



## Ralph Fosdick Spencer Jr.

August 20, 1939 - August 23, 2021

Ralph Fosdick Spencer known by friends and family as “Dick” was born August 20, 1939 in Boston, MA. Son of the late Ralph Frederick Spencer, M.D. and Mary E (Puleston) Spencer, Dick grew up in the small Hudson Valley town of Claverack, NY. He and his friends enjoyed the life of growing up in a small rural fruit town, at a time when farms were the backbone of Columbia County and it was safe to leave the back door open at night. He graduated from The Taft School and entered pre-medicine at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. He ultimately shifted his career focus to Electrical Engineering and graduated with a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

Before graduating from UPenn, Dick married Prudence Ann Whitbeck from Hudson, NY. Both of their respective fathers were practicing physicians from at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Before completing his degree, their two sons Bradford (July, 1963) and Jeffrey (May 1965) were born in Philadelphia, PA. Upon completing his PhD, the family moved to Dallas TX to start Dick’s career in the emerging computer industry. The family relocated to Massachusetts several years later where Dick spent the remainder of his career with Digital Equipment Corp (DEC) which ultimately was acquired by Compaq Computer and then Hewlett Packard (HP). The family settled in the towns of both Carlisle and Acton, MA. Dick semi-retired from his career with DEC in 2003 and spent a few years after working as a consultant with Hamilton Technologies, Inc in Cambridge, MA before retiring full time.

Dick and his first wife Prudence divorced after both of their sons had

graduated from college and started their own respective careers. Shortly thereafter, Dick met Nancy Meng from Newton, MA and started a partnership that lasted all the way until Nancy's passing earlier this year from a battle with Parkinson's disease. The couple had settled down in the towns of Salem and Atkinson, NH. Shortly before Nancy's passing, Dick moved to the lively new Tuscan Village community in Salem, NH where he especially enjoyed its upscale Tuscan Kitchen restaurant and vibrant businesses including local shops, cafes, and microbreweries. Dick was passionate about building his Amazon e-commerce reseller business which he had started a few years earlier.

Dick was an avid golfer playing for many years at Columbia Golf and Country Club in Claverack with his father. He also enjoyed riding off-road motorcycles with his sons when they were growing up and had a life-long passion for reading, learning, and personal growth. He was always researching new trends in alternative health and applying what he learned to his own life. He remained loyal to the Dartmouth College alumni association over the years often participating in activities, keeping in contact with former classmates, and donating to their charities.

Dick will be deeply missed by his two sons, Bradford (Vicki) of Chatham, MA and Jeffrey of Cambridge, MA. In addition to his children, he is survived by his two siblings Sandra (Spencer) Wiley of LaFayette, NY and John (Judy) Spencer of Bunnell, FL and his four grandchildren - Elizabeth, Abigail, William and Roger, and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flower donations, Dick would prefer donations to the Dartmouth College Fund in memory of his name <https://www.dartmouthcollegefund.org/how-give>.

A memorial service will be held this coming Monday 8/30 at 1pm:

Bates & Anderson Funeral Home

110 Green St

Hudson, NY 12534

After the service, the family will be hosting a celebration of Dick's life at the The Wick hotel in Hudson.

The Wick

41 Cross St

Hudson, NY 12534

For those interested, rooms are available the night before or the night of the event.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **30**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler  
110 Green Street  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-3371  
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>