



Richard H. Powell

September 21, 1944 - April 11, 2022

Delmar - Richard H. Powell (Dick to all who knew him), died unexpectedly in his sleep on Monday, April 11, at the age of 77. Dick was born on September 21, 1944, to Willard and Jean (Kimball) Powell in Auburn, NY, and grew up with his brother Robert Powell and sister Kathy (Powell) Miller. He graduated from Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, NY. His BS in Environmental Studies and BLA are from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and MS in Urban and Environmental Studies from Rensselaer. Dick served in the Air Force with his brother Robert in Vietnam, proudly "hanging out of a Huey" as a reconnaissance photographer, where he honed his passion for the art of photography.

Dick founded Powell's Landscaping Services with his brother Rob in their youth, and maintained clients to this day around the state. He spent the majority of his career as an Environmental Analyst for the NYS Public Service Commission, as well as working for Allegany State Parks Association, Dames and Moore Inc, and most recently consulting for LaBella Associates. Those who knew and worked with Dick spoke of his dedication, professionalism, perfectionism, and the pride with which he completed his projects.

Dick was a passionate environmental advocate and steward of the Earth and

her beauty, proudly serving as a member of the Council of Fellows in the American Society of Landscape Architects, an active member of the Western New York Chapter of ASLA, and a proud alum of ESF, tirelessly supporting the archival and financial work of all, with colleagues stating, “He combines the passion of a landscape architect with the cool thinking of an accountant, quality-assurance auditor, and archivist to benefit the ASLA.”

Stories about Dick's love and light thrive in the hearts of his wife, Kris Powell, his daughter Maggie Powell, his son Michael and his daughter-in-law Allison, with the grandsons he adored, Lincoln and Finley, with his significant other Paula Ledwith and her family, and a heap of wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins, four-legged family members, and close friends. Dick's song for his children was “What a Wonderful World”- he truly believed it was, and spent his life making it so.

A memorial mass and celebration of life will be held at All Saints Church, 1340 Lancaster Ave
Syracuse, NY 13210 on Saturday, July 16th at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, Dick would want donations made to the ASLA Fund, which he helped to establish, to support their continued endeavors and to the ESF College Foundation, to encourage and educate the next generations of stewards, foresters, and landscape professionals.

To leave a message for Dick's family, please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

All Saints Church
1340 Lancaster Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard H. Powell*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to Kris, Maggie, Michael and the entire Powell family. Praying for God's comfort and peace for all of you. Liz, Brad and Matt Mitchell*

Elizabeth Mitchell - July 14, 2022 at 09:39 AM



“ *I have had the privilege of knowing Dick Powell my entire life. He was my dad's best friend and my Godfather. He was such a wonderful man and I have the fondest memories of his smile, laughter and joy that he brought to every situation. Truly sorry for your loss.*

Donna (Nuzzo) D'Agostino - July 13, 2022 at 06:07 PM



“ *Sincerest condolences to you. I worked with Dick on the NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee. He was a wonderful advocate for the environment, a thoughtful and compassionate listener, and always willing to help out and go above and beyond. I will miss seeing him at our meetings very much.*

Meredith Taylor - April 25, 2022 at 04:25 PM

AM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dick at the Department of Public Service. He was a lovely man and we shared enthusiasm for finding good eats whenever we traveled together for work. He always spoke glowingly of his children and was so proud of them. My deepest condolences for your loss.

Ashley Moreno - April 25, 2022 at 09:22 AM

MH

“ I knew Dick from since my early years with ASLA in the 80's. We attended many retreats to plan for the Chapter's future and he helped steer its growth to this day. In more recent years Dick assisted me with multiple Fellow applications, being spot on with his assessment of candidate skills and contributions to society and the profession. His nomination and acceptance was a true deserving commendation, of which we were all proud. Dick had a knack for archives and spent tireless volunteer hours organizing decades of data for the Chapter. This will be a hard task to follow. Dick was always asking about my family successes and business challenges. He was so proud of his family and surely kept them close to his heart.

We will truly miss his infectious laugh and goodwill. I am grateful his name will be placed on the ASLA Scholarship Fund in 2023. Our condolences to his family and loved ones.

Michael & Cathy Haas

Michael and Cathy Haas - April 22, 2022 at 05:39 PM

BW

“ I worked with Dick for many years at the Department of Public Service and had great respect for him professionally and a wonderful friendship personally. Since I have moved a ways away after retirement, I had not seen him a lot and was very happy to come to the last retirees' lunch and get a chance to share stories and find out how he was doing. So it was quite a shock when I heard the news so soon after. We will all miss his good will and good humor. My best to his family. Bob Whitaker

Bob Whitaker - April 21, 2022 at 08:37 PM

AW

“ Dick and I met as Trustees for ASLA National. His joy of life, smile and laughter will always remain in my memory. A great loss for everyone and the profession of landscape architecture.

My heartfelt condolences to his entire family - four legged included.

Annette Wilkus - April 19, 2022 at 02:18 PM

MT

“ Dick and I met a very long time ago when i was just starting out as a Landscape Architect. I don't know of a better example for someone to follow.

Marian Tompkins - April 19, 2022 at 12:43 PM

PJ

“ We were so saddened to hear of Dick's passing. Such a kind and giving man, always ready to share a story, and so proud of his family. We always looked forward to seeing him on Derby Day and sharing what everyone was up to. He will be missed.

Our heartfelt condolences for your family's loss,

Patrick and Laura Jordan

Patrick Jordan - April 19, 2022 at 10:46 AM

SH

“ My sincere condolences to Dick's family and friends. He was a coworker of mine at the Department of Public Service in the Office of Environmental Energy and the Environment. I always looked forward to his daily good morning's as he walked by my cubicle to his stacked with paper and boxes. Dick was a great guy and had an incredible laugh.

Sandra Hart - April 18, 2022 at 07:00 AM

AG

“ My sincerest condolences to the family of Dick Powell. I knew Dick for many years from working together at the PSC. More recently, he was a regular at the PSC retirees' lunches. Dick was a genuinely nice guy. Pleasant to talk with and knowledgeable of many things. He always had a kind word for everyone. I will miss him as will everyone who knew him.

Art Gordon

Art Gordon - April 16, 2022 at 02:59 PM

PR

“ Last year I had the pleasure of working with Dick Powell on nomination a site to the Historic American Landscape Survey. We had just started this project and were going to get pictures of the former Civilian Conservation Corp camps in Allegany County, New York this spring. I will miss his dedication and enthusiasm, and offer my condolences to his family and friends. Pauline E. Burnes, RLA

Pauline E. Burnes, RLA - April 16, 2022 at 12:17 PM

BB

“ I'll always remember our family get togethers. Sorry for your loss.

Bruce Bommersbach - April 16, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard H. Powell.



April 15, 2022 at 04:27 PM

CR

“ I worked with Dick for eight years at DPS and my desk was located nearest his cubicle. I can still see the stack of papers piled high in his cubicle. If you needed something and couldn't find it online or the department archives, you bet Dick could find it in his stacks. Dick was always pleasant, easy going and great to work with. My condolences for his children, family and friends.

In peace and prayer,

Collen Reynolds (DPS)

Collen Reynolds - April 15, 2022 at 03:29 PM

BG

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dick Powell for a few years. He was always a wonderful guy. My heart goes out to his loved ones.
Brandon Goodrich

Brandon Goodrich - April 15, 2022 at 03:22 PM

CH

“ Thoughts and prayers sent to everyone. I remember all the good times with everyone growing up. Sorry for your loss.

Carol Ann Bommersbach Hagins - April 15, 2022 at 01:00 PM

LE

“ What a great family, so remember family picnics at Aunt Ginny's and often the Powell clan attended. Every Christmas I place the ceramic tree made by Dick's mom on our mantel and think of the generous lovely Powell family. Blessings, Glynn & Linda (Dutcher) English

Linda Dutcher English - April 15, 2022 at 11:53 AM

 Cheryl Modzel

“ Thoughts and prayers sent to everyone. I remember all the good times with everyone growing up.

Cheryl Bommersbach Modzel

Cheryl Modzel - April 15, 2022 at 09:22 AM

BW

“ To Dick's family,
My sympathies, Dick was a wonderful person I got to know in my time at the DPS.

Bill Wade - April 15, 2022 at 09:20 AM

DB

“ There are so many good things I can say about Dick but space is limited. From towing my car home after a blown head gasket to plowing my driveway on his way home after a date. Dick has been a great friend since 1962. He will surely be missed by all of us who hung together in the 60s. We will all miss him and hope he puts in a good word for us with the Almighty.

David Bench - April 14, 2022 at 10:22 PM

TR

“ To the family of Dick Powell, I had the honor and the privilege to meet a wonderful person whom I could tell that loved his family, sending my thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.



Tim Robison - April 14, 2022 at 08:54 PM

MA

“ Met Dick a couple of years before he and Kris were married. Summers at the cabin in Long Lake were the stuff of legend. Thanks for making those summers hilarious and magical. You were the best. Thoughts and prayers with you Kris. Michael (your other little brother)

Michael Amory - April 14, 2022 at 08:06 PM