

Obituary – In Loving Memory

Richard Gordon Covell

February 16, 1935 – August 16, 2016

Richard G. Covell, 81, passed away due to complications from lung cancer on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 with his family by his side. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 2:30 pm at the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.

Richard was born in Brooklyn, NY as the only child of lone Marie Lolan Covell and Gerald Ralph Covell on February 16, 1935. His family moved to Westfield, NJ where he grew up and later graduated from Westfield High School in 1953.

In January, 1955 Richard enlisted in the Navy and was immediately deployed to the Korean War aboard the U.S.S. Wisconsin as Interior Communications, Third Class Petty Officer. He was honorably discharged two years later, remaining in the Reserves through 1961. He was proud of his Navy service.

After high school, Richard worked for the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in electronics and resumed that job after the Navy. He attended the Newark College of Engineering in Newark, NJ and later Seton Hall University in Newark, NJ while he worked.

Richard became both a pioneer and legend of the broadband telecommunications network and his work improved the lives of millions. He was instrumental in the transformation of the four-channel television era into a world of news, current events, entertainment and more. He was recognized by the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE) for his vision and extraordinary efforts including the following accomplishments: named a Cable TV Pioneer in 2002; Emeritus Member of SCTE; Member of the SCTE Circle of Eagles; 1990 Member of the Year; and 1998 Hall of Fame inductee. Richard served as Director of the Rocky Mountain SCTE Chapter; National SCTE Director at Large; and Western Vice President, SCTE. Richard also was a member of the Advisory Board of the Communications Technology Magazine. He received the President Award for Outstanding Performance from Jerrold Communications.

Richard was an entrepreneur and inventor, and passionate about sharing his knowledge. He taught an electronics/instrumentation course at Penn Technical Institute; presented papers at National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA) and SCTE functions; provided training at SCTE chapter meetings; and wrote articles that were published in many trade magazines. Richard was one of the cable industry's top educators, mentors and most requested presenters, receiving many accolades from associates and clients alike. He was an outstanding business developer, project manager, and negotiator who provided valuable solutions for his clients.

Richard had an enthusiastic presence, enjoyed sharing his opinions, and held everyone's attention with his story telling. Annually, he hosted his legendary "closing games of the season" where family and friends came together for a great day of food, fun, networking and more. His T-Bone steaks were renowned!

Richard had a creative mind and seemed to be a master of all trades who could develop a solution to any problem using electrical, mechanical, civil, and logistical engineering. He had the right combination of curiosity, persistence, knowledge and confidence to get the job done.

Richard was committed to his country and community, and passionate about politics. He was an active member of the Elbert County Republican Party, attending caucuses and county assemblies, and was also an active member of the American Legion.

Richard loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them on his cross-country tours. His children have fond memories of their time together learning how to play chess, skiing, taking trips on his motorcycle, tinkering in the garage, and building things. He had a passion for photography, working out, chess, and motorcycles.

He will certainly be missed.



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