



Mr. Richard Shaw

April 24, 1952 - January 31, 2023

Richard Shaw, age 70, of Middletown, DE, passed away on Tuesday January 31, 2023. “Rick” as he was known, was a beloved husband, father, and PopPop. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. Rick was known for his even keeled and kind manner, his wit, and his love for puns (often to the chagrin of his family). He was recognized by many as fair and always willing to listen to both sides of an issue.

Rick gave over 30 years of service to the state of Delaware. He began his career as a youth counselor before eventually climbing the ladder to become an administrator for the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services. Rick was proud of the work he did with families in need and was very fond of the relationships he built during his time with the State.

His greatest joy in life was his family, whom he cherished. Many memories were made while spending time at the family beach house. He enjoyed boating, fishing, and challenging his children to beat him in games of all sorts. Rick liked to “hit the links” and was involved in a local golf league for several years. On summer days, Rick could be found in pursuit of the perfect tomato in his vegetable garden. He was an avid Philadelphia sports fan and likewise supported the sports teams of his alma mater.

In his later years, Rick took on his favorite role as PopPop which brought him so much happiness. He was thoroughly wrapped around the fingers of his two granddaughters, who he adored, and would frequently be seen sneaking them ice cream just before bedtime.

Rick himself, was a talented right-handed pitcher with an impressive slider. Rick played ball at the University of Delaware for the coaching great, Bob Hannah, where he compiled team-leading records of 6-0 and 6-1 in '73 and '74. He pitched in 172 games for Canada Dry in the Delaware Semi-Pro League across 13 seasons, setting the all-time league record for complete games (104) in the process. Additionally, Rick earned a total of 75 wins, recorded 16 shutouts, and was voted the league MVP in 1973. His pitching prowess also provided him with opportunities to play in Puerto Rico and the Philadelphia Phillies' spring training camp in Clearwater, Florida. Rick instilled his love for sports in his children and proudly coached them at every level of competition until each reached Division I college athletics themselves.

Rick is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Diane Shaw; daughter, Lauren Lathrop (Mike); son Ryan Shaw (Alli); grandchildren, Reese, Remi and Ryder; brothers, Bill Shaw (Ana) and Lenny Wilson (Scott); and granddogs, Utley and Lincoln. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jean Wilson; and sister, Donna Sloniewski.

Family and friends are invited to a visitation on Thursday, February 16, 2023, from 1:30-3 PM at Strano and Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Road in Newark, where a service in celebration of Rick's life will take place at 3 PM. Interment will be private. For directions or to send an online condolence please visit www.stranofeeley.com

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 16. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Celebration of Life

FEB 16. 3:00 PM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home
635 Churchmans Rd
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 731-5459
info@stranofeeley.com

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I was Just told about Rick’s death a couple years ago !
Condolences to His Family ! Rick was an easy guy to like ! Rick was
a competitor, and a good Athlete & pitcher ! I will now always
remember Rick in my regular prayers !

Joe Grace - May 27, 2025 at 01:01 PM

BT

“ My deepest sympathy to the Shaw family,I remember Rick from little
league days. He taught my son Chris to pitch. Sorry for your loss I
know he will surely be missed. Brian T. Eide

Brian T.Eide - February 21, 2023 at 01:47 PM

“RickShaw (I called him RickShaw more than Rick) is my first cousin. His mom, my Aunt Jean, and my dad were sister and brother. My dad and Aunt Jean were lovely people - easy-going, kind, sense of humor, loving parents. I like to think that they passed along those nice traits to us and we passed them to our kids and grandkids.

RickShaw and I spent a lot of time together as kids. I especially remember the fun times we had at the “farm”. As a kid I remember the farm with chicken coups, barns and outhouses on a cove off of the Chesapeake Bay. It doesn’t resemble a farm today as the area is filled with marinas, boats, restaurants and lots of people. Our grandparents along with other family members bought the property and it was soon filled with lots of cousins and extended family. I remember spending time with Rick fishing, crabbing, getting the rowboat stuck in the mud, swimming at the point, playing cards and games, and croquet and volleyball in the front yard. We would also have big softball games with the cousins in the large front yard by the water. Who knows - maybe that’s where Rick’s baseball skills were started. My brother Skip and other extended family now live on the property.

Some of my favorite memories as a young adult were the sailing trips we would take with Rick and Diane. It was always so much fun to have them along. I think that Rick loved those trips. I remember one weekend trip in particular when the 4 of us were on a 30 foot sailboat and we were crossing from the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay to the western shore – specifically heading to Annapolis. It was a rough crossing – lots of wind and waves making the boat heel and water splash into the cockpit. When we got close to the Annapolis shore the Naval Academy band was playing. We were jokingly convinced that they were playing for us, celebrating our arrival after our tough crossing. There were lots of laughs and celebrating that night.


I haven’t seen as much of Rick in recent years – a couple of lunches, weddings – but we did talk regularly on the phone. He

would call and say “Hey Cuz – It’s Rick”. I know that he had a long career helping youth and their families and that he was a star baseball pitcher. But what we talked about was family. I know he loved and was very proud of his family, Diane, his kids Lauren and Ryan and their partners, and that he adored his grandkids, Reese and Remi. I remember him saying after telling grandkid stories with a chuckle “they are something else”.

*RickShaw – Death came way too soon. We will miss you.
Cuz – Rest in peace.
Love to the family, Gail*

Gail Seitz - February 16, 2023 at 08:22 PM

KC

“ I am heartbroken at the loss of Richard “Rick” Shaw. Rick was my supervisor and mentor, but more importantly he was my friend for over 33 years. He had such a calm and caring demeanor as a boss, which was perfect for my feisty spirit. Rick was proud of the work that he did at DYRS, but his greatest accomplishment was being a dad and a Pop Pop. I will miss his wit, his laugh, and his kind heart


Kathleen Covelli - February 16, 2023 at 08:09 PM

JP

“ It's been over 40 years since I've seen Rick since our days playing for Canada Dry but I can remember it like it was yesterday. Rick was one of the kindest guys I've ever known. He was a veteran when I came to the team but he welcomed me with open arms. Great guy, great teammate and I'll always relish the times and conversations we shared. Diane, my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Jerry Proffitt - February 15, 2023 at 08:00 PM

SB

“ Our deepest sympathy to Diane and the family. We feel blessed to have gotten to know Rick over the past 10 years as neighbors and always enjoyed our talks with him outside and around the house. He was such a nice neighbor, always keeping us in the loop and offering us delicious vegetables from his garden. He was always so sweet to our boys and would often times pop over to watch them play baseball or soccer in the back yard. They will always remember Rick inviting them over for root beers on his deck while they sit and chatted about life and sports. He will certainly be missed in the neighborhood. Our most sincere condolences. - Neil, Shelly, Chase & Brett Butterfoss (Neighbors at 332)

Shelly Butterfoss - February 15, 2023 at 10:52 AM

WF

“ Hey Diane, Lisa and I (your old neighbors at 328) want to express our most sincere condolences. I enjoyed when Rick would stop over just to chat, get an update on the kids, etc. (especially when Marley was with him). We recently relocated out West, but wish you and your family the peace and comfort over the coming weeks. God bless. Bill and Lisa Fontana

William Fontana - February 13, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard Shaw.



February 13, 2023 at 09:13 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the album YRS Birthday Sign



April Schmitt - February 12, 2023 at 05:26 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard Shaw.



February 10, 2023 at 06:55 PM

JG

“ Late last year Rick and I ventured out to the bay bridge to go fishing, with beer and bait in our hands, fishing rods hanging all over the boat and waves knocking us around....After awhile I glanced up from the stern to see how Rick was doing on the bow and quickly realized he was sound asleep.... And although we didn't catch anything it was a great day, the two of us catching up on time lost and reliving the wonderful times we shared on the bay so, so many years ago.... My deepest sympathies to Diane and family during this most difficult time.... Jim Guidice

jim guidice - February 07, 2023 at 08:28 AM

SS

"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after." Henry David Thoreau

Steven Stern - February 07, 2023 at 08:02 PM

JM

“ God will remember the countless times Rick tried to make this a better world. Our prayers are with Rick and his family. Jack Moore

Jack Moore - February 06, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard Shaw.



February 05, 2023 at 02:44 PM

LD

“ To Diane and family, my sympathy to you through this most difficult time. Those of us who have lost a spouse are with you in spirit and send you strength.
Linda DiSabatino

Linda C. DiSabatino - February 05, 2023 at 09:12 AM

LB

“ My deepest sympathy to Rick's family. I was privileged to call Rick a dear friend and neighbor. I enjoyed working on the Dickerson Farm BofD with Rick, we spent many hours discussing what we could do to improve our community. RIP Rick, we will miss you. □

Linda Barnes - February 05, 2023 at 08:17 AM

GC

“ My admiration for Rick goes far beyond words. What I loved most about him was his compassion and ability to accept the frailties of others. He had a kind and gentle demeanor and unique way of remaining calm in adverse situations. Even when angered, he never raised his voice. Public service was his calling and he helped and mentored many. My thoughts and prayers are with Diane, Lauren and Ryan, and I want them to know that he will always be remembered and held in high regard. George Chambers

George Chambers - February 04, 2023 at 09:04 PM

TB

“ Rick was my colleague for many years. More importantly he was my friend. At work Rick was steady, reliable and smart. We were doing important and serious work but he never took himself too seriously. We always found something to laugh about. Nothing was more important to Rick than his family. He was so proud of his kids. I just can't believe he is gone so suddenly. I would give anything to have just one more conversation with Rick and to tell him how much he meant to me. Tim Brandau

Tim Brandau - February 03, 2023 at 04:49 PM

SL

“ Rick was a wonderful co-worker, supervisor and manager with DSCYF/DYRS. He will be missed. Please accept my condolences on his passing. Sincerely, Shirley Munroe Lerner

Shirley Munroe Lerner - February 03, 2023 at 04:45 PM

NP

I worked with Rick for many years at YRS. He was dependable and balanced, He was compassionate and quietly competent. His sense of humor was a welcome attribute while dealing with many tough situations. He was so proud of his kids! I am sure that he was a super "Pop Pop". My warm regard and sympathy to your family on his loss.
Nancy Plerhoples

Nancy Plerhoples - February 08, 2023 at 07:20 AM

JG

I knew Rick as a tremendous baseball competitor , recently I was told of His passing ! Condolences to His Family !
Joe Grace August 27 2024

joe Grace - August 27, 2024 at 11:28 PM