



Richard Perham Ellison

November 14, 1930 - December 18, 2018

Richard Perham Ellison, 88 years, co-founder of Boat US died Dec. 18, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Martha Ellison, daughter Sarah “Sally” Ellison, granddaughters Jolene Trzicak and Erin Ellison and great grandson Ethan Trzicak. He is preceded in death by his son Richard P. Ellison, Jr. and daughter Terry Mae Ellison. A memorial service will be held at St. John’s Church, Lafayette Square, 1525 H St. NW, WDC 20005 on Fri. Jan. 4, 2019 at 11AM. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to St. John’s Church, Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Thompson’s Alley, Alexandria, VA 22314 or Vocal Arts DC, PO Box 42423, Washington, DC 20015.

Richard “Dick” Ellison (1930-2018), born in Minneapolis, MN, graduated from St. Albans School, Washington, DC in 1948. In 1952 he graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut and enrolled in the Wharton School of Business for a time before receiving a commission in the navy. He served on Korean soil, on shipboard and lastly as a teacher at the War College, Newport, RI. Following military service Dick was engaged in many ventures, adventures and misadventures an example of which was his captaining a sailing ship freighting bananas from St. Croix to Dominica. He loved life and its many opportunities and was an entrepreneur at heart. In the 1960s he found a true calling in business as President of Boat America Corporation and co-founder of Boat US. This company was to the boat owner as AAA is to the automobile owner. Dick remained an avid recreational sailor throughout life

and was a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club. He was an Episcopalian from birth to death and credited St. Albans School for formulating his character, his appreciation for hard work and the values by which he lived. A man of continued optimism, Dick was somewhat a force of nature with a winning smile. He had a twinkle in his eyes and a most generous spirit. With his first wife Sylvia Behrens he fathered three children, two of whom predeceased him. He is survived by his wife Martha Ellison, his daughter Sarah "Sally" Ellison, granddaughters Jolene Trzicak and Erin Ellison and a great grandson Ethan Trzicak.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Perham Ellison*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Obituary Wall*



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ *Dear Mrs. Ellison and the Ellison family, I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Ellison was a very gracious and welcoming host whenever I met him at the WMC gala dinners at your lovely home. He will be long remembered and cherished, I am sure. May you be blessed with happy memories of your time with him.*

January 08, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sincere condolence to the Ellison family. While words fail to capture the pain of losing your beloved Richard, you can look forward to the time when words will fail to express the joy of having our Heavenly Father return your dear one soon—Psalm 146:4, John 5:28-29. In the meantime, may our Heavenly Father, and cherished memories strengthen you to cope at this time.*

January 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ It was a joy to know Dick and to ski, sail and visit with Dick and Martha. What fun we had together celebrating life. His sense of humor, his lilted laughter kept company with his wisdom, genuine interest in his friends and his generous spirit. Such a high class and talented man in every respect!
He made others feel good....this is a gift and am grateful to call him a friend.

January 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ I was glad Dick could have such a long and full life because he was someone who could live life to the fullest. My relationship was with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Golf, Skiing and doing his income taxes. Never a dull moment. Great Businessman and great friend. Charlie Ballou

January 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ I never knew Dick well enough, but I've known Martha for over fifty years, and my heart goes out to you, my old and dear friend. It is rare and inspiring to observe such a marvelously matched couple. I'm sure that a couple is what you and Dick will continue to be, forever.

January 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ My husband and I so enjoyed seeing Richard every spring at the Ellison's beautiful home when he and Martha hosted a delightful event for the Washington Master Chorale. Guests who attended had the opportunity to enjoy lovely choral music , delicious food, and good conversation... truly an engaging evening. Richard, thank you for your warm hospitality...you will be missed.

January 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ "So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore ! Dream ! Discover ! " - Mark Twain

January 02, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Dick was a wonderful friend to all of us associated with St. Albans. I also had the pleasure and good advice on my boat business over 40 years as we bantered back and forth about commercial boats versus recreational craft, Coast Guard rules and general boat stories, most of which were fictional at best. I wish for him to have smooth seas and a following wind in his sails on his next journey. Thanks to the family for sharing this remarkable person with us.

Willem Polak, STA '63, owner Potomac Riverboat Co., Alexandria

December 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ What a wonderful person, Dick Ellison my cousin. He was the only cousin I had on my mothers side. We were like brother and sister, although I had 2 brothers. May he be in heaven with his mom and dad.

December 31, 2018 at 12:00 AM