



## Richard G. Di Via

May 7, 1932 - February 27, 2020

Richard "Poppy" Di Via age 87, of Kingston, TN, passed away Thursday, February 27, 2020 surrounded by his family. He loved gardening, camping, hunting, and his hunting dogs. Richard was a Korean War Veteran having served in the United State Army. Above all things he loved his family more than anything.

Richard is preceded in death by his first wife, Eleanor Di Via, his life mate, Charlotte Melinda Beard, sisters, Rose Potocki, Catherine Swingle, brother, Michael Di Via Jr., and granddaughter, Katie Cronin.

Survived by

children Richard John Di Via of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Elaine Michelle Cronin of Pipersville, PA

Maribeth Werner of Monroeville, PA

stepdaughter Melinda Faye Lick of Harriman, TN

grandchildren Richard Lick III, Laura Klein, Douglas Guynn, Glenn Johnson, Kevin Guynn, Evan Cronin, and 8 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 28, 2020 at the Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman. Requiem Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Harriman with Father Michael Sweeney officiating, burial will follow in Swan Pond Baptist Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to the Paralyzed Veteran of America, 110 9th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37203 or The American Legion Hall Post #53, 624 Morgan Ave NE, Harriman, TN 37748. Kyker Funeral Home of Harriman serving the Di Via Family

# Cemetery

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## Swan Pond Baptist Church Cemetery

435 Swan Pond Circle Road  
Harriman, TN,

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**28**

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Kyker Funeral Homes - Harriman  
P.O. Box 232 430 Morgan St, Harriman, TN, US,  
37748

**FEB** **Requiem Mass** 10:00AM

**29**

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Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church  
535 Margrave Drive, Harriman, TN, US, 37748

**FEB** **Burial** 11:30AM

**29**

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Swan Pond Baptist Church Cemetery  
435 Swan Pond Circle Road, Harriman, TN, US

# Comments

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“ Ricky, Elaine and Maribeth--with aching hearts we say goodbye to your devoted father and stepfather to Melinda; grandfather to seven (including little Katie); great-grandfather to eight... and to me, my beloved uncle and godfather. He was also the last link to our ancestral past on the Di Via side. No one can ever doubt that your dad was a decent and honorable man; there is no higher praise than that. And we were always so proud of the service he courageously rendered to our country during the Korean War.

Whenever my godfather and I spoke on the phone these past few years, I would be treated to stories of you "kids" and his grandchildren. You all were always so very important to him and he could not have loved you more or been more proud of his family. I was also made aware that he missed his dog Rascal and loved his kitty Onyx very much. And he somehow convinced his fluffy black cat never to enter his bedroom. How does one accomplish that feat--cat training?!

Personally, I have in my heart all the wonderful memories of him from when I was a child, like the time he came up to the Poconos one summer and stayed with us. We were all swimming in Emerald Lake and something kept nibbling my toes as I was playing in the water near the shore. My Uncle Richie donned some swim goggles and slipped underwater to investigate the matter. Turns out I was being attacked by a redbreast sunfish (a "sunny") that was guarding its nest! My uncle counseled me to move my activities to a different location on the lake and to be respectful of the fish family!

For the past fifteen years or so, we would "meet" for the Triple Crown horseraces each spring (Kentucky Derby, Belmont Stakes and Preakness) over the phone (him being in Tennessee and me in New Jersey) well before post time and make our predictions for the winning horses. Then we'd watch the races "together" on our respective televisions. I am not kidding when I say he outperformed me every single time! In fact, I cannot recall a single race when he hadn't successfully picked at least one horse who finished in the money. I remember asking him how it was that he had overlooked a lucrative career as a sports gambler!

I know we are all missing him, but we should take comfort in our happy memories of him, and also in the promise that he is reuniting with those that he loved who went before him. Rest in peace, my sweet godfather. Until we meet again....

Marlene

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**Marlene Di Via** - March 02, 2020 at 05:36 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to all of the Di Via and extended family.

**Michael Bonatesta** - February 28, 2020 at 08:10 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard G. Di Via.



February 28, 2020 at 02:12 PM

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“ So sorry he is gone be was a special man and good person around he will be missed by all.

Beverly Bailey

**Beverly Bailey** - February 27, 2020 at 06:58 PM