



## George "Dick" R. Shirk

November 17, 1939 - January 21, 2021

George R. "Dick" Shirk, 81, went to be with his Lord on Thursday, January 21, 2021, with his family by his side in Maytown. Dick was the devoted husband for 60 years of the late Esther Rice Shirk, who passed in 2019. He will be greatly missed by his children, JoNan Shirk and Barbara Ness (Shawn), both of Maytown, Jamey Shirk (Buffy) of Mount Joy and Jenniffer Smith (Erik) of Wrightsville. His eight grandchildren will miss his daily presence and his sharing in all their activities and accomplishments. Jessica, Derek, Ryan, Kaycee, Connor, Tanner, Canyon and Easton, and a great-granddaughter Lía Esther Boccagno.

Respectfully referred to as "Chief," Dick served as Chief of Police for the East Donegal Township Police Department from 1967 until his retirement in January 2002. A lifelong resident of East Donegal Township, Chief had a caring and meaningful respect for the citizens he served. In turn, he was loved by many in the Township and local districts. Chief was instrumental in the formation of the Susquehanna Regional Police Department, an accomplishment of which he was very proud. During his career, he made many friends and was an asset to his community and the Donegal Area.

Dick was raised in the Maytown area and often reflected positively on the toils of life in rural America during the "War Years." As a young man, he was sent to work on local farms for the Draeger and Bixler families to support his own family. He was a lifelong member of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church of Maytown and a member of the Lancaster Co. Chiefs of Police Association as well as a former FOP member, and Ashara-Casiphia Masonic Lodge #551, Mount Joy.

A Jeep enthusiast, Dick and Esther loved to take drives throughout Lancaster and surrounding counties..."trying to get lost." Each trip's common theme was "left turns only," which let them share many fun adventures. A private family service will be held for "Chief" at his church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, on Monday afternoon. Friends are welcome to share in an Honor Procession in his memory led by members of Lancaster County Police and Fire Departments at 4:30 PM on Queen Street, Maytown. Chief's family would deeply appreciate memorial contributions to John's Lutheran Church, PO Box

96, Maytown, PA 17550.

# Comments

---



“ From our family to yours, our "heartfelt" sympathy in the passing of your Dad and our dear, dear friend Shirkie! Shirkie was our Dad's best friend and we have many, many fond memories of them together. I had hoped to see your Dad after he got out of the hospital, and unfortunately, that didn't happen. The last time I did see Shirkie was at the Celebration of Life for our Dad in 2019. We are so sorry for your loss, but know that he's in Heaven now to be with your Mom. Love and prayers to you!!

**Beth (Kline) Perez** - January 28, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I was a member of the Penna. State Police and have known Dick since the 1970's, when I worked investigations in the western part of the county. He knew the people in his area and was very helpful to me in various instances. We went to breakfasts at the Magic Chef outside E-town when others who have passed on did. That included Bob Flick, E-town PD., Raymond Libhart, W. Donegal, Bruce Kline & Frank Aument, Mt. Joy, Gene Hindes, FBI Harrisburg, and others who thankfully are still alive. Dick would stop at the barracks and have a coffee with me on numerous occasions in later years when I was in the office. And other breakfasts continued up to recently that Dick attended and we would see him. He struggled with cancer a good many years, and I know Esther's death hit him especially hard. I considered him a good friend and will miss him immensely.

**Carl Harnish** - January 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Dick was a valued member of our high school class and we have many good memories of him in school and beyond. Our condolences to his family. Donegal high school class of 1957.

**Jim and Judy Shank** - January 26, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“

January 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ I met and worked with Dick in law enforcement since the 1980's. It was always a privilege to get with him both as a friend and jointly in several investigations in law enforcement matters. Since his retirement and mine we have maintained our contacts and enjoyed luncheons along with a group of law enforcement retirees. Dick was regarded as a dedicated, honorable and professional officer that was always friendly while carrying out his responsibilities with work and family. Dan Harelson

**Dan Harelson, Retired Special Agent, FBI** - January 25, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Sorry for your loss. I remember always seeing Dick at the Donegal sporting events in uniform. Also seeing and talking with him at the District Justice office. He always had a quite way about him and was always friendly. My your family find comfort and peace in your memories that will now be treasures.

**Gail (Madara) Krall** - January 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ For 40 years, we owned The Fruit Stand in Marietta and Dick was not only the local cop but a friend. He did his job with compassion and caring and frequently made "the punishment fit the crime". I remember when one of our young employees was stealing from us and we caught him. It was his first crime and Dick knew him well. He brought him into the station and scared the dickens out of him and then let him go. The kid learned his lesson and became a fine , solid young man. And then there were the gypsies! They came into town and broke into our office and stole many days' receipts. We picked them out of mugshots and knew they had done it but could not prove it. Several years later they returned to the area and were staying at a local campground. Dick respectfully asked/told them to leave and then escorted them out of town. We will always remember Dick and be grateful to him for his service. Willis and Martha Herr

**Willis and Martha Herr** - January 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“ Dearest Ryan and family - My family and I are truly sorry for your loss. With heartfelt sympathy I offer our deepest and most sincere condolences and may the soul of your grandfather rest in peace. Thank you for sharing his love, hugs and memories with me, I admired his spirit of making everyone feel like family. I'll be praying for you and your family for God's love and grace to always be with you. "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak"- Isaiah 40:29  
Hilder

Hilder Rinnet Nanyondo - January 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

---



“

January 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM