

RICHARD LOUIS "DICK" THELK, SR.



Richard Louis "Dick" Thelk Sr., 79, passed away on August 8, 2024, at The Brenntny, in Vero Beach, FL. He was born on September 18, 1944, in Mt. Vernon, NY, the only child to the late Louis and Mary (Mangano) Thelk. Dick attended high school at Fordham Preparatory School, becoming a class officer and playing football, track, and basketball. During his senior year, he played basketball against a freshman

named Lew Alcindor, who attended rival Power Memorial Academy, and later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabaar. After graduating from Fordham Prep in 1962, he matriculated to Manhattan College, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering in June 1966. Dick forged a 50-year career in the steel industry, first at US Steel, and then with National Nickel Alloy Corp., before starting his own business in 1987, Quantum Alloys Corporation, which continues to operate under the direction of his eldest son, Richard L. Thelk, Jr.

Dick was a long-time resident of the South Hills of Pittsburgh, PA, having moved there for his position at US Steel in April 1974 after brief stints in Fairless Hills, PA, and Ohio, and remained there until moving full-time to the Vero Beach, FL area in 2018. He was a man of many talents and abilities. He was a skilled woodworker and carpenter, and was proficient in all the trades, especially electrical. He was an avid reader, and particularly enjoyed reading science and history related books. He enjoyed playing golf, gardening, and following the Steelers. He also enjoyed traveling, including trips to Europe, and sailing on many Windjammer Cruises throughout the Caribbean. He was a doting grandpa, who thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. Above all else he was generous to a fault.

He is survived by his devoted partner of over 35 years, Sue Gulasky; two sons, Richard (Mary Beth) and Michael (Amy); a daughter, Stephanie (Ken) Graham; and nine grandchildren, Lindsey Thelk (Ryan Hagerty), Matthew Thelk, Shannon Thelk, Sean Thelk, Sophie Thelk, Louis Thelk, Francesca Thelk, Tyler Graham, and Carolyn Graham. On Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 11 AM, a prayer service and interment of ashes will be held for family and friends in the Mary, Mother of the Church Mausoleum, located in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, at 2900 Washington Road, McMurray, PA 15317. Following the prayer service, family and friends are welcome to attend a Celebration of Life gathering that's being held at Valley Brook Country Club, at 425 Hidden Valley Road, McMurray, PA 15317 from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (<http://www.alz.org>)

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb