finally retired for good in 2004 and made the decision to start travelling with his wife so he got involved in his community's travel club. He ended up running the club for four years and planned all kinds of bus and train trips across the U.S. because that was the only way he would travel. As an Engineer, knowing how things work and working with the Navy for over 30 years, he would not get on a plane. When he wasn't taking trips, taking a nap or eating at Tony's, you could find him watching old western movies, Fox 5, and cheering on the Yankees and Nationals. He loved watching his grandson's play baseball and basketball and watching his granddaughter play Volleyball. He enjoyed going for car rides and enjoying the beautiful scenery surrounding Haymarket. He loved the mountains and being able to drive down the street and see all the cows and farm animals.

His work accomplishments were unmatched by the pride he felt for his family. He never held back from telling his daughters, grandchildren and sons-in-law how proud he was of them and their accomplishments. He never ended a phone call or a good-bye without saying "I love you." He will be missed by many.

Visitation will be held from 5-8 pm, Sunday, February 24, 2019 at Pierce Funeral Home on 9609 Center Street in Manassas, Virginia.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 1:30pm, Monday, February 25, 2019 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on 8213 Linton Hall Road in Gainesville, Virginia

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Heart Association, <https://www.heart.org/>

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **25**. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
8213 Linton Hall Rd
Gainesville, VA 20155-2997
(703) 753-6700

Tribute Wall

MZ

“*Fran, Sandra and Jennifer. We have very fond memories of Rich. We always remember, while playing board games, he would say “ a bird in the bush is worth two in the hand “. He always had a smile and welcomed everyone in his home. He was a kind and gentle man. God bless your family. RIP Rich, Love Molly Zubroski*

Molly Zubroski - June 16, 2023 at 10:14 AM

PB

“*Me and Richey graduated Pratt together we were really close and studied many hours together. I was privileged to visit his home in Brooklyn and meet his parents who welcomed me as family. Richey was instrumental in getting me a job with NAVAIR and moving to Virginia.*

We had many laughs together including the one I still tell today about helping him move to an apartment and being in an elevator with a convertible sofa that we had to put on its side to fit and it opened up because of the springs inside it and we were pinned to the sides of the elevator but somehow we able to get it closed and out of the elevator and into his apartment.

Sadly we lost touch with each other after Richey got married I had kids as unfortunately separate lives happen. I feel really bad that he has passed and that we haven't had the opportunity to share how our lives have been and laugh at past memories.

Sadly your friend forever Paul Barone “Bye Richey you are missed”

Paul V Barone - January 31, 2021 at 02:10 PM

JM

*Hi Mr. Barone,
Thank you so much for sharing this story. The story of the elevator has me and my sister laughing hysterically. Thanks for the laugh.*

*Jennifer and Sandra
(Richie's daughters)*

Jennifer Meyers-Heeter - March 26, 2021 at 08:41 AM

RC

“*I was privileged to work for Dick during two six-month TDYs and then as one of his deputies out of Indianapolis until my retirement near the end of 1993. Dick was hands-down the most effective leader I ever served. I always knew exactly where I stood. Sometimes it was unpleasant but it was always fair and helpful but more often complementary. To my knowledge all his programs were highly successful. He once farmed me out to Capt. Savage in OPNAV for a month to write blue blazers, a document his Admiral could read in one minute supporting an approval signature. Dick expanded my perspective with my work on his programs and several special assignments, serving me well in my post retirement enterprises. I've never admired a leader more.*

Dick Coy

Richard (Dick) Coy - February 25, 2019 at 07:11 PM

DW

“ Rich showed his leadership ability, concern for those who worked for him, and his "true grit" on that Friday morning in 1995 when there was a fatal shooting in PMA-209. Staying in the office during the shooting, he took charge, helped those who were wounded, and comforted the rest of us. Under his leadership, PMA-209 moved to new office spaces over the weekend and we were open for business Monday morning. Rich continued to counsel individuals who needed it - all the while keeping the office functioning. We'll miss him. My friend and mentor,

Donald Wellmann - February 25, 2019 at 11:15 AM

DW

“ Rich was my mentor and friend. Our favorite memory was the weekend trip that he, Fran and we (Dianne & Don) took to Wilmington, NC, for the Azalea Festival. We had just moved from Indianapolis to Maryland as a result of the BRAC closure of Naval Avionics Center. The trip did much to welcome us to our new home and NAVAIR jobs. We enjoyed good food and great fellowship. Thank you Rich and Fran. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

God bless

Dianne & Don Wellmann

Donald Wellmann - February 25, 2019 at 11:06 AM

EB

“ Fran, Sandra and Jennifer, our heartfelt sympathy and prayers with the passing of Rich. We have many good memories of Rich and your entire family. Rich was a great husband, father and neighbor. We remember how much he used to go to Spartan's for lunch. His smile and laughter will be missed. May God comfort you all! Love Dava and Ernie.

Ernie Burke - February 24, 2019 at 03:08 PM

JB

“ Rest In Peace my Friend. I was so fortunate to share so many Family Memories with Rich.. Christmas Eve, Easter, Our Grandsons baseball games, Birthdays, driving to Bethlehem, Pa to find Aunt Kathy a home, and so much more.. I looked forward to all these because Rich and I had so much in common. Particularly, being of the same Political ilk. Funny how at times we would speak low so as not to be heard. I remember Rich's speech at Phil and Sandra's Wedding. Especially the part about when Phil asked for Sandra's hand in marriage and the WHERE they were at. (For those unaware Phil asked while they were side by side doing their business in the Men's Room!!!!), Always brings a smile to my face. I will always remember your sense of Family, your joy in watching the Kids play ball, and most of all your keen wit and sense of humor.. Rest in Peace my Friend..

Jerry Blake - February 24, 2019 at 12:58 PM

JR

“ Dick, as he was known to us in Indianapolis, was a friend, mentor and tough boss and sponsor of our avionics work. While he was Deputy program manager for Common Avionics in Naval Air (NAVAIR) Headquarters, he was instrumental in decentralizing the management and engineering of many common avionics programs to our Indianapolis facility, the Naval Avionics Center. He was a tough task master but very effective. He never sought the spotlight but was the true manager of the program office and its successes in NAVAIR Headquarters. We never got, like his children and grandchildren, the "I love you" that they got. More likely we got a "your fired" if something we didn't do something he expected or did something that displeased him. Nevertheless, he showed his respect and his appreciation for us by his continued funding of our work and an infrequent but strongly felt "attaboy". I am sure his impatience and his expectation of perfection often made us do a quicker and better job than would have otherwise been possible. I think we became true friends through our many years working together. We will certainly miss him.

Jim Russell - February 24, 2019 at 12:25 PM

BH

I have fond memories of working with Dick and will miss him too.

Bill Heile - February 24, 2019 at 02:39 PM

PB

Me and Richey graduated Pratt together we were really close and studied many hours together. I was privileged to visit his home in Brooklyn and meet his parents who welcomed me as family. Richey was instrumental in getting me a job with NAVAIR and moving to Virginia.

We had many laughs together.

Sadly we lost touch with each other after Richey got married I had kids as unfortunately separate lives happen. I feel really bad that he has passed and that we haven't had the opportunity to share how our lives have been and laugh at past memories.

Sadly your friend forever Paul Barone "Bye Richey you are missed"

Paul V Barone - January 31, 2021 at 02:05 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 24, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ *Jerry, Susan, Greg, Uncle Bookie, Aunt Frances purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



Jerry, Susan, Greg, Uncle Bookie, Aunt Frances - February 24, 2019 at 08:17 AM



“ *Fran, Sandra, and Jennifer, our hearts and prayers are with you. We had so many laughs and wonderful memories of Rich. He was one of a kind!*
Love, Bob Pflueger and Kathleen McArdle



McArdle Kathleen - February 22, 2019 at 04:20 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 22, 2019 at 02:32 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 22, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 22, 2019 at 11:10 AM



“ *Jennifer, you and your family have our deepest sympathies during this difficult time. May you find strength in your friends and family. God Bless.*
John & Karen Lawson



Karen K Lawson - February 22, 2019 at 10:48 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 22, 2019 at 09:36 AM

BS

“ I remember Rich before he married my cousin Fran. I recall that he was well-respected by my family, and very mature, even though he was still in his twenties. He exuded a quiet intelligence, and was friendly and very down to earth.

I know of his devotion to his family, which evidenced itself at Sandra Jean's wedding. It was a brief moment, but I will never forget it.

When it was Rich's turn to speak, he said that his new son-in-law, Phil, had told him that he would always love and protect Sandra Jean. When Rich said that, he became very emotional and had to pause a moment, touched that a new member of his family felt the same as he did.

Fran, you and your family are in my thoughts, as you bear your loss. May Rich Meyers rest in peace.

Love,
Cousin Bruno

Bruno Stillo - February 21, 2019 at 08:59 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.



February 21, 2019 at 02:40 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.



February 21, 2019 at 09:45 AM

BH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Brenda and Bill Holden - February 21, 2019 at 08:39 AM

AL

“ Thanks for the memories, Uncle Richie. You were a good soldier. No matter how many times Marc and I badgered you about your job, you never revealed a single thing to us. My strongest memories are from childhood- a tall, handsome, gentle man with a jet black swipe of hair, towering over all the tiny, animated Italians in the room. You always seemed so calm and controlled. I thought of you often through the years because you said one of the best things to me that anyone has ever said- when I was just a little girl playing on the floor and all the adults were at the table playing a game of some sort, there was a question for you- Who is the smartest person you know? Your answer stunned me, (and still does). You said - Olga aka me!? I just stopped playing because I overheard it and I froze. I thought you must be crazy! Haha!

I confess that in moments of self-doubt, I still think about that and it lifts me up. It's was so random and off the cuff, that I have to think you meant it at the time. It is a great gift you gave me and I cherish it as I cherish the memories of all our family Christmases together. Sending virtual hugs to the family in VA and imaginary squeezes to my Uncle Richie! Xxx

Allegra - February 21, 2019 at 02:23 AM

JH

I love this so much Allegra and I love you.

Jennifer Heeter - February 21, 2019 at 08:31 AM



Sandra
Blake

I love You and these words

Sandra Blake - February 21, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ *Rich and Fran became family when our beautiful granddaughter Taylor was born. Rich was always so proud and full of love for his wonderful daughters and grandkids. Will remember his smile and laugh. He is missed. Love and peace*

Diane Hammond - February 20, 2019 at 11:45 PM



Love you

Jennifer Heeter - February 21, 2019 at 08:31 AM



“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Brenda and Bill Holden - February 20, 2019 at 06:29 PM



These are amazing Mrs. Holden. Thank you for sharing - Jennifer

Jennifer Heeter - February 20, 2019 at 06:50 PM



Sandra Blake

Thank you for these wonderful memories. ❤️

Sandra Blake - February 21, 2019 at 01:18 PM

LI

“ I told Jennifer last night that one of the things I will remember the about Mr. Meyers was the way he watched his family with such great love. Whether he was at a concert, sporting event, or birthday party, he LOVED quietly observing the joy around him. Keeping you all in my prayers. Grateful to know your wonderful family!

Liz - February 20, 2019 at 05:36 PM

LG

“ Love and prayers, Liz, Dave, and Reese Goldman purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.



Love and prayers, Liz, Dave, and Reese Goldman - February 20, 2019 at 05:33 PM

BH

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Brenda and Bill Holden - February 20, 2019 at 05:30 PM

BH

So many happy memories of Rich and our times with Rich, Fran, Jennifer and Sandra

Brenda and Bill Holden - February 20, 2019 at 05:33 PM

JB

Like many of you, I too, treasure the Family time Rich and I spent. Christmas Eve, Easter, Grandkids Baseball Games, Birthdays and many more times were made special with Rich. I loved our Conversations as we had so much in common. I will always remember Rich as kind, gentle, intelligent, generous and so loving of his Family. I will never forget Sandra and Phil's Wedding when he related how and WHERE Phil asked for Sandras hand in Marriage. When Aunt Kathy recently moved from New York to Pennsylvania , Rich was so instrumental in thinking of every detail of Aunt Kathys move. He so loves his Family. I will miss you my Friend. Our " secret" conversations that we had to whisper to each other!! ..Lol..lol... You will always bring a smile to my face.. You will be Greatly missed... Rest in Peace. Much Love to Fran, Sandra and Jennifer as you too have so many wonderful memories to reflect on.

Jerry Blake - February 24, 2019 at 08:10 AM

EJ

“ *Enza And Joe lit a candle in memory of Richard Herbert Meyers*



Enza and Joe - February 20, 2019 at 05:21 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Herbert Meyers.*



February 20, 2019 at 02:37 PM