Richard C. Rollins



Stratham - Richard C. Rollins, 74, passed away from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident on Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

Richard was born in Bar Harbor, Maine, the son of the late Charles and Evelyn Rollins. He grew up and was educated in Somerville, Mass. He was a graduate of Somerville High School.

He served in the Army Air Corps from July 1955 to July 1958. Richard held the rank of specialist 4th class and was the recipient of the Good Conduct Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He returned home and worked as an oil heat technician for a number of companies, including Alliance Fuel. He had an incredible work ethic and was an excellent provider for his family.

Richard made the most of his time on this earth. Some described Richard as a 74-year-old who thought he was 18. When he was not working, he was always on the go. He enjoyed deep sea fishing with his grandsons. He was an avid golfer, who often played at the Woburn Country Club and the Hillview Country Club. He enjoyed trips to Foxwoods and vacationed in Wells Beach, Maine, with his family for more than 30 years. Richard took hot air balloon rides, hang glider rides, parachuted and undertook any other adventure someone might be up for. He rode a motorcycle for more than 30 years, with the Harley-Davidson being his favorite type of bike. He was a member of the ROMEO Bike Club. Richard always had time to spend with his children and grandchildren, and he has left them with countless memories and a wonderful example on how to live filled with love, friendships and with no regrets.

Richard was the beloved husband of the late Carol R. (Gillis), whom he missed dearly. He was the loving father of Richard Rollins Jr. and his wife, Laura, of East Longmeadow, Mass., Charles "Chuck" Rollins and his wife, Sonia, of Burlington, Mass., and Virginia "Ginny" Mendenhall and her husband, John, of West Brookfield, Mass. He was the brother of Bruce Rollins of Woburn, Mass., Jean Shoemaker of Idaho and the late Gail Abate. He was the proud grandfather of Rick, Lindsy, Jared, Sam, Chip and Alec Rollins, Casey and Ryan Foley, Lexi and Mitchell Mendenhall, and great-grandfather of Cadence Frigon. He was also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

services: Visiting hours will be held at the Edward V. Sullivan Funeral Home, 43 Winn St., Burlington, Mass. (Exit 34 off Rt. 128, Woburn side) on Saturday, March 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. A memorial service will be held at Forestdale Community Church, 235 Forest St., Malden, Mass., on Sunday, March 25 at 1 p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Richard's name may be made to the Boston Ronald McDonald House, 229 Kent St., Brookline, MA 02446 or www.rmhboston.org. For directions, obituary and an online guestbook, go to www.sullivanfuneralhome.net or www.forestdalechurch.com.

Published in Union Leader on March 23, 2012