



Richard Rizzio Sr.

March 24, 1925 - December 23, 2018

HOLLAND – Richard Rizzio Sr., age 93, formerly of Traverse City, passed away on Sunday, December 23, 2018 at his home in Holland, in the loving care of his children; Richard, Ken, Lynn, and Mike.

Richard was born in Chicago, on March 4, 1925 to Thomas and Phyllis (Truesch) Rizzio.

In July 1943 Richard was drafted into the United States Army where he honorably served his country during WWII. He arrived in Europe the following year to serve as a radio operator with the 274th Armored Field Artillery Battalion during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He was a member of VFW Post #2780, American Legion, Military Coalition, and the Rolling Thunder. Richard was honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1945 and made his way back to Chicago, IL where he met his future wife, Marie Virginia Aguzino, and on August 20, 1949 the two were married.

Richard and Marie started their family of four in Crystal Lake. It was when Richard took a job selling Folgers coffee that he and Marie moved the family to Arlington Heights. The Rizzio family then found their way to Marquette where they settled and raised their family. Every Sunday morning, you could find the Rizzio family in the same pew at First United Methodist Church where they were members for years.

As Richard and Marie settled into retirement, they made the decision to move to Traverse City, where they were active members at Central United Methodist Church. Richard enjoyed hunting, fishing, and cooking as he and Marie competed in many cooking competitions together across the United States.

Richard is survived by his sons; Richard Jr. (Joanie) Rizzio, Troy, Kenneth (Barbara) Rizzio, Holland, Michael (Patti) Rizzio, Marquette, daughter, Lynn (Ted) Kirkpatrick, Gwinn, grandchildren; Kathy (Rob) Mertz, Sarah (Bernie) Garlock, Stephanie (Derek) Huizinga, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lindsey (Nathan) Lee, and Eric Rizzio. Richard is also survived by his 5

great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Marie, brothers; Raymond, Donald, and sisters, Vivian and Jean.

Per Richard's request cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will take place at 3:00 pm on Saturday, December 29, 2018 at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Chris Lane will officiate.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to; Operation Injured Soldiers, 10079 Colonial Industrial Drive, South Lyon, Michigan 48178, or Tight Lines for Troops, P.O. Box 274, Manistee, MI 49660.

Events

DEC 29 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

DEC 29 **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I had the pleasure of knowing Mr.Rizzio as he was a a friend of Charles G Lewis (Battle survivor)and headed the TC chapter of the Battle of the Bulge. My condolences to friends and family, he was truly a strong kind man.
Teresa & Family.

Teresa Wadysz - November 06, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ Mr. Rizzio always took the time to talk with me when shopping at Meijer and I was lucky enough to hear some of his stories from WW2 on occasion. He was terribly heartbroken when he lost his wife a few years ago and I'll never forget the hug we shared. Mr Rizzio was a true patriot and I'll never forget him.

Troy McIntyre - November 06, 2019 at 02:20 PM



“ Cupckae really was a special man. Humble and kind. He always lit up my heart and made my day just seeing him. He is one of those memorable people who flew with us on an Honor Flight. I will never forget him.

Tricia Donegan Hub Director
Mid-Michigan Honor Flight

Tricia Donegan - December 29, 2018 at 11:54 AM



“ Richard and Marie welcomed us into the group with open arms when we moved here. Both were wonderful people and I appreciated their friendship so much. My condolences to your lovely family. I know you miss them terribly but what a fabulous legacy they left for all of you. God bless you all.
Donna Sayer

Donna Sayer - December 28, 2018 at 09:03 PM



“ Mr. and Mrs. Rizzio were our neighbors in Interlochen for several years. They were the best and we cared about them so much. We have kept in touch with Mr. Rizzio usually at Christmas time. We even received a nice card and note from him this year. Prayers of comfort to the Rizzio family. You are all blessed to have had Richard and Marie as your parents.
Amy and George Tabbert, Interlochen MI

Amy Tabbert - December 28, 2018 at 07:22 PM



“ I met Richard and Marie when they would come into Meijer to shop for produce. Over the years we had many great conversations. When Marie was with him they talked about all of her cooking contests she had entered and won. When she passed I could tell he was greatly affected but he just kept going even though he missed her greatly. I had a great admiration for him as a veteran and a humble man. When he came into the store for the last time the Sun of the dinner I got the clumps when he and Richard jr. walked away. I had to go back and tell them what an honor it was for him to take the time to come and see us in the store. I know he will be missed and also know he will be glad to see Marie. Tom Webster



Tom Webster - December 28, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ My sympathies to the whole family. Richard was a very special friend of mine. His dedication to the Veterans history project and his kind hugs will always be in my heart. He will be missed. They broke the mold when he was born. Adored him.

susan McQuaid - December 27, 2018 at 10:23 AM



“ Mike, Patti, Eric and Lindsey, I am so sorry for the loss of your father and grandfather. I do believe he is beside his wife once again, maybe cooking together. Jon and I are thinking of you all.

Dawn Peterson - December 26, 2018 at 07:24 PM



“ Richard Rizzio was a former resident here at Bay Ridge East and will be greatly missed by the many who shared our morning coffee time. Richard had a way with words and spent many hours working on his model airplane collection. I as a Chosin Reservoir survivor can realize some of the same episodes that he endured during the Battle of the Bulge. Guess we were able to realize what each other had endured. We hated to see Richard leave Bay Ridge, but understood that he wanted so much to be near his family.

Richard was very active with several veterans groups here in Traverse City and was often referred to as "cup cake" which resulted from a onetime incident. We who knew Richard will always cherish our time spent in fellowship at coffees, potlucks, Veterans affairs and the like. He loved his family, his country, and friends. To Richards family please know that he was a part of our family, too. Our country is free today because of heroes like him.

He will be missed.

Gunnery Sergeant. Gene Dixon

U.S. Marine Corps Retired

Eugene Dixon - December 25, 2018 at 06:37 PM



“ Our memories of Richard and Marie go back a number of years when we shared many activities, responsibilities, meals and fun times tat Central Church in Traverse City. Both were such a delight to be with, enthusiastic in all causes, wonderful with their cooking and baking. Too, Don and Richard shared much through their VFW membership and Honor Guard occasions. I'm so glad we had him in our lives and we are thinking now of his family, as you hold in your hearts all your father and grandfather meant to you. God bless you all. Rest in peace, dear Richard.

Elsie Randall - December 23, 2018 at 05:24 PM



“ My association with Richard goes back 25/30 years as a fellow wholesale clothing salesman and as a fellow veteran That association turned into a friendship that included our wives. Because of the infirmities of old age, although we have kept in touch, it has not been my pleasure to see Dick since the day he was Grand Marshall of the parade in Traverse City. My thoughts and prayers go out for all of his family.

Wallace Mitchell

Wallace Mitchell - December 24, 2018 at 03:21 PM



“ My prayers and sympathy to your family as you go through this difficult time ! Jill Spitz Froberg

jill Froberg - December 26, 2018 at 09:15 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to your family in the passing of your amazing and loving father and grandfather. Thoughts and prayers are with you all. Marc and Marcia Lambrix.

Marcia - December 27, 2018 at 09:03 AM