



## Richard George Blauvelt

March 21, 1934 - October 19, 2020

Richard George Blauvelt, 86, of Southfield, Michigan, passed peacefully at home on October 19, 2020. He was born at home in the middle of a blizzard in Ferndale, Michigan on March 21, 1934.

Richard graduated from Lincoln High School and attended Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956. While at Wayne State, he met and married Connie (Crew) Blauvelt in 1956.

Richard and Connie have three children: Richard A. Blauvelt (Marjorie) of Royal Oak Michigan, Mark R. Blauvelt (Susan) of Grand Haven, Michigan, and Thomas S. Blauvelt (Patsy) of Farmington Hills, Michigan. They have eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Richard is survived by his wife Connie, and his children and grandchildren. He is also survived by a sister, Patricia Stolman and a brother, William Blauvelt. Richard is pre-deceased by his parents George and Frances Blauvelt, sister Jean Blauvelt and brother Robert Blauvelt.

Richard had a long career as a contract negotiator. He started out at Bendix and worked there for many years. After he worked at Bendix, Richard moved to Williams International and then later retired from General Dynamics. During his career, Richard travelled to Newport News, Virginia and occasionally to

Europe to lead negotiations on government contracts. Having sat at both sides of the negotiating table, Richard remarked that negotiating purchases was much easier than sales. As the leader of a negotiation team, Richard was admired for quietly listening and taking notes during presentations, asking a few pertinent questions, and then producing a completed contract. Richard was always mindful of his coworkers, his staff, and the environment of the workplace. In one particular instance, he was offered a promotion. He was aware that a female coworker was equally qualified and suggested that they give her the promotion to help address the gender inequity in management. The level of respect he commanded from management and coworkers was evident when Richard spent an extended time in the hospital due to an illness and the staff at Williams International supported and cared for him and his family.

Richard was a longtime active member of Wellspring Church, formerly Northwestern Baptist Church. As a practicing Christian who walked in the path of Christ, Richard led a life of quiet service and preferred to lead by example. Richard served on the board of his church in many roles and was always involved in church life. Richard assisted members of the congregation who needed help. For many years he helped care for a disabled member of the congregation at the member's home.

Richard loved music, both listening and in performance. He was a trumpet virtuoso, sitting first chair in the orchestra at Interlochen, at Wayne State University, and playing with the Scandinavian Symphony in Southfield for many years. While Richard had a wonderful singing voice, he preferred to watch his wife Connie direct the church choir. His family only got to hear him sing in the annual rendition of Happy Birthday he and Connie sang to every member of the family on their special day. Richard had many other hobbies including camping, fishing, dirt-biking, and home improvement projects. Whatever the task, Richard was known as someone who built things to last.

Richard's main love was his family. When he was a young man, he worked at the service station that his father owned in Detroit. He developed his love for working on cars by doing car repairs with his dad. When he was older and had his own children, they used to love when Richard took them to visit their grandfather at work, especially when Richard would put them in a car and give them a ride on the hoist in the garage. Richard imparted his tenacity and strong work ethic to his children who learned to repair and maintain their own cars. Richard's sons are never afraid to take on and complete any endeavor.

Richard spent time with his kids working around the house and helping them with their interests. There are many stories of Richard going to police auctions to buy used bicycles for two or three dollars, and then repairing and painting them for his kids. Richard also repaired bikes for his sons' friends. He bought used trumpets at garage sales and auctions, paid to have them refurbished, and donated them to school music programs. Richard extended the same devotion to his sons' spouses and their children. Grandpa Blauvelt was always a favorite person to his family, and he rocked every grandchild to sleep.

Private funeral service on October 28, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.

Please join the service virtually by clicking on the Zoom link that will open at 1:00 on October 28, 2020: Richard G. Blauvelt funeral service (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365588547>)

The family appreciates all the warm messages of love that have been received. In lieu of flowers, donations to the following would be greatly appreciated:

Friendship House

9540 Conant  
Hamtramck, MI 48212

Wellspring Church  
P.O. Box 3071  
Farmington Hills, MI 48333-3071

Capuchin Soup Kitchen  
1820 Mt. Elliott Street  
Detroit, MI 48207

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ I want to thank everyone for their kind words and remembrances of my father. He was a kind and steadfast person who was there when you needed him. As my son, Tony, said: "He was the archetypal grandfather.”

*Rick Blauvelt*

---

**Richard Blauvelt** - October 29, 2020 at 06:12 PM

NZ

“ I don't have much to say that my sister Allie hasn't already. All of my love to Richard and his family, who I consider my own.

---

**Nick Van Zoeren** - October 28, 2020 at 02:47 PM

AZ

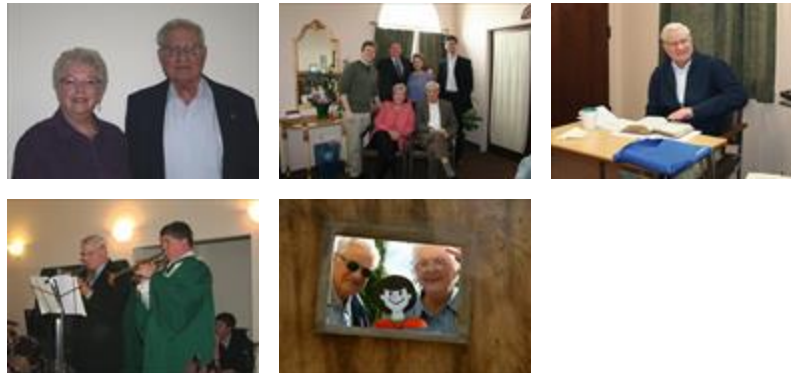
“ My idea of what a holiday should be is centered around spending Thanksgiving with the Blauvelt's. We were never made to feel like anything less than blood relatives at Richard and Connie's. Richard's strength and generosity lives on in his sons and grandchildren, who are some of the nicest and most welcoming people I know. So much love to you all.

---

**Allie Van Zoeren** - October 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM

MP

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



---

**Muriel Pearson** - October 28, 2020 at 09:49 AM

JR

“ I had the privilege of working with Richard Blauvelt . “Dick” was an excellent Subcontract Negotiator and Administrator for General Dynamics Land Systems where he managed purchases of major subsystems for Tanks and other military vehicles. He was very well respected by the Industrial base.  
Personally, Dick was a pleasure to know and to share a true friendship with. I enjoyed our conversations about our Faith which ,I believe got him through the severe medical condition he incurred. Even after he retired for many years he would call me to check in. I enjoyed those calls very much. I know he will be greatly missed by the Family, however, know that he really hasn’t gone from us -just before us.  
John Rank

---

**John F. Rank** - October 27, 2020 at 09:24 PM

TF

“ *The Walivaara family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard George Blauvelt.*



---

**The Walivaara family** - October 27, 2020 at 01:06 PM

SZ

“ *When our Dad married Carolyn Lewitt in the late 1980s, we became honorary members of the Blauvelt clan and spent many Thanksgivings and Christmases at Wildbrook Drive. Richard was the always-kindly king of the castle, and I had many chances to share in his warm and lively interest in the world. I remember him proudly showing me the vintage Mercury in his garage that he planned to restore and describing in detail what had to be done. They don't make them like Richard anymore, and although we will miss him he will always live in the hearts and memories of our family.*

*Steve Van Zoeren*

---

**Steve Van Zoeren** - October 27, 2020 at 07:51 AM

ML

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



---

**Mary Lentschke** - October 24, 2020 at 01:12 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



TOM BLAUVELT - October 23, 2020 at 09:41 PM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



TOM BLAUVELT - October 23, 2020 at 09:16 PM

MS

“ Matt Short purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard George Blauvelt.



Matt Short - October 23, 2020 at 09:16 AM

BC

“ On behalf of the Capuchin brothers, I offer my deepest sympathies on the passing of Richard. It is truly humbling to receive memorial donations in honor of Richard's life. Please be assured of the brother's prayers for the entire Blauvelt family during this great time of grief. May perpetual light shine upon Richard.

Br Nick Blattner Ofm Capuchin - October 22, 2020 at 01:03 PM

MS

*So Sorry Tom. There really are no words. He is safe in the arms of God. God bless you and your family. Love you brother! Matt.*

---

**Matt Short** - October 23, 2020 at 09:08 AM

CM

*What a kind-hearted, gentle man!! Prayers to Connie and the whole Blauvelt family.*

---

**Cynthia D Milton** - October 24, 2020 at 01:50 PM

AZ

*My idea of what a holiday should be is centered around spending Thanksgiving with the Blauvelt's. We were never made to feel like anything less than blood relatives at Richard and Connie's. Richard's strength and generosity lives on in his sons and grandchildren, who are some of the nicest and most welcoming people I know. So much love to you all.*

---

**Allie Van Zoeren** - October 28, 2020 at 09:58 AM