

Richard Morrison Donlin
June 17, 1934-February 22, 2020

Born on June 17, 1934, in Excelsior, Minnesota, to Joe and Stella (Nelson) Donlin. Dick was raised on the family dairy farm and delivered milk to customers all around Lake Minnetonka. As a boy, he was known to run everywhere he went, earning him the nickname "Dickie Dasher" a name that stuck with him the rest of his life. Dick graduated from Excelsior High School and went on to be a three-sport athlete at Hamline University. In 1966, he became the youngest member inducted into the Hamline Hall of Fame. He had a brief try-out with the Baltimore Colts, as their 2nd round draft pick. In June, of 1956, Dick returned from Baltimore to marry the love of his life, Janice (Cook) Donlin.

Dick was hired as an Athletic Director, Coach and Teacher at Fridley High School and was recently inducted into the Fridley High School Hall of Fame for his significant contributions to the Fridley community. While in Fridley he owned and operated a Dairy Queen, was a volunteer Fire Fighter, a member of the Jaycees, and was the town's first Park Board Director. Some of his notable achievements were the Swim Beach on Moore Lake and the large sledding hill in Commons Park.

Dick went on to open an insurance agency for Fidelity Life and Accident. After moving to Edina in 1973, Dick worked for Jostens, where he successfully landed the Denver Broncos and Dallas Cowboy's Super Bowl Ring accounts. In 1977, Dick found his true calling as a Manufacturer's Rep in the promotional products industry. Dick was eventually joined in the industry by his daughter, Cheryl, and three sons, Tom, Jay, and Steve, all of whom are still active in the industry. Dick had the honor of being named ASI Multi-Line Rep of the Year in 1994 and received the UMAPP Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. Being a rep allowed him to use his outgoing personality with his skills as a teacher and a coach. For those who knew him, know he was always there to help. With quick wit, a story and a smile, he truly loved his job helping people succeed.

After retiring in 2004, Dick and Jan enjoyed spending time with family and friends at their lake home in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, and their winter home in Ft Myers, Florida. Dickie could spot a fellow left hander from across the room. He loved to tease, sing around the campfire or on the pontoon boat, was known for his famous one-liners and a final final or two. Dick will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, brother Joe, Jr., sisters Pat (Arnon) Reese and Nancy Swearingen and son-in-law, Vadaain Dixon. Dick is survived by his wife, Jan, children, Cheryl Dixon, Tom (Lee), Jay (Kathy) and Steve (Laura); brother-in law Bill Swearengin, grandchildren, Piper, Nici (Brandon) Thomas, Jianna, Joey, Ava, Ryan, Tommy, Garrett, Joe, Mitch, and 6 great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of life at a future time and date. It is our hope that all who knew and loved Dickie Dasher will join us for one final, final.