



## Richard J. "Dick" Sullivan

November 14, 1931 - April 14, 2020

Richard J. "Dick" Sullivan, 88, of Fort Lauderdale, FL and Toledo, OH passed away in Fort Lauderdale on April 14, 2020 after a short illness. Dick was born in Toledo on Tuesday, November 14, 1931 to John and Mary Ann (Hanley) Sullivan who both emigrated from Ireland. Dick graduated from Rosary Cathedral Catholic School and Central Catholic High School in Toledo in 1949. After graduating with a BBS from John Carroll University (Cleveland) in 1953, he returned to Toledo, worked part time and earned a JD from the University of Toledo College of Law in 1957. Dick married Mary Gerstl, a fellow graduate of Central Catholic High School, in 1955. Dick opened a private legal practice in the Spitzer Building where he worked over 40 years until he retired and moved to Florida.

While Dick was sparing with words, he was a great story and joke teller. He was an avid golfer and his golfing buddies and their wives often visited Mary and Dick in Fort Lauderdale. Dick enjoyed his beer. One of his claims to fame was identifying brands of beer when blindfolded. He was strong in his religious beliefs and was an active parishioner of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Lauderdale and St. Pius and St. Catherine of Siena in Toledo. He was generous to these parishes as well as Central Catholic High School and John Carroll University. Dick was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Colony Men's Club and the Lucas County and Ohio Bar Associations. For seven years Dick partnered with John Mohr in running a neighborhood bar on

Central Avenue, "Johnny Mohr's."

Dick was preceded in death by his wife; sister, Irene Sullivan; and brothers, John J. Sullivan and his twin brother, Robert E. (Bob) Sullivan. Dick is survived by his special friend, Rose Marie Siefert; sister-in-law, Marcia Sullivan; nieces, Molly Sullivan, Sheila Sullivan; nephews, Deacon Tim Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Brian Sullivan and David Sullivan; cousins, John Hurley, Jim Hurley, the Whiddens and their families as well as cousins in Ireland.

A private funeral mass was held at historic St. Patrick's Church on Friday, April 24, 2020 and was officiated by Reverend Gary Walters with burial at Calvary Cemetery. Special thanks to Dick Stahl and Larry Minor for assisting with funeral arrangements and to the pall bearers. Donations can be made in Dick's memory to Central Catholic High School.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

2224 Dorr St  
Toledo, OH 43607

# Tribute Wall

GG

“ I have many pleasant memories of Richard Sullivan as a fine gentleman and a very dignified and competent member of the legal profession. He epitomized the Toledo tradition of our profession. I extend my condolences to Dick's family.

Judge (Ret.) George M. Glasser

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George Glasser - May 05, 2020 at 03:37 PM

JP

“ I am very saddened to learn of the passing of my friend Dick Sullivan. He was generous, wise and an exceptional attorney. Dick lead by example and my life was enriched by having him as a friend. My sincere condolences to his family.

Judge Jack R. Puffenberger

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Judge Jack R. Puffenberger - May 05, 2020 at 03:08 PM

SL

“ My heart is sad with the news of your passing. I will miss our telephone calls and holiday card exchanges. You were my first boss (and favorite). You hired me out of high school and taught me everything I know today about being a legal secretary and how to stand up for myself and be strong. The 15 years we worked together at the Spitzer Building were the best. I know Mrs. Sullivan greeted you at the Pearly Gates in Heaven with a big smile, kiss, and a hug (maybe even a cold beer). Give Mrs. Sullivan a hug from me. RIP Mr. Sullivan. You will forever have a piece of my heart. As we ended every conversation over the years, "LOVE YOU"!

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Susan Lackner - May 04, 2020 at 09:13 AM

DS

“ Sully,

*We had many years of fun and great golf games together. Dick had a Hole-in-On. We enjoyed fun vacations with our wives.*

*Sully, loved sports especially baseball. He went to 2 World Series; in 1968 the Tigers and 1975 the Reds. He also went to a Super Bowl in Miami.*

*One of our friends "Micker" gave Dick the nickname "All State" because you are always in good hands with Dick.*

*Dick Stahl*

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**Dick Stahl** - May 02, 2020 at 01:28 PM

SL

*Mr. Stahl,*

*I'm Mr. Sullivan's former secretary Susie. I was able to talk to Marcia Sullivan yesterday and she told me how you and some of the other guys made sure Mr. Sullivan had a proper burial during this unusual time with the pandemic. A special thank you to you and the other fellows who helped plan and took part in his burial. I'm sad I was not able to pay my respects, but I will stop out to the cemetery and have a visit.*

*Susan Lackner*

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**Susan Lackner** - May 04, 2020 at 09:32 AM

TV

*I was a neighbor to the Sullivan's for many years. My son, Brad, grew up with an "extra" set of grandparents. They were the most kind and generous people I have known. I would still call Dick a couple times a year and exchange cards on the holidays. I know he missed Mary and they will be back together in heaven. He did cherish his friends and I thank you for giving him a proper burial. Dick, you will be missed. We loved you like family. I will be stopping out to the cemetery to pay my respects.*

*Teri Vapenik (Brad Kalucki)*

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**Teri Vapenik** - May 07, 2020 at 09:17 AM