



Dr. Richard H. Ward PhD.

September 2, 1939 - February 17, 2015

Dr. Richard H. Ward, PhD., age 75, loving husband of Michelle Ward, entered into eternal rest peacefully on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at his home in Bethany, surrounded by his loving family. Dick was many things in life - a Marine, NYPD officer, Police Detective, Writer, Educator, Administrator and Student of the World - but most importantly, he was a loving family man, mentor and friend to so many across the globe. He was born in Jamaica, NY on September 2, 1939, the beloved son of the late Hurley and Anna Mittasch Ward. Dick grew up in New York City, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and proudly served from 1957 until 1961 with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division primarily in the areas of security and special operations. Dick would go on to serve the legacy of the Marine Corps and his country throughout his entire life. After returning to New York City in 1961, he became a member of the NYPD serving as a patrolman, youth investigator and eventually in the position of Detective until 1970. During this time, Dick decided on pursuing a degree in higher education so enrolled in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, simultaneously working as a police officer and taking college classes. Upon graduation with his Bachelor's Degree in 1967, he was awarded a scholarship to graduate school and began his studies at the University of California at Berkeley, where he ultimately earned his Doctorate in Criminology (DCrim).

Dick began teaching at John Jay College in 1970 and through his intelligence and natural leadership characteristics, he quickly moved into administration and would remain a university administrator for the next four and a half decades: serving as the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Students and finally as Vice President of John Jay College; then Vice Chancellor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for 16 years (longest serving Vice Chancellor in the history of the university); Associate Vice Chancellor of UIC for Special Programs; Dean of the College of Criminal Justice and Associate Vice President for Research at Sam Houston State University and most recently as Dean and Doctoral Program Director and AVP for Special Programs and Sponsored Research for the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven.

During an academic career that has spanned more than 40 years, Dick has been involved in virtually every aspect of academic life, as a faculty member, senior administrator and most importantly, an impactful life mentor for many generations of students and university employees. He was the author of numerous books and articles that crossed the depth of his field and directed research projects that spanned countless countries and continents. In addition to more than 100 professional presentations, he has served as a consultant and trainer to numerous local, state, federal and international agencies on the subjects of international organized crime, global terrorism, criminal investigation and criminal justice issues. He has visited more than 50 countries and taught in China, Malaysia, Thailand, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to name but a few of the countries where Dick lived and served as an educator. He received numerous awards in his lifetime including the Friendship Medal by the government of China and the ACJS Founders Award. Dick also proudly founded the Institute for the Study of Violent Groups (ISVG) to continue fueling his decades long study of global terrorism.

Dick was a man of extraordinary principle, character and charisma. He not only touched the lives of many people during his distinguished career, but with strength and perseverance, Dick took personal ownership of helping others make meaningful social, patriotic and lasting contributions in their own lives, keeping us focused on the most important lessons of all; always give back more than you receive and pay it forward to the next generation. The people whose lives that Dick touched range from the highest corridors of governments around the world to those patrolling the streets at home and abroad. Of all his many contributions and accomplishments, Dick put none higher than his own family. His legacy will be forever immortalized in the memories of those of us who were lucky enough to know him and the continued re-telling of these dear memories.

In addition to his loving wife Michelle, Dick leaves his three caring children Jeanne, John (Juli) and Sophia, his two cherished grandchildren Declan and Keeley, his beloved sister Joyce Hornback, and many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws.

The memorial celebration of Dick's life will be held in the David A. Beckerman Recreation Center at the University of New Haven, on Saturday, February 21st, at 3:00pm. There will be a reception directly following the service. In late March, another memorial service will be held in Chicago where Dick and Michelle had many friends and family. All other services are private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be sent to the Richard and Michelle Ward Endowed Scholarship at the University of New Haven. Checks can be made out to the University of New Haven, c/o The Richard and Michelle Ward Endowed Scholarship, Office of Advancement, 300 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516.

Comments



“ I first met Dr. Ward when I was a student at UIC. He has made a positive impact on large numbers of professionals who are currently out in our working World trying to make the World a better place. Thank you for your counsel and your efforts. Det. Richard Hagen, Chicago Police Department

Richard Hagen - May 03, 2018 at 05:29 AM



“ I just discovered the fact that Dr. Ward passed. I am deeply saddened. Dr. Ward was a great friend, mentor and consummate professional. The criminal justice community has lost a great friend. My sincere condolences to Dr. Ward's love ones.

Robert J. Bodisch
Deputy Director
Texas Department of Public Safety
Austin, Texas

Robert Bodisch - August 15, 2016 at 03:57 PM



“ Michelle and Family,

Dick was one of the first people I met at JJC. While I was a graduate student and once I became a faculty member we stayed in touch. I wrote for many of his newsletters and magazines. I also enjoyed his sense of humor and his good sense-- he was a mentor in many ways. I will miss him. Dorothy M. Schulz, JJC, LPS

Dorothy Schulz - March 13, 2015 at 10:18 AM



“ Dick was a great inspiration for many cops who want to improve their profession. Thanks for his time at John Jay and UIC.



John Sullivan - March 09, 2015 at 01:49 AM



“ Michelle,
I just found out about Dick's passing. I am so, so sorry! I hope you are okay.
Daphne

Daphne Johnson - March 04, 2015 at 01:26 PM



“ Dick was an outstanding person and an outstanding scholar- practitioner. Together we organized a program on organized crime and terrorism at UIC that was a great success. I will miss my friend and colleague.

Howard Abadinsky, St. John's University

Howard Abadinsky - March 01, 2015 at 03:21 PM



“ My family and I would like to offer our deepest sympathies to you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are never alone. Turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and to help soothe your heart. Psalms 34:18 assures us that God is near to those broken at heart and crushed in spirit. Please accept our deepest sympathies.

S Ford - February 27, 2015 at 08:14 PM



“ The Camardo family in Chicago are deeply sorrowed by the loss of our friend and mentor , Dick Ward. You are deeply missed and we were lucky in so many ways to have known you and have you touch our lives. You will always me in our memories and our hearts.

Sincerely,
The Camardo family

Mary Leonetti - February 26, 2015 at 10:47 AM



“ Dear Michelle and family,
I send my deepest sympathy to you. I remember Dick as being such an exuberant person who touched everyone he met. He was the ultimate cop turned scholar. Gerry Lynch admired Dick and always enjoyed his company, as well as his counsel.
May he rest in peace, Gay

Gay Lynch - February 25, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Yanlei Li - February 24, 2015 at 10:19 PM



“ I knew Ward at AAPS 2012 in China. He is a great man. He will be missed.

Yanlei Li - February 24, 2015 at 10:16 PM



“ Yanlei Li lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard H. Ward PhD.



Yanlei Li - February 24, 2015 at 10:06 PM



“ I am deeply saddened by the death of Dick Ward. My heart breaks for his family, particularly his wife, Michelle, and his daughter, Sophia. When I last saw Dick about two years ago at an event at John Jay College, he pulled out a photo of his daughter, Sophia, and was beaming and gushing about her.

I had the privilege of working for Dick at John Jay College in the 1970's while I was a student there. I, too, am proud of being part of a team known as "Ward's Army." Dick Ward made this world a better place every day of his life. His belief that you always give back more than you receive and that you pay it forward to the next generation was instilled by him into the countless lives of those he mentored over his long and distinguished career. I was one of those he mentored and the course of my life was forever changed by him. He taught me to have a strong work ethic, to always be accurate, to have a purpose in life, to set your goals and accomplish them. I learned from the best, I accomplished much and I can't thank him enough.

Rest in peace, Dick. You will be greatly missed by so many of us. Thank you.

Tina Mohrmann - February 23, 2015 at 09:38 PM



“ Dick was a beloved Dean and Dept. chair at John Jay-- good memories of his laugh and dismay when I didn't notice he had shaved his beard off!

dr elizabeth hegeman - February 23, 2015 at 03:27 PM



“ Dick's life was a true Horatio Alger story. I knew Dick in the NYPD and John Jay days. He was a tremendous contributor to the CriminalJustice field and a great guy too. Sincere condolences to his family - Jonah Triebwasser, JJCCJ class of 1972

Jonah Triebwasser - February 23, 2015 at 10:24 AM



“ May God rest your soul in peace. You will not be forgotten in my prayers, Chief.



Ahmed - February 22, 2015 at 03:40 PM



“ Dick was a wonderful Dean and Vice President. Power did not go to his head. He freely gave power away to faculty, staff and students alike. We were working on a book with Joe Scollo which I hope to finish with Joe and dedicate to Dick's memory. Dick represents the pinnacle of the Marine Corps vision and standard.

Semper Fi Dick,

Jim Monahan

Jim Monahan - February 22, 2015 at 09:38 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John DeCarlo - February 21, 2015 at 08:53 AM



“ I have so many fond memories of Dick from our time at UNH together. He was a giant of a man. A friend, colleague and mentor. He will be missed. Our field has lost one of its most inspired leaders.

John DeCarlo - February 21, 2015 at 08:48 AM



“ John DeCarlo lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard H. Ward PhD.



John DeCarlo - February 21, 2015 at 08:46 AM



“ Michelle,

I will forever carry a part of the profound and unrelievable grief.

Personal letter to follow.

Scott/Chicago

SChicago - February 20, 2015 at 03:44 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go to Dick and his family. He was wonderful human being in many ways and did a great deal to help advance the field of criminal justice. He was interesting, energetic, fun, and always had ideas. It's hard to ask for more than that. He will be missed!

-Jay Albanese



Jay Albanese - February 20, 2015 at 02:04 PM



“ Back in the mid 1970s I had the privilege of working for Dick Ward at John Jay College. I was part of a team known as “Ward’s Army.” He taught us to work really hard, be brave, face challenges and to be loyal. In 1975 he founded a newspaper at John Jay – Law Enforcement News. He had the foresight to know that police needed better communications among themselves and the academic community. Law Enforcement News kept that vision for 30 years. I will always be indebted to him for giving me the chance to carry out that mission. He was a true leader, a great mentor, and more importantly, he was a good friend.

Marie Simonetti Rosen



Marie Simonetti Rosen - February 20, 2015 at 12:16 PM



“ I first met Dick when I was applying for admission to John Jay and worked for him after I was admitted to the College. After I graduated he offered me employment in the Criminal Justice Center at John Jay. It is safe to say that he helped put me on the road to an academic career. Thanks Dick

Bill Burger

bill burger - February 20, 2015 at 12:12 PM



“ Hyeyoung Lim lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard H. Ward PhD.



Hyeyoung Lim - February 20, 2015 at 12:06 PM



“ Dr. Ward was a great man in so many ways. If not for him I would have never met and married my wife, nor would I have met some of his mentees who would later become my life long friends. I have lots of great memories of Dr. Ward. I once saw him drop a 200 pound man, 35 or so years his junior, to his knees by grabbing the guy's fingernail (he was demonstrating this at his Huntsville ranch at one of his great parties--it was all in fun). I still laugh about that. He will be missed.

Chad and Lori Trulson

Chad and Lori Trulson - February 20, 2015 at 11:41 AM



“ Vidisha Worley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Richard H. Ward PhD.



Vidisha Worley - February 20, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ We would like to extend our condolences to the Ward family. As the first cohort in the Ph.D. program at UNH we have had a very special connection with Dr. Ward. He has been our mentor, friend, and greatest advocate. Over the past years we have shared many stories; Dr. Ward's always revolved around his family. When we stumbled, he was there to pick us up and push us forward, sometimes with a gentle nudge and other times with a swift kick. All of us have met educators and practitioners that have been influenced by Dr. Ward's work. There is no doubt that the criminal justice field owes him a debt of gratitude. It is our honor to have been chosen by him to be HIS students. It is OUR privilege to call him mentor and friend. Dr. Ward will be greatly missed. His drive and passion will continue with us and all of his students. – The Peloton: Peter Massey, Dan Maxwell, Brian Murphy, Sue Traudt, Kathryn Kleis-Carbone, & Michael Paradis

Brian Murphy - February 20, 2015 at 10:34 AM



“ I am very sorry to hear of Dick's passing. He was a great guy and loved what he did. He will be sorely missed.

Frank Schmalleger - February 20, 2015 at 10:22 AM



“ It is with deep sadness that I offer my sincere condolences to Michele and Sophia on the passing of their beloved husband and father. I'll miss him.

Jim Gilmartin
retired NYPD

Jim Gilmartin - February 20, 2015 at 10:03 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Dick's passing. Please accept our condolences on behalf of the Terrorism Research Center in Fulbright College at the University of Arkansas. Dick was an extraordinary man and an invaluable help to me throughout my career. Dick invited me to speak at a terrorism conference he organized at UIC in 1986 that opened a number of doors for me professionally -- his invitation probably changed my career more than any other single event. He was a rare man and a loyal friend. I will miss him greatly.

Brent Smith

Brent L. Smith - February 20, 2015 at 09:59 AM



“ My deepest sympathies to Michelle and all of Dick's family. Dick was truly a character and had more energy than anyone I've ever known. I will miss receiving his birthday cards every year. Rest in peace.

Janet Mullings - February 20, 2015 at 09:52 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to Dr. Ward's family and many friends. We here at UNH are extremely saddened by his passing. I will always remember Dr. Ward's smile when I'd see him in the hallway. Or when I'd get to work and wave at him when I'd see him in the parking lot. He will be remembered as a great man who was loved by many.

Taritha L. Middleton - February 20, 2015 at 09:39 AM



“ 26 files added to the tribute wall



Changwon Pyo - February 19, 2015 at 11:01 PM



“ Our hearts & prayers go out to the Ward family. Richard was an intellectual beyond compare and was loved by many, near & far. I have many vivid & fond memories of our year together at U.C.Berkeley under the sponsorship of the U. S. Department of Justice. We were referred to as the "OLEA fellows." Dick was one of eight fellows who came from various states and we melded into a cohesive group of friends with various backgrounds, enjoying each other's company in classes, at each other's homes, and off-campus during some tumultuous years in Berkeley. All the male fellows (including Dick) grew beards so as to blend in with the student and hippy population. We none-the-less carried our shields in the event we were swept up by the police who were often on campus monitoring some disturbance. Dick was a joy to be with and will be missed not only by his family, colleagues, students and friends, but by a much larger population who came in contact with him, read his books,, or in some other way were influenced by his wisdom. May the Holy Spirit be with him as he transitions from our material world to a spiritual eternity with the Lord.

Steve Vidinha
Hawaii

Steve Vidinha - February 19, 2015 at 08:26 PM



“ My condolences to Michelle, Sophia and all affected by the passing of Dr. Richard, Dick, Ward

To make it sure, I do not believe in any supernatural theories or argues.

Incidentally, however, I felt sharp pain in my back and fell down on my bath floor the day three days ago....

Since then, I can not move my body without pain in my back.

Day befor Yesterday early Morning by Korean Time, I've got a Facebook message from one of my long and close friends, Dr. David Webb informing Dr. Ward's sudden passing.

Retrospectively, I guess, the time of his death coincides with my very sudden and unpreped acute back pain.

It may have been a goodbye from him.

Dr. Ward was a very widely respected, unique iconic figure in the field of Criminal Justice.

He was a Marine, a Detective, a great scholar, a powerful administrator and one of the best international relations experts in the areas of academia and the real action field of criminal justice.

To me personally, he was a mentor, role model, one of the closest friends and father-like figure.

When I tried to set up the very first scholarly association of Criminal Justice experts with Asian origin, the Asian Association of Police Studies, Dr. Ward offered valuable advices, assistants and supports, wholeheartedly. And he has remained our one and only 'Senior Advisor'.

Dr. Ward was a meat-lover and hated vegetables in his whole life. He used to deny this 'fact' by insisting that he consumed enough vegetables by having potatoes when he had meat. Whenever we Asian friends of his express worriies about his diet habit for his heart conditions, he laughed them away by making fun of the surgeons who operated his heart.

My family cherish the memories with Dr. Ward, Michelle and Sophia when they visited Korea in 2007. Sophia and my son played together visiting zoos and theme parks in and around Seoul, while Dr. Ward was delivering excellent speeches at the conference forum.

I regret to have missed several chances to see him recently. I regret that very much. I miss his laughs, his smiles, his harsh criticisms against some academic figures and bureaucrats, and his very warm hugs.

At this moment my heart goes with Michelle and Sophia, who posses the most detailed and best memories of Dick, Richard, my Dr. Ward.

I wish with all my heart for Michelle and Sophia to be able to overcome this great loss and pains. I am sure that so many people in various places in the world are joining and collecting willpowers to support Michelle and Sophia.

Farewell, Chief.

May God bless his soul and let him rest in peace.

Changwon from Korea.

Changwon Pyo - February 19, 2015 at 06:59 PM



“ Please accept my deepest condolences at the passing of Dick Ward. He was a friend, a mentor, and an all-around extraordinary person who made his mark as a US Marine, a New York City Policeman and an educator and professor. I remember fondly the times he shared his wisdom and insights over single malts in a variety of countries. I shall miss him sorely, for he is undoubtedly a man who made the world a better place through his boundless energy, great knowledge, and modest charm. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Peter Lejeune - February 19, 2015 at 04:23 PM



“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences at the passing of Dick Ward, United States Marine and great "old soldier," and Professor to those less enlightened. It was my honor to engage in some wonderful conversation with Dick and our mutual friend, Peter LeJeune, and others, and to find both common ground and unique insight from a man who lived a rich life and could draw upon so many experiences about the human condition. I will miss him...as I know others will. Heaven will be a better place with him in it -- holding forth and showing the way.
Lieutenant General Patrick M. Hughes, US Army (Retired)

Patrick M. Hughes - February 19, 2015 at 04:00 PM



“ Dick brought me into academia after my 38 years as a practitioner. He was a person that recognized our value. I cannot say enough for him. Dick was a friend and valued colleague. Our community has suffered a great loss. Go with GOD my friend.

jim Dozier - February 20, 2015 at 05:33 PM



“ My most sincere condolences to Dr. Ward's family. We have lost a truly great man who lived a very full life. Godspeed.

Jack Plaxe - February 21, 2015 at 12:34 PM



“ Plain words seem inadequate to describe the life force of Dick and the relentless spirit he brought to every thing he did and gave as a gift to everyone who was blessed with his time. He was without peer in the classroom where he challenged every student to become both a critical and a global thinker-and doer, lofty thoughts alone do not change the world. One need only reflect on the countless careers he launched that continue to take his gift of paying it forward selflessly. He would not want us to grieve, he would challenge us to celebrate a life well lived from Texas diners, over the Great Wall and through every continent, in every season. He lived with few regrets and loved his family and this Country without reservation. Lives are forever changed, including mine. Kathleen Kiernan

Kathleen Kiernan - February 21, 2015 at 02:18 PM



“ I am sure by now Dick has re-organized Heaven and the angels are singing his praises. March on Ward, your Army salutes you. With respect and affection, Angela Martin, JJCCJ, class of 72

Angela Martin - February 24, 2015 at 08:18 PM



“ I will miss Dr. Ward sorely. He was a tough but extremely fair man whose many contributions will be missed not only by family and friends but by the world. Bill Troyer

Bill Troyer - January 15, 2016 at 06:33 PM



“ I will miss Dr. Ward sorely. He was a tough but extremely fair man whose many contributions will be missed not only by family and friends but by the world. Bill Troyer

Bill Troyer - January 15, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ I just received notice that Dr. Ward passed away! I know that it has been well over a year since his passing and he will be greatly missed. I was one of his student assistants in the Dean's Office of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University. If it was not for Dean Ward I would have not had such a memorable and successful college career! I miss you so much. Michelle, you are in my prayers along with the rest of the Ward family!

Amanda Hermis-Freel

