



## Dr. Richard Robert Eiles

April 24, 1938 - April 19, 2020

### Richard R Eiles

Our beloved husband, father, brother, friend, and therapist returned to God peacefully on April 19, 2020, at MD Anderson's acute palliative care unit after a heroic struggle against bladder cancer.

Richard R. Eiles was born April 24, 1938, in Sheboygan, WI to Wilma (Engelman) Eiles and Robert Eiles. He was the oldest of four sons: Dick, Tommy, Jerry, and Bruce. After graduating from Monrovia-Duarte High School in California where he lettered in basketball and baseball, Dick attended the University of Redlands on a full basketball scholarship. He distinguished himself on the basketball court, named most valuable player and team captain at the University of Redlands (1959, 1960) where he earned a B.S. in Psychology (1960). He then earned an M.S. in Psychology, Vocational Rehabilitation, at the University of Oregon (1962) and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University (1970).

In 1960, he married Karen Stielstra. They have three sons, Travis, Tim, and Ted, the pride and joy of his life.

In 1962, Dick became an officer in the United States Air Force with assignments beginning at McGuire AFB (NJ), Vandenberg AFB (CA), and Williams AFB (AZ). He served in the Air Force as a Clinical Psychologist at

Elmendorf AFB (AK), Travis AFB (CA), and the United States Air Force Academy (CO), culminating in his appointment as Chief Psychologist of the Air Force at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX.

In 1983, Dick married Cindy Makowski, the love of his life. They continue to love and cherish one another in a beautiful now and forever.

After retiring from the Air Force, Dick served as Supervising Psychologist at the Texas Department of Corrections in Huntsville from 1985 to 1989. He was in private practice from 1990 to 1997 and continued working in consulting, evaluation, and counseling roles including nursing homes in the Huntsville area. Throughout his distinguished career, Dick taught numerous psychology classes in adjunct professor positions around the country. He also had consulting roles as a forensic expert witness and was a consultant with the Republican National Committee.

Throughout his life, Dick enjoyed playing basketball, tennis, and ping-pong. He loved music, especially classical music, choral music, and opera. We loved his special voice. He enjoyed playing golf, fantasy football, and gin rummy with his many Elkins Lake friends. He also listened to audiobooks daily.

Dick is survived by his wife Cindy; sons Travis (Kim) of Bothell, WA; Tim (Melissa) of Colorado Springs, CO; and Ted (Stephanie) of Cary, NC; brother Bruce (Gerri) of Quitman, TX. He has nine grandchildren: Matthew (Emily), Madeleine, Mark, Michael, Peter, Stefan (Savanna), Kelsey, Luke, and Levi; and two great-grandchildren, Rosalie and Delta; and nieces Amber, Alyssa, Aimee, and Alayna.

What a fulfilled life! We love him so!

"I thank God for this man whose love and friendship have enriched the depths of my soul, and with whom I experienced those moments in which the Spiritual

Presence was manifest. For it is in those eternal moments that we know what Life is." -- Cindy Eiles.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Steve Covington, devoted caregiver and neighbor, who assisted us in many difficult trips to MD Anderson and area hospitals, and for his selfless support and compassion.

A Celebration of Dick's life will be held once we are able to gather together again. Condolences and messages to the family can be made at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Richard Robert Eiles*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I have so many great memories of learning to throw a frisbee with Grandpa, playing cards, going fishing, marveling at his crossword talents, and sitting around talking. One of the best times being with him and Grandma Cindy was a few years ago when Stefan and I visited and got to spend a week in Huntsville. It was great to have that time with them even though it was hard to see Grandpa in pain from his medical issues, and I am glad to know he is without that pain now.*

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**Matt Eiles** - May 14, 2020 at 07:59 PM



“ *I am blessed to have so many good memories of uncle Dick. Throwing frisbee at the park, walking the piers at the beach with him and aunt Cindy. Wonderful memories at all the family gatherings and talking sports with him he always made me feel special! He was always such a kind and calm uncle and I always felt loved by him. I always enjoyed watching how he and Aunt Cindy's Love was so deep and they respected each other so much! I'm so thankful to have been able to spend an evening with them during Christmas. Uncle Dick you are so very loved and the memories will not be forgotten! Aunt Cindy, we love you so much!*

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**Alyssa Eiles Newberry** - May 09, 2020 at 01:41 PM

ME

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Madeleine Eiles** - May 08, 2020 at 08:43 PM

ME

“ I have a lot of fond memories with Grandpa! Fishing in Texas, doing puzzles, spending time together at family reunions. Grandpa was always a lot of fun to be around and I had many good conversations with him as I got older. Although I did not get to spend enough time with him as an adult, I always cherished the time I did get with him. Grandpa was wonderful and encouraging and funny and I will miss him very much!

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**Madeleine Eiles** - May 08, 2020 at 08:36 PM

EM

“ This is the picture we took especially for Grandpa Dick so he could see our new family of three! Travis was able to show it to him during his recent visit. Although we were far away physically, we're glad he could see the face of the youngest Eiles in the family!  
Matthew, Emily, and baby Rosalie



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**Emily** - May 06, 2020 at 11:50 AM

SE

“ Grandpa Dick inspired me through his stories about playing basketball in college and I will always remember his helpful tips... practice with your left hand.. :-) Love, Luke Eiles

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**stephanie eiles** - May 06, 2020 at 09:09 AM

CE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Cindy Eiles** - May 06, 2020 at 07:12 AM

NK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Nathaniel Krok** - May 06, 2020 at 07:10 AM

EM

“ *I am blessed to have become Dick's granddaughter by marrying his oldest grandson. We wish we could have seen him more often, but we were so lucky to be able to spend time with him at our wedding a few years ago. Our new baby girl wasn't able to meet her great-grandfather in this lifetime, but she will hear all about him as she grows, and his legacy continues through her.*



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**Emily** - May 06, 2020 at 05:00 AM

SE

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Stephanie Eiles** - May 05, 2020 at 06:21 PM

KE

“ Dick was my father-in-law and I was blessed to have had him in my life. He loved family and was always very excited to see his sons and grandchildren, which unfortunately was not nearly enough due to us not living in the same area. The kids always looked forward to fishing in Elkin's Lake and shooting cans with the pellet gun under his tutelage when we visited him in Texas. My fondest memory was a time when he was in San Jose, California for a conference and we were living there. He and I spent a lot of time persevering on a jigsaw puzzle (the picture was of popcorn, so it was very challenging) and having some wonderful discussions while doing so. It is those times that I will miss the most.

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**Kim Eiles** - May 05, 2020 at 04:06 PM

JR

“ Dick was my mother's first cousin. Her name was Audrey Hamann. She too was born in Sheboygan, WI and I believe that they were 2 years apart in age. She always talked so fondly of him and his family. Personally, I met Dick two different times in my adult life, but my mom had pictures of me with him when I was 4-5 (he would have been about 25). He was so kind to my dad when my mom passed away, calling him right away even though they hadn't seen each other in over 30 years. It seems from all the posts, he was that kind of person. My sincerest condolences to the whole family. Julie Hamann Raymond - Waukesha WI

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**Julie Raymond** - May 05, 2020 at 11:44 AM

GE

“ I remember the first time I met Dick. I was just a teenager and dating his baby brother, Bruce. I knew he was a psychologist and was very smart, which was sort of intimidating at that first meeting. I came to love Dick and his family as Bruce and I married in 1974. Dick was Bruce's best man, but was truly more of a father figure than just an older brother, as their father was not in the picture from the age of 3 for Bruce. Bruce followed Dick's footsteps and studied psychology in college. His career path ended up being in sales, but I'm sure psychology played a role in that. It was obvious that Dick cared for his younger brother and always asked him if he was taking care of himself. As I recall, he wanted to make sure he was eating right and exercising, every time we saw him.

I am so thankful that Dick & Cindy were able to come to East Texas on New Year's Eve 2019. Dick was able to spend some time with my grandsons who were here from Norway at the time. He taught them some card tricks which I know they were able to share with their friends back home. Hopefully someday they will pass them along to their own children as something that their uncle Dick taught them.

Dick will be greatly missed on this side of heaven, but we look forward to seeing him again some day! This is not the end folks! Only the beginning of eternity with our Heavenly Father, because of The relationship we have with Jesus Christ! Don't worry Dick, Cindy will be okay! She is a strong woman and has lots of friends! Until we meet again on the other side! ❤️

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Gerri Eiles - May 04, 2020 at 09:27 PM

VK

“ I loved my Uncle Dick so much and I always will. I have so many happy childhood memories when he and my Aunt Cindy would come to visit. He was always so much fun and so kind hearted. He taught me “magic tricks” that were really cool as a kid, and my brother and I always had a blast with him. I know how much he loved my aunt and how much she loved him. That always made me so happy. They were such a great example of a beautiful marriage. I know he’s going to be an amazing guardian angel up in Heaven for us all. Sending so much love to my Aunt Cindy and to all his family members! Xoxoxo  
Warmly, Veronica (niece)

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**Veronica Krok** - May 04, 2020 at 01:36 PM

BE

“ I worked in the psychiatric department as a nurse with Dr. Isles back in the early 1980s I remember the tension of the prison environment the doctor Eisles always cool calm and collected he was awesome to work with and was always ready with solutions and that everything was gonna be OK. years later my husband and I built a house across the street from Dick and Cindy and we have had many many years of a peaceful existence one of our favorite things was the decorations that his wife Cindy would place all over the house there’s always a star theme and always so beautiful but we have always enjoyed and anticipated what design would be next.

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**Beth** - May 04, 2020 at 12:41 PM

NK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Nathaniel Krok** - May 03, 2020 at 10:50 PM

DR

“ Dawn Rachal lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard Robert Eiles



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**Dawn Rachal** - May 03, 2020 at 07:36 PM

DR

*Rest In Peace Doc  
You are greatly missed*

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**Dawn Rachal** - May 03, 2020 at 07:37 PM

NK

“ Dick was a fun uncle! Most of my memories of him are from when I was very young, and I remember he was lots of fun and I was always happy to see him around. I'll definitely miss him.

*Dick's family has been and will be in my prayers.*



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**Nathaniel Krok** - May 03, 2020 at 05:43 PM

JC

“ *Janice & Ronnie Choate lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard Robert Eiles*



**Janice & Ronnie Choate** - May 02, 2020 at 09:12 AM

GE

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**Gerri Eiles** - May 03, 2020 at 07:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Dr. Richard Eiles*



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**Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home** - April 28, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DG

*So sorry to hear of Dicks passing. My wife and I both worked with Dick at Ellis 2 years ago. He was a very nice and caring man. May he Rest in Peace. Duane Gougler.*

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**Duane Gougler** - May 01, 2020 at 10:27 PM

JT

*I had the wonderful privilege of working with Dr. Eiles at Mance Park Jr. High many years ago. Dr. Eiles was so caring, compassionate and so knowledgeable. I learned so much from him. He will be missed by many. God has a new Angel.  
Jayne Tavenner*

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**Jayne Tavenner** - May 03, 2020 at 05:41 PM