

RICHARD H. "DICK" BITTNER, SR.



Of Regent Square, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2024, at the age of 94. Born on February 8, 1930, to the late Frank Bittner and the late Alma (Weisser) Bittner, Dick's life was one marked by devotion to his family, service to his country, and a spirited sense of humor that brought joy to all who knew him.

Dick is the beloved husband of Carol (Whalen) Bittner, with whom he shared 65 years of marriage filled

with love.

Together, they raised a family that was the center of Dick's world: daughters, Carol Bittner, Karen (Dean Willis) Bittner, Kathleen (Nick Davis) Bittner, and Kimberly (Mike) Shumaker; sons, Richard H. Bittner, Jr., Ronald (Rachel Hobson) Bittner, Donald Bittner and David (Michaela) Bittner; and a legacy of grandchildren who brought him immense pride and happiness, including twins Brianna and Zara Bittner, Zachary Willis, Madison Bittner, Andrew Willis, Lexy Bittner, Michael Shumaker, Baden Bittner, Jonathan Shumaker, Dylan Bittner, Ellie Bittner, Koen Bittner, and Kalista Bittner.

He was a cherished brother to Alma Miller and was preceded in death by his siblings Regina "LuLu," Frank, George, and John "Barney" Bittner. Dick also leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.

A proud graduate of Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, Dick went on to serve his country as a Veteran in the US Air Force during the Korean War, where he excelled as a high-speed radio operator. He founded and operated his own successful general contracting business, Home Improvement Services, demonstrating his skill as a handyman and an entrepreneur. Dick's interests were as varied as they were passionate. He spent over 40 years working alongside his children and his longtime friend George Zambelli of Zambelli Fireworks, coordinating awe-inspiring fireworks displays that illuminated the skies and the hearts of countless spectators. Known as "the biggest BS-er" in his family, Dick had the unique ability to hold court in any room he entered, captivating audiences with his verbose storytelling and infectious laughter. A man who cherished tradition, Dick loved Christmas and made it a grand affair each year by displaying an elaborate HO scale model train set in his basement. His athletic nature remained throughout his life, from bowling to playing in various softball leagues, with his last being an over-75 league. As we reflect on his journey, we are reminded of the indelible mark he has left on his family, who will forever be grateful for the time shared with him. Rest in peace, Dick. Your legacy will live on through the lives you've touched, and the love you've given.

Friends are welcome on Sunday from 12-6 p.m. at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.**, 700 Linden Ave. at Cable, East Pittsburgh, PA 15112, 412-824-8800.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday at 10 a.m. in St. Maurice Church of St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

Dick will be laid to rest with Military Honors in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Bridgeville on Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dick's name to the Disabled American Veterans, 1000 Liberty Ave., #1606, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](https://www.post-gazette.com/gb)