



Richard B. DiFedele

January 31, 2025

Richard died peacefully in his sleep on the boat he loved, Breakaway, Longboat Key, FL on January 31, 2025, just weeks before his 76th birthday.

Richard was raised on the family farm in Colts Neck, NJ. He attended Christian Brothers Academy where he was active in debate which prepared him for Princeton where he majored in economics. Richard earned his law degree from George Washington University National Law Center with honors where he was editor in chief of the Journal of International Law and Economics.

His professional career began as a construction law litigator for the US General Services Administration. Subsequently, he moved into the private sector to work on large construction contracts including the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Throughout his career, Richard provided a full range of contract management and legal services, including formation, negotiation and management; change and modifications; resolution of large project construction, delay, impact and design claims and disputes; litigation management; cost avoidance; and risk management. Highlights include The Big Dig in Boston, and the East Side Access Project in NYC, as well as international projects. He cherished the jacket given to him by the Embassy of the United States of America, Santiago, Chile, for his work there.

As a Princeton undergraduate, Richard began his love story with his wife-to-be Marie, and many lifelong relationships including Mick McGinnis, who predeceased him. Decades of adventures included numerous ski and boating trips shared with Mick and wife Missy. Richard traversed the entire east coast in various waterways from Key Largo, FL to Penobscot, ME, seeking out interesting ports and live music.

Over the years, Richard was active in Boston's Princeton Club, and class reunions chair of various subcommittees.

Richard was predeceased by his parents Mildred and Tullio DiFedele, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marie; their two daughters, Lisa with partner Jeff, and Anastasia with husband Chris; two grandsons, Tristan and Shiloh; his sister Marcie and brother Tullio.

Richard will be eternally remembered for his integrity, wisdom, generosity, compassion, and love of family and life.

A private celebration of life will be held in his hometown, and while no public services are planned, we deeply appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Tribute Wall

AR

“ Good morning,
My name is Artur Wilczynski and I live in Poland. I conduct family genealogy. I was greatly surprised to find Maria Błażewska née Wilczynska's grave in the USA. Maria is buried at the Military Cemetery at the Polish National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown along with her husband Stanisław Błażewski, who passed away in 2014.
I sincerely ask for contact with Stanisław and Maria's family, either by phone or email. The eulogy lists the names of their children and grandchildren. Please, I have a lot of information for them about Maria's father, who lived in Poland, was a soldier, and was exiled to Siberia.

Artur Wilczyński

Artur - February 22 at 01:31 AM

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Artur - February 22 at 01:31 AM

KW

“ Richard has always been present, taking time to share with others, especially for those new to the country. When traveling from New Zealand, Richard always drove the miles to pick up family from the airport, take us on trips, and share his home with Marie. On one occasion, at JFK I walked right past Richard, then felt him standing, then turned around to acknowledge his quiet concentration. His deep care, attention to detail, and supportive and quiet manner were shown to me.

Richard was a rock for all, and we had far too little time to be in his presence. Walking through the mountain paths, seeing a show out of town, walking when visiting with the dogs, the early morning rides in the train to the city, visits to the office, the rides out on the boat, the drives in the car to visit Lisa, so, so many generous times and of sharing your home to allow us to be with you both. Our joy was because of Richard's fortitude to do and be true to himself. He showed me his patience, this young relative from far away.

Do know dear Richard (and family) you are all still loved 🙏 ☐

--- cousin Karol Wilczynska



Karol Wilczynska - June 03, 2025 at 09:58 AM

HL

“ Here is where it started for Richard and Marie. A love for his family and friends. The fashion may move on but the memories and love will be eternal. I was very fortunate to be part of your family for a few short months. Forever grateful to know you. Cousin Helen



Helen Lacey - June 03, 2025 at 04:21 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Richard B. DiFedele.



March 18, 2025 at 12:50 PM

CF

“ I have very fond memories of Cousin Richard when we were about 10 and four years old, respectively. Richard LOVED to come on the farm, where my family lived at the time. We would run through the vegetable fields of tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce, radishes, etc., occasionally pulling up a tasty carrot or radish for a snack. I'd always have to clean his veggie; he wasn't skilled enough to clean it!! What remains indelible in my memory are the times we played school! I had a little standup blackboard that I, the teacher, used to teach student Richard his numbers and alphabet, which he learned quite rapidly, to my surprise. I used my own reading schoolbook to teach him how to read. When he had to go potty, I wouldn't let him go UNTIL he tried to read the entire page of 'See Puff Run'. Well, he got to go to potty by memorizing the entire page!! No easy feat!! Later in, I realized he had must have had a photographic memory because he managed to quickly recite what pages he had to read. So, to this day, I proudly believe that I, Cousin Connie, taught Cousin Richard to read!! And he became quite an accomplished, highly successful lawyer—and great reader!! —Connie DiFedele Falvo 3/13/25

Connie DiFedele Falvo - March 13, 2025 at 07:56 PM

LT

“ Rich was one of the first friends I made at Princeton and a roommate for two years. He was smart, warm and funny, and I'm sorry to hear he passed so soon.

My thoughts are with you Marie.

Larry Dennis Thompson - February 24, 2025 at 01:09 AM

GC

“ I'm so sorry. A great guy and a great roommate at Princeton. Our 55th reunion will not be the same without him. -- Greg Conderaci

Greg Conderacci - February 23, 2025 at 10:20 PM

TS

“ Dear Maria, I'm so sorry to hear of Rich's passing and send you my deepest condolences. I always loved seeing both of you at reunions and hearing about the boat and the house and sharing war stories about our time in public service together. I saw the love and care you had for each other. Sending you a big hug and lots of love during this saddest of times. Tina Sung '71

Tina Sung - February 23, 2025 at 08:44 PM

VF

“ My condolences to the family. Rich was a wonderful classmate and truly nice person. He is missed. Varel Freeman '71

varel freeman - February 23, 2025 at 03:46 PM

JC

“ I'm a classmate of Rich's from Princeton. We shared many good memories at Art's in the summer. He was a good guy and we will miss him. Skollins '71.

John J Collins - February 23, 2025 at 03:27 PM

LI

“ Dad you will always be with me. You taught me so much in life and were always there for me. All of my favorite things in life I learned and have because of you - including my love of family and life. You taught me to respect intelligence and education, seek out answers, be curious, ski, boat, love the outdoors, and love live music. I will always think of you when I am out on a boat in the ocean. I love you.

Lisa - February 18, 2025 at 01:31 PM

LI

“ 1 file added to the album Dad



Lisa - February 18, 2025 at 01:04 PM