



Richard A. Gagliardi, Sr.

September 20, 1933 - July 2, 2018

With family at his side, Richard A. (Dick) Gagliardi passed away peacefully in Branford on July 2, 2018 at the age of 84. Dick lived a fulfilling life that was enriched by family devotion, service to country, and more than a half-century of academic and athletic achievement.

Born on September 20, 1933, Dick was the son of Joseph and Josephine Gagliardi. From 1948 to 1952, he attended Hamden High School, where he starred in varsity football, hockey, and track. In his senior year, Hamden's hockey team won the New England High School Championship and Dick was named All-New England Defenseman.

Dick attended Boston College on a full four-year scholarship, and he graduated in 1956 after lettering in hockey and football. In 1954 and again in 1956, he played on the Eagles' ECAC championship hockey teams that advanced to the NCAA finals.

From 1956 to 1958, Dick served honorably in the United States Marines Corps. Stationed in Hawaii, he captained the Quantico Marine football team and the Hawaii Marine football team. Most important, during his tour of duty he met Manon, the love of his life.

In 1960, Dick was named head coach of Yale University's freshman hockey team. Five years later, he was elevated to head coach of Yale's varsity hockey team. After leaving collegiate coaching, he was appointed Yale's associate

business manager of athletics.

Sports and coaching young athletes remained year-around passions. Dick became the director of SVS Hockey School, which conducted summer sessions until 1992 at Taft School, Berkshire School, St. George's School, Portsmouth Abbey School, and Brown University. Several thousand youth leaguers from across the nation traveled to these New England locations for expert instruction from many of the nation's leading collegiate, high school, and prep school coaches. During these years, Dick also founded and managed the SVS Pro Shop, the Hamden center that outfitted legions of youth league, high school, and adult athletes.

Dick taught mathematics at Hamden High School for 37 years. When he retired from the faculty in 1993, he became Athletic Director and a teacher at Sacred Heart Academy for another 12 years.

From 1987 to 2001, Dick was also Hamden High's varsity hockey coach, rejoining his team from four decades earlier. In 1988-1989, he led the Green Dragons to the Connecticut State Championship.

In recent years, Dick and Manon split their time between Siesta Key (Sarasota) Florida and Branford, Connecticut. In Sarasota, he loved the YMCA handball community and made many new friends.

By the time Dick took his curtain call after a long career, he had "retired" three times – from Hamden High's classroom in 1993, from the helm of Hamden High's varsity hockey team in 2001, and from Sacred Heart's Athletic Directorship and faculty.

At the Sacred Heart dinner honoring his "third retirement," Dick shared his lifelong values with the high school players and their families. "Success in sports is not measured by the scoreboard, the trophies on your shelf, or the

news clippings in your scrapbook. Success means loving to play as much at 60 as you do at 16. This love will last when you respect yourself, your teammates, and your opponents.”

Dick was blessed with a large family. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Manon B. Gagliardi; by his two sons, Dr. Joseph A. Gagliardi and Richard A. Gagliardi Jr.; and by Richard’s wife, Elaine Hightower Gagliardi. He is survived by a sister Anita Gagliardi DellaCamera and also by four precious grandchildren: Richard A. Gagliardi III, Alexia Gagliardi, Matthew Gagliardi, and Gina Gagliardi, and by many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother Anthony Gagliardi and a sister Angelina Gagliardi Paoella.

Funeral from Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. Hamden at 9:30 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. on Saturday July 7, 2018 in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Calling hours are Friday from 5 - 8 p.m. The family has requested that you omit flowers, please send a donation to Sacred Heart Academy, 265 Benham Street, Hamden 06514. Thank you. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

3102 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT

Previous Events

Calling hours

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

Funeral service

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
2819 Whitney Ave.
Hamden, CT

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Our prayers are with you and your family, Manon. Our Island Reef Community is saddened by Dick's passing. He lead a wonderful life and touched the lives of countless persons along his life's journey. Fill the holes in your heart with memories of the terrific man that Dick has been to so many!

John & Kay Maier - October 21, 2018 at 07:25 AM

RS

“ My deepest condolences to the Gagliardi Family. Dick hired me back in 2005 to join the Sacred Heart coaching staff, a few months before he retired as Athletic Director. I appreciated the opportunity (I'm still there) and always enjoyed speaking and working with Dick. He will be missed. God Bless.

Robert Silvestri - July 08, 2018 at 12:31 PM

DA

“ Teaching done right is a noble caring profession, and Dick did it right for decades, both in the classroom and on the ice. In my 20 summers on the SVS Hockey School coaching staff, I saw first-hand how much he and Manon cared for the kids. Dick is a role model for aspiring teachers and coaches, especially amid the serious challenges that the profession faces today.

*Doug Abrams
Columbia, Missouri*

Doug Abrams - July 07, 2018 at 01:43 PM

AK

*I spent 8 summers of my life at svcs both mr gagliardi and mr stone were legends who helped kids become men. The lessons we learned off the ice far more valuable than those we learned on the ice. Leaders put together great teams and mr gags team awe inspiring doug abrams mr fullerton mr phil grady bullet mr bertrand mr schneider mr dunham simply amazing and through it all we never learned what svcs stood for.
rip*

arin krich - October 01, 2021 at 09:40 PM

MC

“ Joe, Gina and Family. I am so happy to have finally have met your family after all these years. when my father had died I had a friend who had written a tribute that I would like to share with you as my friend Michelle Waterbury has given her beautiful tribute to you. It is called a "the Greatest Blessing "... To dwell in a peaceful land, with right desires in one's heart. This is the greatest blessing. Control of self and peaceful speech, and whatever word be well spoken. This is the greatest blessing. To love righteously, to give help to kindred, to follow a peaceful calling, this is the greatest blessing... I, too have never met you father. But he lives through you and its as if I have known him all my life. Love you so much Joe and Gina. Michelle carino and family...

Michelle Carino - July 06, 2018 at 08:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard A. Gagliardi, Sr..



July 06, 2018 at 06:17 PM

SL

“ *Manon and family*

Known Dick a long time, played football against him in high school and remember being hit so hard and when I looked up, sure enough it was Dick. At BC, on a football scholarship, we lived in the same facility, (not a dorm) an old servant's housing for Liggett Drug Stores home, (O'Connell Hall), and Dick was across the hall. Dick was one hell of a football player as well as a hockey player. Opposing player's advice, stay away from him, he's a rough SOB.. Recall when coming home on weekends, dropping off his laundry at his mother's home on Dixwell Av. Upon returning he would call out, here's the laundry man. God Bless you and your family Manon.

Santo Listro

Santo Listro - July 06, 2018 at 09:30 AM

JD

“ Dick was my coach at Yale in 1967-69. I remember him with fondness and much respect for several reasons. First of all he recruited honestly. He told me that leaving the Boston area and coming to New Haven would cause me to make new friends and develop new interests and he was right. He told me he would always welcome my parents to New Haven and stay in touch with my dad and he did. After one particularly significant win he grabbed me in the locker room and said "Let's call your Dad, Jonny!"

What I most remember about Dick, however, was his support during a difficult time my senior year. I had gone to him to tell him I would not be playing hockey my senior year. I was a class officer, was experiencing the need and desire to devote more time to opposing the Viet Nam war and helping minority kids with whom I worked the previous two summers.

He was gracious and understanding during our conversation and I was so grateful because I worried about how he would accept my decision. Later in the year after I had received a very low number in the draft lottery and passed my army physical I decided to apply for conscientious objector status. Dick somehow got wind of the fact I was applying and called me to offer me a letter of support but also to tell me his uncle (I think it was an uncle) was a federal judge who had ruled on draft issues. This fine man who was a US Marine and real patriot told me he was willing to call his uncle, put me in touch with him because maybe he would have good counsel for me. If people today who disagree on issues were able to offer support to one another because of respect for the sincerity of those opinions, like Dick did for me, the country obviously would be a better place.

Manon, you were always good to us players and smiling at us before and after games.

I wish you solace during this difficult time. I thank you for supporting this fine man.

Jon Deveaux

Jon Deveaux - July 05, 2018 at 12:31 PM

MD

“ I was very fortunate to know and work at SVS with Coach Dick Gagliardi. I coached Dick's son Joe at St. Mike's in Toronto and met Dick and Manon on one of there visits to see Joe play. We became great friends and Dick offered me a job at SVS hockey school which I accepted and brought my wife Mary Lynne and our three children Lori, Kris and Julie Anne to the Taft Prep school in Watertown Conn. SVS is where Kris got his 1st start at a hockey school and enjoyed every minute of it. The Gagliardi family will be in our families thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. Mike Draper

Mike Draper - July 04, 2018 at 04:37 PM

EF

“ Best math teacher I ever had. Thanks, Mr. Gag, and rest in peace...

Ellen Freiler - July 04, 2018 at 11:57 AM

MW

“ To Dr. Joseph Gagliardi and Family: I am so very sorry for your loss. I did not know your father but I know you and all children are the best parts of their parents. You and your silblings made him and your mom proud, It sounded like he had lived a wonderful and full life especially with you guys in it. I am a slightly lapsed Catholic, but I firmly believe that we only die in the physical sense and that we do live on in another form, another life if you will. We are free from the encumberments of the physical world/human bodies and as spirits we are able at death to further improve our spirits in our purest form, which is what we all start as. Whether it is in heaven or another place, this I don't know, but what I do know is that your father will be looking in on you from time to time, and everyone else cheering all of you on. His memories in your heart will always keep him near you. You and your family have my support in this loss. With love, Michelle Waterbury and Family



Michelle Waterbury - July 04, 2018 at 07:25 AM

DB

“ With thoughts and prayers to all of you...My father, Ray Batson, and Mr. Gagliardi were teammates at Hamden High and Dad often spoke of Mr. Gagliardi in the highest regard when recalling those special years. That 1952 team is legendary, in large part with Mr. Gagliardi's leadership and I always loved hearing the stories of Hamden High hockey of the '50s. The CT hockey community has indeed lost a legend, with forever thanks and love to Mr. Gagliardi and your family, from countless players and students. I only wish that I too, had known him personally. Again, deepest condolences. Dave Batson and Family, Coto de Caza CA (including mother, Kathie, Uncle Karl Veith and Uncles John and Bob Batson).

Dave Batson - July 03, 2018 at 04:58 PM

BR

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Bonnie & Ed Rowley - July 03, 2018 at 04:55 PM

ST

“ *Mr. Gagliardi was my Geometry teacher at Hamden High. People, including my wife and kids, ask me how I could have possibly liked Geometry class. Well, Mr. Gagliardi was the reason. He was an excellent teacher with a solid knowledge of the material he taught. He was also very personable and treated his students with kindness and respect. On Wednesdays I had Geometry as my first class of the day. He often treated the class to donuts, which we enjoyed as we wrote our geometry proofs on the board. Mr. Gagliardi was hands down my favorite high school math teacher, and also one of my favorite teachers of all time, including college. My deepest condolences to his family at this time of loss.*

Steven Tucker - July 03, 2018 at 03:58 PM

JF

“ Never had the honour of meeting Dick but my parents sang the praises of Dick and Manon. Dad coached Brown while Dick performed same at Yale. Folks enjoyed their summers with SVS at Taft and in Providence. Working to develop young student athletes become all they aspired was their mutual bond...a calling more than a profession and built around the great game of ice hockey.. Heard so much about both Gagliardis I feel as though I know them. Manon, being a coach's wife required extra special patience, support, believing. Lord will give you special blessings. Jim Fullerton, jr

James Fullerton - July 03, 2018 at 01:07 PM

BC

“ Manon and family,
We have known Dick since we were young children. He and my dad were fellow Marines and athletes and they coached together long ago. Every conversation I had over the course of 45 years with Dick was a positive one. Even if the issue was negative, Dick would always see the bright side. He was extremely helpful when I was president of Hamden Youth Hockey as a sounding board and a mentor. His knowledge was endless. You will be greatly missed Dick. God Bless you and your family Manon.
Bob Callahan and the Callahan family.

Bob Callahan - July 03, 2018 at 12:58 PM

JF

“ *Manon,
Please accept our condolences for your loss of a truly great man. Dick and I spent many years working on construction projects at Turtle Bay, and he always put his maximum time and effort into everything he did. I most enjoyed talking about Hockey, both High School, and College- for which he was an expert. I mentioned Dick to our daughter last night, and she also has wonderful memories from Sacred Heart Academy. He will be missed. Dorice and Jim Farrell*

James Farrell - July 03, 2018 at 12:35 PM

Y(

“ *Your St. V's Residents
(JC,RaR,RiR,FS,AV,FM,RG&GE) purchased the
Serenity Wreath for the family of Richard A.
Gagliardi, Sr..*



Your St. V's Residents (JC,RaR,RiR,FS,AV,FM,RG&GE) - July 03, 2018 at 11:22 AM

DW

“ *He always welcomed me back when I went astray. Rather than throw me to the Bears, Tigers or Indians, he paired me with Fitzy so I could hold the blue line. Thanks, Dick*

Dan Warren - July 03, 2018 at 10:42 AM

MT

“ *Manon, so sorry for your loss.
Coach was an amazing man with a big heart .
I am one of the lucky ones who got to dance
with him.
You are in my thoughts and prayers
Melanie*



Melanie Thayer - July 03, 2018 at 10:21 AM

 Fred
Centrella

“ *Dick was my first real friend and a mentor to me when I started
teaching at Sacred Heart Academy. Always with a ready smile, an
encouraging word, or just some light conversation, any encounter
with this man was sure to leave you in a better place. Rest with
God, Dick. Our world has a hole in it but heaven has a stellar new
resident.*

Fred Centrella - July 03, 2018 at 07:06 AM

KM

“ *Dear Manon and family,
We are saddened to learn of Dick's death. We are keeping him and
all your family in a very special place in our thoughts and prayers
during these difficult days. He is now at peace and rests in the
loving arms of the One who made him. God bless you all! John and
Kay Maier*

kay maier - July 02, 2018 at 11:06 PM

TD

“ *Manon, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear husband. You
and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most
difficult time. May God cover you with His grace and peace.*

Terry Dell'Amico - July 02, 2018 at 10:33 PM

ND

“ Dear Manon we are so sorry for your loss. We only knew Dick for a short time but, it was so memorable. Loved being you neighbors on the 5th floor of A building in Island Reef. Know that we will be sending up prayers for you and your family at this hard time.
Norm and Marianne Duffy

Norman Duffy - July 02, 2018 at 09:43 PM

SM

“ My heartfelt sympathy on the passing into eternal life of a truly great man. I am blessed to have known him.

Sr. Mariette, ASCJ

Sr. Mariette Moan - July 02, 2018 at 09:34 PM

DM

“ Mr. G you were the only teacher that ever was able to make math interesting! I enjoyed math because of you! May you rest well in your forever home. 🙏

Deb Ruggiero Mutts - July 02, 2018 at 07:58 PM

PG

“ Mr. Gagliardi gave me my first job when I was 14 at SVS Pro Shop and at the hockey camp. He had faith in me and it created a work ethic that I have never forgotten. I was lucky to have met such an amazing man. The only piece of hockey equipment I have left are my skates. Tonight I will take them out of the closet for another look and remember what he meant to me. Please accept my condolences all the way from Texas. You are in my thoughts and prayers. - Paul Grabowski

Paul Grabowski - July 02, 2018 at 07:12 PM

AB

“ *Fondest memories of Mr Gagliardi. From the times visiting the SVS Prp shop in Hamden to working for him in Providence at SVS hockey school to our awesome coaching battles between Prep and Hamden. You will be missed but certainly will live in the hearts and minds of many. God Bless*

adolph brink - July 02, 2018 at 07:03 PM

AO

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with your Family.. We would not have lived here in Hamden if it wasn't for Dick's help in getting us a home when we moved here in 1970 from Dartmouth.. Then working at SVS with him and being a neighbor brings back many fond memories. God Bless all of you.

Abner and Cyndy Oakes

Abner Oakes - July 03, 2018 at 08:58 AM

JF

Abner, SVS had to have been a premier hockey camp with Dartmouth, Brown, Yale well represented. Dick did it right.focusing on a staff with integrity, knowledge, and compassion.

James Fullerton - July 03, 2018 at 01:14 PM

BR

Don't know what happened to my 1st post, but I'll try again.

Heartfelt condolences to Manon, & the entire family.

Dick was the best of neighbors for over 20 years. He encouraged our daughter, Tiffany, to begin coaching fast pitch softball. She took his advice & took a group of Freshman girls through their Senior year, & loved every minute of it. She's now coaching our grandsons in Little League, thanks to The Coach.

He was always there to help when he saw you unloading your car, or to help Manon (and everyone else) unloading scrapbook equipment. A nicer man has never walked the face of the earth.

All of you have been like family to us for many years. Please know we are grieving with you, and if there is anything we can do, please don't hesitate to call.

*Sincerely,
Bonnie & Ed Rowley*

Bonnie Rowley - July 03, 2018 at 05:07 PM

EJ

MR GAG IS LOVED BY ALL THE LIFES HE TOUCHED RESPECTED ALWAYS DURING HOCKEY SEASON WE ALL FELT LIKE FAMILY HE ALWAYS WILL BE WITH US MY SON SCOTT LEARNED GOOD LESSONS AND HOW TO BE PART OF A TEAM RIP MR GAG A HERO TO ALL THAT KNEW HIM

ELAINE JASON - July 04, 2018 at 10:26 AM

MD

I had the priviledge of meeting Dick and Manon when they were in Toronto watching their son Joe play for me at St. Mike's. While in Toronto, Dick offered me a job at SVS Hockey School at the TAFT prep school in Watertown, Conn. My wife Mary Lynne and our three children, Lori, Kris and Julie Anne enjoyed our three years there immensely. My son Kris got his start at the SVS Hockey School and loved every minute of it. Sending our love and best wishes to your family at this very difficult time. Sincerely, Mike Draper and family.

mike Draper - July 04, 2018 at 04:58 PM

ML

Dear Gagliardi Family:

I was privileged to work at SVS Pro Shop for Mr. Gag while I was a student at Hamden High School. There wasn't a student at Hamden High that wouldn't have wanted the SVS job and everyone knew it was a hard one to get because Mr. Gag hand-picked his employees. I wasn't a student in his class at Hamden but was referred to him by Rich Salzano and then my math teacher Sal Petrone. Mr. Gag's first question to me was "what is your grade in Mr. Petrone's class?" When I responded that I had an "A" he said, "you start on Saturday". My time at SVS was a learning experience I will never forget. The store was a busy one and we were expected to work hard, work smart and be a team. The camaraderie was fantastic, and the team was legendary - Uncle Fred Gagliardi, Tom Ryan, Otto "call me Bob" Marenholz, Jack Gill, Rich "Scalzo" Salzano, Pat Hayes, Russ Hense, Don Filer, The Sigmund Brothers - Mike, Jim and Mark, Bullet Bob Flynn, Bobby "Z" Zampano, Ken Festa, Bill "Shanker" Shank and of course the "Linguini's" – yours truly and my brothers Pete and Paul. Mr. Gag held us to high expectations for servicing the customer and gave us more responsibility as we earned it (of course you could earn extra credit if you went and cut wood with him on your days off!). He taught us to do things a particular way and then expected us to mentor new employees as he had mentored us. We all held him in the highest regard and today I can say that knowing Mr. Gag was one of the great blessings in my life. My condolences go to you all. Sincerely, Mike Langella – Atlanta, GA

Michael P Langella - July 05, 2018 at 08:00 AM

FK

I accidentally found out about the passing of Mr Gagliardi a few minutes ago. It saddens me. I worked for Dick at SVS Hockey school for many years. I really loved this honorable and wonderful man. Felix Kozak, Brooklyn, NY (felix111@verizon.net)

Felix Kozak - March 30, 2020 at 03:16 PM