



## Richard L. Van Fleet

March 16, 1932 - May 12, 2017

Richard L. Van Fleet, 85, of Sarasota, died May 12, 2017. Richard was born to Robert Laurence Van Fleet and Catherine Colcord Van Fleet in New York City on March 16, 1932.

Richard was real proud that he served in the U.S. Army Honor Guard during the Korean War.

Richard married Jean Hansen, the love of his life, on December 5, 1955. They lived in Park Ridge, New Jersey where they raised a family of three boys and one girl.

Richard is survived by his wife Jean, sons Perry, Keith, and Ronnie, and daughter Michelle Brazen. Other surviving family members included Meg Van Fleet, Lynne Van Fleet, Cheryl Van Fleet, and Tom Brazen. He was especially close to his brother-in-laws John Hansen and Jack Hansen, and their loving significant others Trina and Sue.

In 1981, Rich and Jean's life turned to Sarasota where they started the remaining chapters of their wonderful lives where the family grew.

Richard is also survived by eight grandchildren: Richard Van Fleet; Kyle Van Fleet; Christopher Van Fleet; Mathew Van Fleet; Lauren Van Fleet; Wyatt Van

Fleet; Davin Brazen; and Kayla Brazen and one great granddaughter Raelynn Van Fleet. He also leaves behind numerous friends and the extended family members in the Hansens, Hannons, Turners, Egans, Dukes, Brazens, and Kintzs.

His work ethic was unmatched and he worked his tail off to provide a great and fun life for his family. He learned his work ethic while living and working on a farm during his teenage years. He worked as a mechanic for Western Electric in Kearney, NJ for 32 years and with Sarasota County Fleet Management for over 10 years. He was a man who could fix anything and with an analytical intellect to match.

Richard was a consummate family man and a true gentleman. His true legacy is the loving family he leaves behind.

His dear wife of 61 years was the apple of his eye since he first met her. Their story was a true and genuine love story that took many turns, some bad, mostly great.

He fought with diabetes for over 50 years, and dementia near the end. But it never took his unwavering character and his endearing soul.

He loved his family and he had a unique and loving relationship with all his children, grandchildren, and close friends. He loved them with open arms and unconditional love, and taught us all the importance of hard work and LOVE.

Viewing will be on May 22, 2017 from 12- 1 pm at Toale Brothers Funeral Home at 40 N. Orange Ave, Sarasota 34236.

A memorial service will follow at Toale Brothers from 1-2 and with a graveside service and military honors at the Palms Memorial Park at 170 Honore Avenue, Sarasota FL 34232.