

Dick Jackson

JACKSON, Richard H. "Dick" Richard H. "Dick" Jackson, 75, of Green Hill Beach, Wakefield, RI and West Palm Beach, FL (and formerly of Bloomfield and West Hartford) husband of 51 years to Arlene (Ferris) Jackson, passed away Monday, (August 10, 2009) after a four year battle with ALS.

Born to the late Jennie and Frederick Jackson in Bronx, NY, he was father to sons, Eric Jackson of New Hartford, Scott and wife Maggie Jackson of East Hampton, and Evan and wife Louise Jackson of Madison.

He was also adored "Papa" to ten grandchildren: Elijah, Sarah, Caroline, Haley, Jenna, Laura, Brian and Julia Jackson and Caitlin and Meredith Shaw. He also leaves sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Jesse Beller of Croton, NY, and family.

He was a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx, NY, attended Penn State, where he played varsity soccer. He obtained his BA from Ohio University and his MSW from UConn School of Social Work.

He was a dynamic, forceful and articulate clinical social worker with an unusually diverse background. Highlights of his 50 year career include Founder and Executive Director of "The Bridge", a youth service center (which evolved from "Educational Resources, Inc." in 1971), in West Hartford. He also was Director of Social Work in the Bloomfield School system, a special assistant to the CEO of the Hartford Insurance Group, facilitating corporate-community relations. He was Executive Director of Creative Housing, Inc., which organized and led state-wide efforts to create local teams to build affordable housing. As part of his community outreach, he hosted and produced social documentary series on local radio stations WDRC, WTIC and WPOP. He was also instrumental in establishing alternative high schools as Founder and Executive Director of "Creative Gifts, Inc.". Over the past two decades he was in private practice as an individual/youth and marital counselor. Besides his beloved wife and spending time with his cherished family (particularly at the beaches he loved), Dick was passionate about intellectual conversation and had a great love for horses, particularly Thoroughbreds.

Over the years he co-owned some 35 different race horses and even to his last days enjoyed Saratoga! Special thanks to all the family for their support through the illness, but especially to daughter-in-law, Maggie Jackson, who cared for Dick tirelessly and lovingly though the last eight weeks at his home in Rhode Island. In accordance with his wishes and value of education, he has donated his body to Brown University Medical School. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations made to ALS or Hospice. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Hartford Courant
August 13, 2009