



## Richard D. "Dick" Bonyak

February 27, 1936 - February 5, 2016

Bonyak, Richard D. "Dick", 79 years old, died February 5, 2016.

Dick was born February 27, 1936 in Butler, Pennsylvania, the son of Andrew and Catherine Bonyak.

Dick graduated from Butler High School in 1954 and from Geneva College of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania in 1967.

After graduation, Dick and his wife Pat moved with their family to New Martinsville, WV where he accepted a job in the Purchasing Department of Mobay Chemical Company.

Dick retired in 1998 with 31 years of service as a supervisor in the Purchasing Department with Mobay/Miles/Bayer of New Martinsville.

In 1955, Dick attended the United States Coast Guard in New London CT.

Dick then served with the United States Army during the Cold War from 1955 through 1960. Dick had been very active in the Boy Scouts of America as a

Scoutmaster, Unit Commissioner, District Chairman and Merit Badge Instructor and was awarded the Silver Beaver Award and 30 year participation pin.

He loved and was involved for many years with the martial art, Taekwondo in Tyler and Wetzel counties and awarded an honorary black belt. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of New Martinsville WV was an Adult Sunday School teacher for several years and was ordained as an Elder.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Wetzel-Tyler Volunteers for Better Reading for many years. Dick loved to sing and was a member of the singing

groups “Bayertones” and “Meistersingers” for 15 years. He also sang with the “Riverside Barbershop Chorus”.

After he retired, Dick and different members of his family traveled to different parts of this country and world. He and members of his family made several trips to Disney World, the Coast Guard Academy '59 Reunion in New London CT, Cruises to the Caribbean (4), (3) Tours in Italy and Sicily , Spain, China, Tibet and Israel.

In addition to his parents, Dick was also preceded in death by his sister and in 2008 by the love of his life, Pat whom he married on January 28, 1961.

Surviving is one daughter, Diane, of New Martinsville, two sons, Richard “Andy” (Katherine) of New Martinsville and Michael John (Faith) of Huntington, WV. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Robin, Joshua and Timothy Bonyak of Huntington, WV, Michael A., Jonathan and Katherine Bonyak of New Castle, PA and their mother Carrie.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8pm at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 751 Third Street, New Martinsville, where funeral services will be held Thursday at 11am with Pastor Donald Rush officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Boys Scouts of America or Wetzel-Tyler Volunteers for Better Reading, P.O. Box 45 Proctor, WV 26055.

Interment will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Northview Cemetery

219 N. State Rt. 2  
New Martinsville, WV 26155

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home - New Martinsville  
751 Third Street  
New Martinsville, WV 26155  
(304) 455-1800  
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home - New Martinsville  
751 Third Street  
New Martinsville, WV 26155  
(304) 455-1800  
<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

## Funeral Service

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FEB 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Grisell Funeral Home - New Martinsville

751 Third Street

New Martinsville, WV 26155

(304) 455-1800

<https://www.grisellfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall

PL

“ *Sending caring thoughts and love to the Bonyak family from Patsy Kelley Lundberg (daughter of Harold Horton's sister Phyllis).*

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**Patsy Kelley Lundberg** - February 10, 2016 at 11:00 AM

LH

“ *dick use to deal at bill forbes chevy and I worked in the service dept. I made all his service appts. he was a delight to talk to when he came in. he always had a smile on his face and brightened up our day. my thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

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**linda harris** - February 10, 2016 at 07:19 AM

CD

“*Mr. Bonyak was my Scoutmaster during the late 1980s, in Troop 149, but he was far more than that. He was a marvelous storyteller, a passionate teacher and all around entertaining man with limitless enthusiasm and energy, who was completely dedicated to us within his volunteer role. When I think back at my time as a scout, and how enthusiastic I was about all aspects of it, it's a bit puzzling in a way, because I've never been much of an outdoorsman ever since. Then I realize: it was HIM. He actually made Scouting special. Mr. Bonyak was part drill sergeant, part history teacher, and part gentle sage. He took his role very seriously, as he apparently approached all his other duties in life.*

*Some memories: accompanying him to Parkersburg for weekly chats about American history during Michael's Tae Kwan Do sessions (this was all to earn a merit badge, and you'd think it would be the last way a fifth Grader would want to spend an evening, but Mr. Bonyak's discussions were fascinating); attending Catholic mass with him on several occasions after a camping trip, which he did JUST so we would be able to participate in the camping trip, even though he was not Catholic; listening to him extol the virtues of Dinty Moore Beef Stew and the Kingston Trio (two acquired tastes); our many trips to places like Gettysburg, Washington DC (along with less famous locales in blizzard conditions); and attending his Dr. Who marathon parties 20 years before it was cool to hold a Dr. Who marathon party.*

*I never could get all that excited about Scouting again after my family left WV. He was one of the great influences of my early life and I will never forget this wonderful man. I offer my deepest condolences.*

*Chris Dvorak*

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Chris Dvorak - February 09, 2016 at 07:38 PM

RS

“ Time went by too fast - I had hoped to see my cousin Dick once again after many years and am saddened by his passing but we did keep in touch through e-mails and Christmas cards.

*Diane, Andy and Mike,*

*How blessed we all are for having known this beautiful soul and I know we will meet again!*

*Rose Cubbison Smrekar*

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**Rose Smrekar** - February 09, 2016 at 09:51 AM

LW

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of my Cousin Dick. We pretty much grew up together, sometimes even living in the same apartment building. We had many good times together. Our Prayers go out to his family in these sad times.

*Lewis (Sonny) Warren*

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**Lewis Warren** - February 09, 2016 at 09:34 AM

 Nancy  
Mason  
Gregg

“ My condolences to Diane and family. It is such a sad time on Earth but your Mom is a happy woman.

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**Nancy Mason Gregg** - February 08, 2016 at 06:59 PM



“ Diane and the rest of the Bonyak family....I am sorry to hear about the passing of your father and father-in-law. Prayers for peace and comfort for you all....(((hugs)))

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**Jackie Powell** - February 08, 2016 at 06:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard D. "Dick" Bonyak.*



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February 08, 2016 at 05:41 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time*

*May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

*May your memories of Richard D. Bonyak, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your work on earth is complete. I thank you for your service and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with the family of.....*

*US Coast Guard/Army Veteran, Richard D. Bonyak, “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*



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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - February 08, 2016 at 02:31 PM

ER

“ *I was blessed to have Dick involved in my church. Whenever he was in Weirton, he was always there in the choir. And I remember talking with him often in the parking lot of Weirton Heights Elementary after he'd dropped Robin off.*

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**Ed Rudiger** - February 08, 2016 at 02:03 PM

FB

*He often spoke of your emails from the church. He said he enjoyed getting them and he would always hold you fondly in his heart.*

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**Faith Bonyak** - February 08, 2016 at 05:11 PM

KJ

“*Dick was a great colleague to work with. I remember many times when I was a young engineer with MOBAY and Dick bailed me out on a project where either I was running late or didn't even know in what direction to go. His experience was invaluable. Dick was also a great friend of my father, Bob. .*

*One particular memory I have of Dick, on a lighter side, was once when my wife, Kim and I were at a dance for the hospital. When the band played the song "Locomotion" by Grand Funk Railroad, Dick led the conga line around the Family Center puffing his pipe and generating the smoke from the "Locomotive". Good times!*

*My thoughts and prayers go out to the Bonyak family*

*Keith Jones*

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**Keith Jones** - February 08, 2016 at 11:56 AM

SB

“ As a young lawyer with Mobay in 1987, Dick was one of my first clients in plant Purchasing. For a number of years, we worked closely together on projects and contracts of every shape and size. Dick, without being asked, readily taught me about the business and the procurement needs of the New Martinsville plant which made my job easier and more productive. Throughout this time, I came to respect Dick for his great business sense in the procurement field and for his high level of personal integrity. He was a model for all of us who had the honor to work with him.

*Dick's family is in my prayers.*

*Scott Brown*

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**Scott Brown** - February 08, 2016 at 09:57 AM

LM

“ Leslie Manley lit a candle in memory of Richard D. "Dick" Bonyak



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**Leslie Manley** - February 07, 2016 at 10:11 PM

RD

“ Mark and I have always had a lot of respect for Mr. Bonyak. Our family loved him dearly. He is going to be greatly missed. He always had a big smile and was full of wisdom. He has made a big impact on our family.

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**Ruth Derby** - February 07, 2016 at 08:56 PM

DO

“ *Diane and Brothers. So sorry to hear the passing of your dad. He's with your mom now. May God comfort you in the trying time.*

Donna - February 07, 2016 at 08:11 PM

SB

“ *Dear Bonyaks, you must know how important Dick was to Jim and I. We are so sorry to hear the news. He will be missed. Love to all, Sandy and Jim Beveridge.*

Sandy Beveridge - February 07, 2016 at 07:10 PM

PB

“ *I went to work at "Mobay" in 1976, Dick was one of the first to greet me..He was a kind, loving gentle man who loved his family , his children and grandchildren. He touched more lives than anyone can ever imagine. He will be greatly missed by the community and his many friends...Deepest condolences to the family. Rest In Peace, Mr. Bonyak..Pamela Liniger Wiggins Burlingame.*

pamela liniger burlingame - February 07, 2016 at 05:47 PM

SG

“ *We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Your father would always speak when we saw him and was so very proud of his children and especially his grandchildren. Prayers of comfort for all of you. God Bless!*

*Bob and Sandra Greathouse*

Sandra & Bob Greathouse - February 07, 2016 at 05:39 PM



TW

“ I met Dick when I came to work with him at Mobay -- or was it when my son joined Scouts? Dick was such a big part of my life then,,,,,always there,,, at work, at Scouts. as a friend, as a mentor. I'm so very grateful I knew Dick and I will always remember him fondly.

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**Teddi Wade** - February 07, 2016 at 04:28 PM

CA

“ May you have comfort in knowing that you had loving, wonderful parents who raised three terrific children! They were also very proud of their grandchildren. I am glad to have known both Dick and Pat. Prayers for comfort to all of you. Carol Ann Archer

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**Carol Ann Archer** - February 07, 2016 at 04:26 PM