



## David A. Ryan

August 30, 1939 - June 30, 2022

DAVID A. RYAN, of Milford, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2022, at Griffin Hospital surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Judith Ryan, as well as his five children and their spouses and children: David (Caroline, Victoria, David); Thomas (Linda (fiancé), Joe, Nicholas, Meghan, Jack); William (Cristina, Robert, Alexandra, William); Catherine (Mike, Ryan, Ellie); and Patricia (Mike). He also leaves behind Judith's four children, and their spouses and children: Karen (Bill, Lucy); Laurie (Jim, Greg, Owen); Amy; and Wendy (Eric, Abigail, Peter, Nate). Born August 30, 1939, in New Haven, Connecticut, to the late Connecticut Supreme Court Justice, Elmer W. Ryan, and Dorothy Lawlor Ryan, he graduated from Hopkins School, Yale University, and Cornell University. He was extremely proud to have been a member of Yale's last undefeated, untied football team in 1960. Upon graduating from Cornell with a master's degree from the School of Industrial Labor Relations, David worked for Scovill Manufacturing as Vice President of Labor Relations. He then started and ran a successful management labor relations consulting business while serving as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration for approximately fifty years as an arbitrator. He was proud, and fortunate, to have been able to work until he passed. When recently asked by a doctor in the emergency room at Griffin Hospital, "When did you retire?" he immediately responded, "I am not retired." David was also a founding member and officer of the Woodbridge Father's Baseball League, the head American Legion baseball coach in Orange, Connecticut for almost

two decades, and an assistant football coach at Crosby High School in Waterbury, Connecticut. He will be sorely missed by the countless number of people, both young and old, who knew and loved him, and whose lives he touched. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, July 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 75 Center Rd, Woodbridge, CT. Burial will follow at Milfordside Burying Ground, 1138 Racebrook Road, Woodbridge, CT. Friends and family may call on Thursday, July 7, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either Smilow Cancer Hospital, PO Box 7611, New Haven, CT 06519-0611 or Griffin Hospital, 130 Division St., Derby, CT 06418. [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Milfordside Cemetery**

# Previous Events

## Calling hours

JUL 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

## Funeral service

JUL 8. 10:00 AM.

Church of the Assumption  
Woodbridge, CT

# Tribute Wall



“ *I was with David on the Board of Mediation & Arbitration, I always found him to be a wonderful resource and he will be greatly missed. I want to express my deepest sympathy to you his family regards*  
*Russ Melita*

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**Russell Melita** - July 23, 2022 at 05:53 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David A. Ryan.*



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July 18, 2022 at 08:49 AM

TR

“ My deepest condolences to the entire family. I have known Mister Ryan since the 1990's and we always sat on opposite sides of the bargaining table. Throughout the years, during hundreds of hours at the table and countless phone conversations, we always had one dispute that I refused to resolve: I always addressed him as Mr. Ryan and he always said, " I don't know who your talking to, but my name is David". My response was always the same, "Thank you, but you will always be Mr. Ryan to me, I respect you too much to call you anything else." In one of my last conversations with Mr. Ryan, he told me that even though we had a business relationship, we were friends first and friends and family are more important than any job. I will miss our conversations and will always consider Mr. Ryan a true inspiration, mentor and most importantly a friend. Rest in Peace Mr. Ryan.

Your friend, Troy Raccuia

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Troy Raccuia - July 07, 2022 at 01:03 PM



“ 115 files added to the album LifeTributes



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Sisk Brothers Funeral Home - July 07, 2022 at 09:15 AM

JR

“ *My sincere condolences to Judy and your whole family. I enjoyed working with Dave immensely. He taught me so much about labor relations and I always trusted his judgement. We were in very good hands when Dave was working on our team. I very much enjoyed listening to his many stories and vast experience. All of you are, and will continue to be, in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Jim Richetelli*

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**Jim Richetelli** - July 06, 2022 at 09:35 AM

MA

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Mr. Ryan's family and close friends and colleagues.  
May his memory always be a blessing.*

*As a Labor Arbitrator, I had the privilege to work with Mr. Ryan on SBMA cases over the years. He carefully listened to all relevant facts in search of the truth in order to help render fair decisions. Encouraging good labor relations was central to his philosophy as he engaged with advocates and arbitration panel members. May we find ways to honor his legacy moving forward at the State Board. 🕊️*



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**Maria C. Alfonso** - July 05, 2022 at 04:22 PM

SF

“ *I worked with David since 1990. He was a gentleman and I learned a lot from him. Even though I represented labor and he represented management, we had a friendly and professional relationship. My sincere condolences to his and and family. I will miss him.*

*Santo Franzo*

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**santo Franzo** - July 05, 2022 at 03:07 PM

AF

“ Ryan Family: Please accept my deepest condolences. My knowledge of Mr. Ryan, from my time working with Bill, was certainly that he was larger than life and an incredible role model for your family. It is my hope that your future will be filled with fond memories of happy time spent together as a family. Chief Alaric J. Fox, Enfield Police Department

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**Alaric Fox** - July 05, 2022 at 02:17 PM

JD

“ Dear Judy, and your beautiful family, please know our hearts are with you. Dave, was always fun to be with and all who knew him , will miss him. Dave, will have a wonderful seat in Heaven. Our love, Jeff and Jane Davis

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**Jeff andJ Jane Davis** - July 05, 2022 at 01:08 PM

JN

“ A true gentleman and a great arbitrator. Taught me a lot and I will miss him. Jim Neary

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**jim neary** - July 05, 2022 at 09:46 AM

DG

“ I played on the Woodbridge Auto Body team when the Woodbridge Father's Baseball League was first formed. Mr. Ryan was a coach, his son's my teammates. A great coach and nice man who lead us to the Championship! My condolences to his family on his passing.

*Daniel Gilhuly*

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**Daniel Gilhuly** - July 05, 2022 at 08:26 AM

SM

“ I highly respected David as a person and management arbitrator. Although a vigorous management advocate he was prepared to recognize when the unions position had merit and would attempt to mediate a fair settlement. There was one occasion when we both got our Irish up and exchanged harsh words. Not long thereafter Dave was the one to extended the olive branch and the incident was forgotten.

Dave and I loved to exchange stories about the good-ole-days watching UConn at the Big East in NYC. He spoke glowingly of attending this then annual pilgrimage with some of his many cherished family members.

Dave was a man who's nature was to extend and engender respect in what can sometimes be a rough and tumble world of labor relations.

Stephen F. McEleney

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**Stephen F. McEleney** - July 03, 2022 at 07:46 AM

MC

My condolences to Dave, Jr., Billy, Tommy and rest of the Ryan family. Dave, Sr. was a tremendous guy and one of the most fierce competitors that I ever competed against. He was a fixture at all of his son's sporting events and was very instrumental in the development of youth sports in Woodbridge, CT. I had many nice conversations with Dave, Sr. as an adult and we would always reminisce about our days competing against one another on the playing fields. My late father Joe also had tremendous respect and affection for Dave, Sr.

Michael Ciaburri

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**Michael Ciaburri** - July 05, 2022 at 11:29 AM

JF

Bridges Healthcare is so sorry to hear of David's passing and we send our sincerest condolences to the family. We had the privilege to work with Dave for decades as our arbitrator and will miss having him represent us.

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**Jennifer Fiorillo** - July 06, 2022 at 09:59 AM

SH

*My sincere condolences to the Ryan Family.*

*The labor community and you have lost a special soul. His achievements and his memories will last forever.*

*He was a giant--both in stature and knowledge--and a formidable advocate.*

*I saw the pictures posted here and they tell the rest of the story. In fact he was a loving and caring family man and an active member of the community.*

*I am sincerely feeling emotional:*

*Dave and I grew on each other over the many years. Over the last year and one-half we spoke regularly and I will miss his messages--"This is your conscience".*

*He could try to be a bully but I will miss our sparring and the real discussion of the issues before us. When Dave and his dear friend Ray Shea were on the same case, the executive sessions could be wild. Stories that can not be told!!!!*

*I also have to add in Tom Staley. When the three of us had discussions about labor /management issues--nothing was off the table and everything was said!*

*I can see him sitting in front of Cathy Serino's desk and I will look in to see if he is with Kathy Foley. So much has changed.*

*Rest in Peace my friend.*

*Susan Halperin*

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**Susan Halperin** - July 13, 2022 at 03:47 PM