



Richard Spelman Knapp

September 16, 1942 - April 25, 2015

Richard “Dick” Spelman Knapp, Sr., age 72, passed away on April 25, 2015, at Duke Hospital in Durham, NC. Dick was born in Staten Island, New York on September 16, 1942 to Kate and Walter Knapp.

Dick led a successful career as a Planetarium Director, where his highest honors included training Gemini and Apollo astronauts to navigate using star patterns at the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill, NC, and producing the first documentary film shot aboard a US space craft , “The Space Shuttle: An American Adventure”, at the Russell C. Davis Planetarium in Jackson, MS.

After he retired from this first career, Dick went to Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis and became a pastor in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. He served as the pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Gonzales, LA from August 2003 to October 2009. He was pastoring this church when Hurricane Katrina hit and was instrumental in organizing food relief to the city of New Orleans. His final assignments were as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry, FL (May 2011 to June 2012), and Grace Lutheran Church in Key West, FL (October 2012 to March 2014).

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Diana Barclay Knapp, his mother, Kate Spelman Knapp, his sister, Elizabeth Knapp Naone, his children, Kim (Vince) Tesoro, Carla (Gary) Campbell, Richard Knapp, Jr., Jennifer (Ernie) Tyska, Holly (Rob) Hogarth, and Peter Knapp, and his grandchildren, Richard Tramel, Gabrielle Tesoro, Grant Tesoro, Isabella Tesoro, Lee Campbell, Hayley (Campbell) Proctor, Amelia Knapp, Richard Salvatore Knapp, Brendan

Kassler, Collin Hogarth, Trevor Hogarth, Liam Hogarth, and Darcy Hogarth. He is preceded in death by his father, Walter Howard Knapp.

The Divine Service celebrating Dick's life will be held at 10 a.m., on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry, Fl. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015, at the church. Interment will be at 2 p.m., on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Edgewater-New Smyrna Cemetery, Edgewater, Florida.

The family welcomes all memorials, but encourages friends to consider gifts of donation in honor of Dick to Ascension Lutheran Church, 351 Ascension Dr., Casselberry, Fl 32707, CaringBridge.org @ www.caringbridge.org/visit/dickknapp and the National Pancreatic Cancer Network at http://purplestride.kintera.org/raleighdurham/soli_deo_gloria. These institutions were important to him in his final days.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church
351 Ascension Drive
Casselberry, FL 32707

Funeral Service

MAY 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church
351 Ascension Drive
Casselberry, FL 32707

Reception

MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Ascension Lutheran Church
351 Ascension Drive
Casselberry, FL 32707

Interment

MAY 9. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Edgewater-New Smyrna Cemetery
700 Ridgewood Avenue
Edgewater, FL 32132

Tribute Wall



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Spelman Knapp.* ”



May 08, 2015 at 11:56 AM



“ *Having worked with such a great professional was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I will always treasure the memories of a great friend and a true mentor. Much love and continued prayers for the family. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27 Mary Herron and Family* ”

Mary Herron - May 07, 2015 at 10:03 PM



“ *John F. Williams, Jr purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Richard Spelman Knapp.* ”



John F. Williams, Jr - May 07, 2015 at 05:05 PM

TS

“ *The Men and Women of The 259 A T C S purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Richard Spelman Knapp.*



The Men and Women of The 259 A T C S - May 05, 2015 at 01:03 PM

LH

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Knapp Family for the passing of Dick. I hope the beautiful memories of the times shared with him will help you all with his loss. He was a great individual and I was so very fortunate to have worked for him in Jackson.*
Lorrie Mills Heide



Lorrie Mills Heide - May 03, 2015 at 09:31 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Dad - Pastor Dick Knapp*



Kim Tesoro - May 01, 2015 at 03:29 PM