

RICHARD BENEDICT GRADONE



Age 93, passed away peacefully at Masonic Village, Sewickley on December 18. He was born in the Boston area on August 27, 1930 to Michael and Josephine (DiNunzio) Gradone, the 7th of their eight children. He is predeceased by his brother and six sisters. A native of Medford Massachusetts, Dick graduated from Medford High School, where in junior year he started dating his future wife, Bernice "Bunny" Hanlon.

Upon graduation, he enlisted and served in the Air Force during the Korean conflict. During and after service, he attended the University of Illinois and Bentley College, and embarked upon a 40-year career in industrial sales and operations management with Goodall Rubber Company. His career advancement led to positions in Boston, Portland ME, Syracuse NY, Pittsburgh and Allentown PA. Dick enjoyed a long retirement filled with family, friends, golf, fishing, travel, tinkering, gardening, a million crossword puzzles and enjoyment of sports of all kinds. He was a lifelong learner, an avid reader and curious enough about many subjects from photography to electronics to computers to pursue advanced coursework. A devout Roman Catholic, he spent many years as a Eucharistic Minister at Allentown's Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, serving nursing homes and eldercare facilities. Those who knew him will remember his engaging presence, quick wit and kind demeanor. He was always ready with a funny story or joke. Dick is survived by his wife of 72 years Bernice Gradone, 3 children Janice (Martin) Burgwinkle of Hudson, Ohio, Loretta (Massimo) Fiandaca of Castro Valley, California, and Richard (Lesley) Gradone of Sewickley, PA. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and more than 20 nieces and nephews. The family extends their gratitude to the caregivers and staff at Masonic Village who provided such excellent care. A private funeral Mass and burial with military honors will be held. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15212. Arrangements entrusted to **R. D. COPELAND, LTD.**, Irvine Chapel, Sewickley, PA.

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