



## Richard Pierce

February 17, 2010

### Obituary of Richard Pierce

Richard F. Pierce, Sr. 70 of The Villages, FL died on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. He was born in Worcester, MA and moved to The Villages from Hanson, MA in 2001. He was a 28 year US Navy Veteran participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. He was a member of St. Mark The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Summerfield, FL and of the Knights of Columbus, Lady Lake. He was a member of American Legion Post #347, Lady Lake, FL; VFW # 5737, Abington, MA; and the DAV, Whitman, MA. He was a member of the Southern Eagle Flying Club, the Ocala Flying Model Club and the Sky Pirates Model Flying Club. He enjoyed collecting Blue Rubber Duckies, Flying Model Airplanes and special times with Family and Friends.

He is survived by wife, Bernice R. Pierce, The Villages, FL; son, Richard F. Pierce, Jr., Palm Bay, FL; 3 daughters, Kelly-Ann Read, East Falmouth, MA; Sonja Pierce, Summerfield, FL; Veronica Pierce, Forestdale, MA; 2 grandsons: Erick Read, East Falmouth and Christo Pierce, Forestdale, MA; 2 granddaughters: Amanda Nielson, Waverly, IA and Rachaelle Read, East Falmouth, MA.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at St. Mark The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Summerfield, FL. A gathering will be held from 4:00 - 7:00 PM with a Biblical Wake Service at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at Beyers Lady Lake Chapel.

Inurnment with full military honors 1:30 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mark The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 7081 Hwy 42, Summerfield, FL 34491; or the DAV Memorial Program, PO Box 675, Lady Lake, FL 32158

#### Visitation

A gathering will be held from 4:00 - 7:00 PM with a Biblical Wake Service at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at Beyers Lady Lake Chapel.

#### Services

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on February 25, 2010 at St. Mark The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Summerfield, FL.

## Interment

Inurnment with full military honors 1:30 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

## Memorial Donations

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mark The Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 7081 Hwy 42, Summerfield, FL 34491; or the DAV Memorial Program, PO Box 675, Lady Lake, FL 32158.

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ Dear Dick...you were a great friend and such fun to work with...I will always remember Casino Royale, and doing those posters and layouts for you in "our typeface" that you discovered on the Internet when we both were a lot younger! And the time you went "above and beyond" helping me by wiring my new garage. Bernice was such a good sport, and is a good friend. I treasure her friendship and loved my visit to your home in The Villages. God bless you both...Heaven has a real angel added to their host. With much love,  
Dee

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**Dee Forsythe** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ You missed the flash!!!!(Personal) We were blessed having you in our lives.We are so thankful that we reunited with Bernice and met you. We have such great memories the 4 of us. (THat's Nice) Trips we've taken,St. Augustine. So many laughs, boy could you laugh. We will miss you so much but you will always be in our hearts. Hugs and prayers to the family . Shirley and Roger

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**Roger and Shirley** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Claudette and I didn't know Dick for that many years. The few short years we knew him were wonderful. We knew him as generous,happy, ever giving of himself kind of person. I beleive he is in heaven and watching over all his family and friends. Bernice, you and your family were blessed in having Dick as a loving husband and father.

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**Dave & Claudette** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I am very sorry to hear that Dick has passed away. GOD BLESS HIM

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**Stew Murray** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

OH

“ we will miss you dick and to dicks family we are truly sorry for your loss. i will set up dicks chair under the trees the first sunny day we get at otis.

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**otis model club/rc hobbies** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ i will miss my friend dick. he always had a smile even when it was tough. i will do my best for dick to follow thru with his hope that his grandson will follow and learn to fly. goodspeed.

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**KEN CRANE CAPE COD** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ Bernice, My deepest sympathys, Dick and I were shipmates in HS-74. He was one squared away sailor. He will always be remembered. Jeff Young

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**Jeff Young** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I first met Dick in the Navy. I was a new guy and he was one of those 'crusty old sailors' who knew everything. On my first flight over the Atlantic, Dick was there sitting across the cabin from me. We were on the end of the runway about to take off. When the pilot hit the throttles, Dick threw his arm in the air and yelled "Tally Ho !!!" at the top of his lungs. He scared the bejeebers out of me! I came to find out that he did that every time he took off!! I lost touch with Dick for several years then met up with him when I got into the sport of RC Flying. Dick had had his stroke by that time and lost sensation in one side. That didn't keep him from flying though. He had his transmitter modified so that he could fly it with one hand - you simply could not keep him down! I always admired Dick for finding a solution to his problem instead of giving up, the way that many might be tempted to do. Fair Winds and Following Seas, friend. Bob Mandeville

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**Bob Mandeville** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

A3

“ Miss Me, But Let Me Go Now that I have come to the end of the line  
And the sun has set for me. I want no rites in a gloom filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free. Miss me a little but not too long And not  
with your head bowed low. Remember the love and life we shared  
Miss me, but let me go. For this is a journey we all must take And  
each must go alone. It's all a part of the Master's plan, A step on the  
road to home. When you are lonely and sick at heart Go to the  
friends we know. Bury your sorrows in doing good deeds Miss me,  
but let me go. American Legion Veterans Memorial Post 347 Lady  
Lake, Florida

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**American Legion Post 347** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ WE'LL MISS YOU AT THE FIELD DICK

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**CLARENCE SCHULTZ OFMC** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Dear Bernice, we were so sorry to hear of Dick's passing and send heartfelt sympathy to you and your family.

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**David and Jean Stahl** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Dear Bernice, Thanks to Veronica & Gary we were introduced to you and Dick only a few short years ago. Those few short years have been our gain. May your good man and our friend be at a more wonderful place where there is no pain, only an everlasting life of peace and love, where we all shall meet again. May our God now bless you and your loving family. Love, Ralph & Peggy

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**Ralph & Peggy** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Bernice, we are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.  
The Lan Family

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**Janelle and Andy Lan** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Dear Bernice, You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am sure your husband and my daughter will get along great. Nicole will show him around and teach him to dance while Dick will teach her to fly airplanes. Take Care Connie PS I like rubber ducks also

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**Connie Czernuch** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ We were so sorry to hear of Dicks passing. Willl always remember the crazy New Years we spent with you & Jan & John, down in Kingston at our daughters house. Some good times. Our prayers are with you all

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**Carol & Dave Archer** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear Aunty Bernice, Veronica, Kelly, Dickie, Sonia & Family We are so sorry to hear of Uncle Dicks passing. We remember him very fondly from our visit to USA and still remember his "little cannon". Remember, dad has now received his Wings and is no doubt the new jester in Heaven and will never be far from his family. Everytime we have a thunder storm, that is Dad shooting his cannon. Miss and love you lots Sheryll, Martyn and Family South Africa

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**Sheryl and Family** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Mitzi, I am so sorry that we have lost our Papa, I know that you are very saddened, but I am still here and will be over to visit and keep you company like I always have done. Even though Papa will not be in his chair, his chair will be there and we can jump up into it and get a treat that Mumma, Sissy, or Aunti will have left for us in the chair. If not, I KNOW my mumma will do that for you and me.... She has already told me so!! Enjoy the attention of other family members that have gathered around...milk them for all the attention you can get and I will see you this coming week... Your Best Pal, Honey Bun

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**Honey Bun Heald** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Bernice, Rick, Sonya, Ronnie, & Kelli, My deepest condolences to all of you on the loss of Dick, your husband and dad. He was a wonderful man who dealt so gracefully and humorously with what life dealt him 14 years ago. I loved him as a friend and absolutely loved sharing my "Honey Bun" with him, even though she yelped louder for him than for me when he would walk thru the front door! He was a real fighter for his life and the Lord did grant him one request he had asked him for... to reach the age of 70 which was granted last July. Take all the wonderful memories you have of him and cling to those memories during this first year without him...as well as forever. You-all were truly blessed to have a man like Dick for your husband and Dad, and I count it an honor to have had him as a friend for the last 8 years. Lean on the Lord for strength and every time you see a blue rubber ducky have a chat with him and tell him how much you loved him! God bless all of you, Love, Carolyn

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**Carolyn** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Dick was a very special person with a heart of gold. I will miss him very much and especially miss cooking him special hot and spicy foods that I knew he would enjoy.

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**Rhonda Pierce** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ I think this is what my dad would say to all of us Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you wake in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry ; I am not there.

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**Rick** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. It was a pleasure to know Dick the short amount of time that I did. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family.

Erika - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of your family. Love, Erika

Erika - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ So very sorry to hear of the passing of Dick. He was a great man with a heart of gold. I'll cherish the memories of CAP days and marching in the bagpipe band with Dick in the lead in full regalia.

Paula (Maw) Ferguson - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Much love to Bernice, Kelly, Sonja, Roni and Rick, their spouses and all the children who called Dick Grandpa: Erich, Rae, Christo and Amanda. We've all been so fortunate to have the privilege of witnessing Dick's graciousness and patience under adversity and his joie de vivre. Hail and Farewell. Love, Mary

Mary Mason - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ My love to everyone - I'm really gonna miss my "favorite Dick" - he was one cool dude.

Kate - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *VERY VERY sorry of the passing of your husband. It was a pleasure knowing him. He was a great man here on earth and now making his mark in heaven. Knowing Dick he will put things in order there, Again very sorry, my prayers are with you.*

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**Gary Gronlund** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *i love you papa. you will be missed dearly. you were the role model in my life and you taught to never give up. when ever i hav an oatmeal cream pie ill always think of the good times me and you had together.i cant wait to see you in heaven i love so much thank you for fighting the last 13 years togive me lots of memories.*

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**Christo Pierce** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard Pierce*

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October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Our Dad So much to say about him, it's hard to compact his life into a few paragraphs. He didn't start off life the greatest. He was put into an orphanage eventually being adopted by his grandmother. He met his father in 1969, only to see him die five days later. his mother came in and out of his life, and for reasons unknown chose not to have a relationship with him. With such neglect and abandonment it's amazing he had so much love for life, and faith in God. He joined the Navy and served his country for 28 years. My mother was thrilled at the time, she got to travel every four years and see the world. That didn't last long, when he took a teaching position so his family didn't have to move. He wanted us to have what he didn't, roots in a community and a place to call home. He led an interesting life. He ran with the bulls in Portugal, with the pictures and scars to prove it. He wandered into weddings and funerals in Scotland so he could hear the bagpipes. We sailed to Martha's Vineyard in gale force winds with ten foot swells while surviving on baked beans, spam and dinty moore stew. They still remain my comfort food to this day. He built all his own equipment for his company and later he built and flew his own airplanes with one hand. The joke was, he painted them all yellow so mum wouldn't know how many he had. He had a great sense of humor. He couldn't tell jokes like he use to, but he would laugh so hard it was contagious. He was proud of his children and enjoyed all of his grandchildren. Michael did not live to enjoy such a great man, but Dad shared in D's pain. And although Amanda lived so far away, there was a special place he had for her. He was so proud of Erick when he received his Eagle Scout and was moved by the courage of Rachaelle who he watched over the years as she struggled to overcome her disabilities and learned two weeks before he passed that she was accepted to the college she had chosen. Dad taught Christo how to build and then fly his first airplane last summer. I have a feeling at some point, I.. like my mum, will lose the garage to the family hobby. He also taught Christo that there was nothing better than sneaking a little debbie oatmeal cookie when grandma wasn't around ... he had many hiding places for them and I'm sure we will find some in the weeks to come. One of the greatest things I can say about Dad is that he

*never knowingly would say or do something that would hurt someone's feelings. He was simply, a good man. He gave us strength, taught us generosity and showed us how to laugh, even if it was at ourselves. I'd like to thank my mum. If not for your "Never taking no for an answer" and your endless patience, we would not have had Dad as long as we did. Thank you for giving Dad 48 years of great memories. May you have enough wind in your sails, but not too much to fly your planes. Roni*

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**Roni** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

YW

“ *God looked around his garden and saw an empty place He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face. He put His arm around you, and lifted you to rest. God's garden must be beautiful He always takes the best He saw the road was getting tough. and hills were hard to climb. So he closed your weary eyelids, and whispered "Peace be thine" It broke my heart to lose you, But you didn't go alone, For part of me went with you The Day God called you Home. Until we are together again ,my Love Bernice*

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**your Wife** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *sorry find out so late about your loss. Mr. P showed me as a kid in the neiborhood hard work will pay off and if it its worth doing then do it right!*

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**Chris Howard** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *This is such a beautiful tribute. When I look at him, I feel like he is looking back in reality. What a great picture of him. Bernice, you know how much a feel your loss and pain. Joe and I hope we see you this summer. I sure wish I could have been there to console you. I shall cherish those brief moments we shared last summer. Special love now and always.*

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**Arlene Williamson** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *I am sorry to hear of your loss. Richard was a man that has left his mark on me and will always be remembered. I have missed him since he moved and looked forward to seeing him when he visited during the summers.*

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**Bryan R. DURGIN** - October 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM