

David Richards Obituary

After 65 years of devoted marriage, Colonel (Retired) David James Richards and his beloved wife, Margaret Josephine "Peggy" Richards, entered eternal rest together within days of one another—a final reflection of a life shared in love, faith, family, and service.

Colonel David Richards passed away peacefully in [Virginia Beach, Virginia](#), on April 28, 2026, at the age of 89. Peggy Richards peacefully followed him on May 13, 2026, at the age of 86.

David was born on February 9, 1937, in [Boston, Massachusetts](#), to the late James W. and Mary F. (Gallagher) Richards. Peggy was born on May 18, 1939, in Medford, Massachusetts, to the late Edgar A. and Mary F. (Ritchie) Hill. The two were married on August 6, 1960, beginning a remarkable partnership that would span military assignments across the United States and around the world.

Together, they built a family rooted in faith, resilience, love, and unwavering commitment to one another. Peggy was the steadfast heart of the family during David's overseas deployments and military assignments, creating a loving and stable home wherever the Army called them. David often credited Peggy's strength, grace, and devotion as the foundation that made his military career and their family life possible.

They are survived by their loving children: Diane (Hani) Zaki of Lansdale, Pennsylvania; Susan (David) Buchy of Suffolk, Virginia; Nancy (Michael) Barbachem of [Virginia Beach, Virginia](#); and Christopher (Alison) Richards of Alexandria, Virginia. They were proud and devoted grandparents to Faith (Chris Kurdelski) Zaki, Thomas (Jamie Kalafut) Zaki, and Alaina Zaki; Brent (Emily) Barbachem; Kathryn (Cory) Vermillion; Marielle and Zachary Buchy; and David N. Richards. They also delighted in their great-grandchildren, Cooper and Isabella Barbachem, Wyatt Vermillion and Miles Kurdelski. Colonel Richards is further survived by his sister, Anne Marie White

of Melrose, Massachusetts (predeceased by her husband, Jack White), as well as many nieces and nephews. Margaret Richards is predeceased by her siblings Shirly McGrath, Virginia Jacobs, and George Hill.

David graduated from Malden Catholic High School in 1955 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a distinguished ROTC commission from Northeastern University in 1960. He later obtained a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering/Digital Electronics from the University of Alabama.

David proudly served his nation for 28 distinguished years in the United States Army. His military service included two tours in Vietnam and assignments with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center during the Apollo program, the Patriot Missile Program at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Defense Communications Agency, and led battalion command positions in Germany and a brigade command in Fort Ritchie, Maryland. His military honors included the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and two Bronze Star Medals.

Following his retirement from active duty in 1988, David continued his professional career with SAIC and later supported the Pentagon renovation project, where he was present during the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Peggy graduated from Reading High School in Reading, Massachusetts, and began her career at The John Hancock Insurance Company before dedicating herself fully to raising her family during David's military career. Later, she worked as a dental assistant and faithfully volunteered her skills through the Mission of Mercy program. She also served in leadership roles with the Officers' Wives Club and remained active in the Women's Knights of Columbus organization.

Faith was central to David and Peggy's lives. They were longtime members of Holy Family Catholic Church in Middletown, Maryland. David was a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, a charter member and Past Grand Knight of his council, Past Chapter President of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Chapter of Grand Knights (2003-2004), Past Faithful Navigator of the Bishop McNamara Assembly 384

(2004-2005), and a Past District Deputy. Peggy and David served faithfully as a Eucharistic Ministers and were deeply devoted to their church and community.

Together, David and Peggy loved traveling the world, exploring new places, tending their garden, spending time with family, and creating cherished memories with their children and grandchildren. Above all else, they will be remembered for their devotion to one another, their enduring faith, and the loving family they built together.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate caregivers from Preferred Care at Home, especially Remonda and Michael, the dedicated staff of the Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center Memory Care Unit, especially Annette, the hospice staff of Amedisys, and the caring professionals at Virginia Beach General Hospital for their kindness and extraordinary care.

A Celebration of Life honoring both David and Peggy Richards will be held on May 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Magnolia Room at Atlantic Shores Retirement Community in [Virginia Beach, Virginia](#). The internment will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Jones and Cabacoy Veterans Care Center or Mission of Mercy.

Condolences may be shared through the Neptune Cremation Service, [Virginia Beach, VA](#).

Together in life, together in eternal peace. Their love, faith, and legacy will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved them.

David / Margaret Richards

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