



## Richard "Dick" Dennis

September 30, 1930 - March 9, 2025

Richard (Dick) Dennis, 94, passed away on March 9, 2025, at his home in Lake Bluff, Illinois. Born September 30, 1930, in White Hall, Illinois, to Charles S. and Lucille A. Evans, Dick's journey through life was marked by determination and a commitment to learning.

Dick's family endured hardship during the Great Depression growing up in Roodhouse and Springfield, Illinois, but his perseverance led him to an NROTC scholarship at University of Illinois, where he earned a degree in Physics. Dick served in the Navy from 1953 to 1956, where he traveled the globe, most notably on the icebreaker *Atka*, where he was part of Admiral Byrd's expeditions to Antarctica in 1954-1955.

Dick's professional career started in Chicago before he moved to the Twin Cities of Minnesota, where he spent most of his adult life. He worked at Control Data Corporation from 1973 to 1989 as an operating system software engineer on some of the earliest supercomputers, and then with the AIC software firm, contributing to IBM's mid-range business computer platforms.

In 1969, Dick married Gail Louise Sporley, and they lived in St. Paul, Minnesota for most of their marriage of 53 years. They had one son, Michael.

Dick was a lifelong learner, where he might be spotted reading a book on

Quantum Computing at age 93. He was also a lover of music, mastering the accordion at a young age, and playing the clarinet in the University of Illinois marching band. He also enjoyed season tickets to the Minnesota Orchestra with Gail. Dick and Gail also enjoyed spending time at the family's log cabin in the tranquility of the northern woods of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

While he never sought out social gatherings, Dick had a down-to-earth and engaging sense of humor. Highly independent, he maintained his autonomy, living independently until his final days.

Dick is survived by son Michael and wife Gerrie, his sister Sharon Campbell, nephew Richard and wife Justine Kilby, and two grandchildren, Evelyn and Samantha.

A Celebration of Life will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation at <https://www.kidney.org/get-involved#give> or the Minnesota Orchestra at <https://my.minnesotaorchestra.org/support/choose-donation>

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