



Richard Owen Heath, 89, of Jamestown, RI passed away peacefully on October 12, 2016. Born in Ridgewood, NJ, he was the only child of Gladys and Russell Heath. He is survived by his six children; Jeff Heath, of Naples, FL, and Scott Heath, New Canaan, CT with his first wife, Natalie Folkes, who preceded him in death. Steve Heath, Jamestown, RI, Tim Heath, New York, NY, Susan Wynn, Boston, MA, and James Heath, Phoenixville, PA with his second wife, Ann Biddle, who remained his true friend until the end. Son-in-law, Scott Wynn and daughters-in-law, Mary Heath, Dotty Heath, Cathy Heath, Akiko Mitsui along with grandchildren; Katie, Perry, Tobin, Jeffrey, Keira, Devon, Eloise, Owen, Sara, and Akira Heath, Georgie and Amanda Wynn, and great grandson Cole Parker. He was engaged to companion Lilyan G. Durkee, Southbury, CT, a life-long friend whom he met in third grade.

Rich was an accomplished athlete and successful salesman who traveled the backroads of New England. He was a loyal friend and devoted father who treasured family gatherings. After honorably serving in the U.S. Navy at the close of WWII, he attended Colgate University earning letters in football, hockey and tennis. Rich learned to play tennis in the public parks of Ridgewood at 20, fell in love with the game and competed regionally and nationally until he was 83 when he won his first Bronze Ball in the USTA National Father-Daughter Grass Court Championships at Longwood Cricket Club. He was ranked number one in doubles in several age divisions, and number one in the New England 65-and over singles. In 1974 he advanced to the semifinals of the U.S. Grass Court Championships where he lost to the legendary Bobby Riggs, 6-4, 7-6. Rich was inducted into the USTA New England Hall of Fame in 2007 and the family received the USTA Edwin Goodwin Tennis Family of the Year Award in 2009. Rich was very proud of his children and grandchildren and their accomplishments on and off the court. His favorite saying to anyone who met him was "All of my children and grandchildren play tennis."

When Rich could no longer play tennis, he was often found on tennis courts in New England running USTA tournaments. He loved adventures on back roads including stops at diners for coffee milk shakes and specials of the day. Route 102 in Rhode Island, running 44 miles from Wickford to Slatersville, was Rich's favorite road.

Rich first brought his family to Jamestown in 1963. He was a longtime member of the Conanicut Yacht Club and over the years enjoyed memberships at the New Haven Lawn Club, the New Canaan Field Club, Longwood Cricket Club, the Country Club of New Canaan, Bear's Paw Country Club and the Black Hall Golf Club. Rich's career as an independent salesman brought him to Scotland, Ireland and Asia. He maintained lifetime friendships with his colleagues in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

A Celebration of Rich's Life will be held on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30am at The Conanicut Yacht Club. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice and Palliative Care of Rhode Island.