



## Richard "Dick" Engel

November 1, 1952 - April 8, 2024

Richard Leo Engel, 71, passed away in his home in Holland, Michigan on April 8, 2024.

Richard was born in Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 1, 1952, to Col. Richard Engel and Rita Engel. He was one of five children in a loving, catholic home. He grew up in Tonawanda, NY and quickly grew a love for camping and canoeing; a hobby his brother and father also enjoyed. He graduated from GMI in Flint, MI in 1975. While there, he met his future bride, Sandra (Basen) Engel. They were married at St. John Vianney Catholic Church on September 28th, 1974.

After graduation, Richard started a prosperous career as a mechanical engineer at General Motors for over 39 years. He was awarded two patents from the U.S. Government and created many lasting professional relationships across the globe.

Richard and Sandra welcomed three children and created a loving home that welcomed family and friends with open arms. He instilled a love of travel and camping in his children after many camping trips across the United States.

After retiring from GM, Ford, and consulting with QDas, Richard followed his other passion in life; traveling with his beloved wife. Their cruise around the

Mediterranean was a second honeymoon for Richard and Sandra. Those many trips will be remembered for all the amazing sites, but also creating a love of gelato and cappuccino for Richard.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Col. Richard Engel and Rita Engel, his sister Barbra, and his daughter Susana. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; sons, Nicholas, Phillip (Jonathan); his daughter, Catherine; sisters, Mary and Patricia; brother, Joseph (Diane); many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and his beloved dog, Sport.

A funeral mass is planned for 11:00am Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 480 152nd Ave, Holland, MI 49424, with Fr. Samuel Sawyer officiating. Visitation is scheduled for 6:00-8:00pm, with Wake Prayers at 7:30pm, on Friday, May 10, at Langeland-Sterenberg Funeral Home, 315 E 16th St., Holland. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Tunnels to Towers Foundation, St. Francis Friends of the Poor, and SEE International. Condolences may be left online at [www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home  
315 East 16th Street  
Holland, MI 49423

## Funeral Mass

MAY **11.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church  
480 152nd Ave.  
Holland, MI 49424

# Tribute Wall

AC

“ I have very fond memories of Richard. I only learned of his death days ago. It's been a year. We were great friends and I loved him. His humor and devotion he had with his family. May he rest in peace. G'night my dear friend.

Anna Marie Cappa - May 24, 2025 at 11:19 AM

BI

“ Bill purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard "Dick" Engel.



Bill - May 06, 2024 at 10:10 AM

Paulie  
Dubs

“ Uncle rich was the best, an incredibly kind guy who cared the most about his family. I miss him dearly and wish I could play one more monopoly game with him.

Paulie Dubs - April 30, 2024 at 01:07 PM

“ On the night Richard was born, his dad drove through dense fog surrounding the bay separating our home in Norfolk from the hospital where our mom would give birth to Rich. Our dad was a seasoned Army officer who told us that was one of the scariest drives he'd ever made, but he was sick with the flu and knew that his mission was to get mom to the hospital. He made it back safely and a few days later his first-born son came to a house full of women, since our dad had to leave for Korea and Nana had come to help our mom.

*Rich's oldest sibling Barbara and I thought we had received the greatest gift ever. We didn't even want Christmas presents that year since we already had Rich to amuse us every day.*

*From the age of four, Richard loved to fix things. If something broke and was judged unfixable, he asked if he could have it. He would take it apart, study every piece, and put it back together, often more than once.*

*After he began school, his curiosity and intelligence made him a resource to his friends. He was patient with his buddies for whom school wasn't easy.*

*Rich loved being a dad, celebrating each of his children for their own gifts. He also went out of his way on many occasions to help my children, especially after their father died when they were very young. When we moved from Montana to Pennsylvania, Rich and Sandi, while busy with a very young Nick, volunteered to host Sam (8), Michael (4) and Steven (2) for two weeks so that I could move into our new home and start my new job. Two weeks later, he and Sandi drove four children to Buffalo, where he announced that Steven was potty trained.*

*Throughout his life, Rich extended himself to others in need, even when his own health was not good. But he wasn't always a saint!*

*When I completed driver's ed and got my license, our dad said that I couldn't drive until I could change a tire. Rich volunteered to help, showed me how to remove the lug nuts and take the tire off, proceeded to hand the tire to me facing the wrong way, and erupted in great guffaws of laughter as I split my shorts trying to force the backwards facing tire onto the wheel.*

**Mary Engel** - April 30, 2024 at 08:11 AM

MC

“ *I loved Rich's laugh. He was always looking for ways to play with all the kids in the family, described himself as a big kid and loved to laugh. We'll miss you!*



**Mary Ann Covi** - April 25, 2024 at 02:45 PM

EM

“ *Dick was a beloved fraternity brother at Theta Tau fraternity at General Motors Institute in Flint. He will be missed.*



**Ed Mellinger** - April 18, 2024 at 12:29 PM