

## How I'll Remember "Flower"

Dick was a quiet man, not given to conversation, but a pensive person, - always thinking. He was a listener who absorbed even the most minute details like a sponge, -- and remembered them all! Here are a few of the things that I remember he liked in life. My experience is that we recall the little things about someone after they die, and that it's a way we stay connected to them.

Sometime, a very long time ago when I was a teenager, Dick started to call me "George" because of my short hair. I still have short hair, and he always kept that nickname for me. My comeback was to call him "Flower", like the little skunk in Bambi. I really have no idea why I called him that, except that I was desperate for a comeback that I knew he wouldn't like as much as I didn't like "George". But both names stuck, and became terms of endearment for us both.

I remember that Dick liked:

1. Shirts with at least one pocket (to hold a pack of cigarettes). They were always on his Christmas list.
2. Boats and the river. For as long as I knew him, and until a couple of years ago, rivers and water were simply an integral part of his life, passed down from his father, and a love he passed on to his son, Max.
3. Detective novels – in paperback. He was frugal. It was always a challenge to find a book he hadn't read by an author he liked.
4. A card game called boo-ray. Dick was probably the first person to introduce this game to Quincy when he got out of the Navy. He played it conservatively, as he did most things, - and his winnings over many years could have put Max through his first year of college. Dick was frugal.
5. His white terry cloth cap – his boat cap. He used to ring it out in the river and put it on his head to keep cool. He was a pretty innovative guy.
6. Dick liked to help his family in the best way he could. A CPA, he did tax returns for many of us for many years, and never charged a penny.
7. He had a great appreciation for fine quality craftsmanship, and enjoyed buying the best because he knew it was the best.

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8. Dick liked to fix things. He had a workshop in his basement and a real ability to make things, patch things and put them back together again. He liked working with his hands with wood, on boats and keeping his home in good working order.

And there were those elements of his life that he truly loved:

1. He loved his church and his faith, and made tremendous efforts in a lot of pain to make Mass on a weekly basis. A few years ago, one of the attendants at University Hospital in St. Louis where he was undergoing two critical surgeries, said that he had an “upside down smile.” It was a smile born of pain, and if you’re really hurting long enough, and Dick really was, just know that his smile was indeed the best smile he could put on. His success was in the effort. And he never complained.
2. And last and very importantly, he loved his family. He loved our mother, Louise, and cried when she died in 1971. He loved his brother, Carl and sister, Arlene in special ways and was truly close and “connected” to them throughout his life. He loved his son, Max, and shared with him his love of the water and boating.... And fixing things. Today when something needs fixing in the family, we immediately think of Max. Max, I hope you always think of that as a legacy of love. You were so important in his life.
3. And then there is our sister, his wife, Mary Ann, with whom he shared his life for 44 years. WOW! A remarkable tribute for any couple in this age of change. These were two people who shared every day together, almost every meal in their married life. How lucky for him he married such a great and caring cook. Dick even came home for lunch when he was working as a CPA for many years. She was the caregiver, he was the fortunate and grateful recipient of her love.

Dick has gone to a place of peace without pain. Let us remember him for the good things, and for the little things that made up such a great part of his life, and have touched our own.

With love from his sister-in-law, Martha Amen Daly

