



Richard L. Keller

November 24, 1926 - November 6, 2012

Richard Lee Keller, loving husband, proud father and grandfather, died on November 6, 2012, at the age of 85, at The Gardens at William Hill Manor in Easton, MD. He was born in Vancouver, WA, on November 24, 1926, and was the son of Eugene J. Keller and Mildred Hurd Keller.

Richard, who by most was known as "Dick," spent his childhood in Vancouver where his family owned a dairy business. During his high school years he became an Eagle Scout. After graduating from Vancouver High School in June 1944, he entered the U.S. Naval flight training program serving until the end of WWII. He then attended the University of Washington earning a BA degree in economics and business, graduating in June 1949.

At the onset of the Korean War, he re-entered flight training and in October, 1950, was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was designated a Naval Aviator in March, 1952. He served as a carrier pilot in Korea and the Western Pacific and a test pilot at North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego, CA. Upon his release from naval service, he joined United Airlines in 1955. His career spanned thirty-one years, the last eleven of which were spent as a flight manager until his retirement in December of 1986. During his career with United, he maintained his membership in the Navy Reserve, retiring with the rank of Commander and Executive Officer of his squadron stationed at the Naval Air Station in Coronado, CA, where Dick

met Patricia Wray. They were married on July 17, 1954, in Glen Ridge, NJ.

Dick and Pat raised their family in Upper Saddle River, NJ, where they lived for more than thirty years. Throughout this time, Dick was an active member of the community serving as a Little League coach, a member of the recreation commission, and a supporter of the Boy Scouts. They retired to St. Michaels, MD, in 1989. Here, Dick volunteered at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for fifteen years and spent many hours helping to repair and build boats. He earned his Masters license on 100-ton vessels which enabled him to operate "Mr. Jim" for the museum. He was a member of the Talbot Country Club, the U.S. Navy League, the Miles River Yacht Club, the Army Navy Club and the Chesapeake Yacht Club. He was also a member of the Livingston Lake Club in the Adirondacks where he and Pat built and enjoyed a summer home for many years with their family.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia Wray Keller; two sons, John W. Keller and his wife, Katherine of Sewickley, PA, and Richard L. Keller, Jr., of New York City; two daughters, Julia K. Fontaine and her husband, Joel of Norwell, MA, and Elisabeth K. Brightly and her husband, Robert of Union Township, NJ; and six grandchildren, Trevor, Erin, Christopher, Kathryn, Jack and Douglas. He was predeceased by his brother, David L. Keller, and his sister, Jean E. Benbow.

Please join us for a celebration of Dick's life which will be held for family and friends from 3 p.m. -5 p.m. on November 17 at the Talbot Country Club, 6142 Country Club Dr. in Easton, MD. The burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 741, P.O. Box 745, St. Michaels, MD 21663 or the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, P.O. Box 636, St. Michaels, MD 21663.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

celebration of life

NOV 17. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Talbot Country Club
6142 Country Club Drive
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard L. Keller*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Richard L. Keller*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Richard L. Keller*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM