



Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr.

November 13, 1929 - May 14, 2020

To view the Livestream of the Funeral Service, click
[Here]http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/embed_viewer/29870

Richard C. "Dick" Thrall, Jr, 90, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020. Born November 13, 1929 in Delaware, Ohio, he was the son of the late Richard C. Thrall and Pauline Taylor Thrall.

Dick was the Senior Vice President of Operations and Administration at Multimedia Entertainment, Inc. He originated the concept of television syndication with The Phil Donahue Show and was instrumental in on air innovations for Phil Donahue, Sally Jesse Raphael, and Rush Limbaugh. He served for 13 years as National Awards Chair for the National Television Academy. Dick was also the Senior Vice President and General Manager of Multimedia Entertainment in Nashville, producing Country and Western music and associated television projects.

Dick was Chairman for the radio-television department council in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1964-67; producer and director at WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio and at KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1951-59 where he later became public affairs director and assistant program manager 1959-67. Dick was the program director at WLW-C in Columbus, Ohio and manager of corporate programs Avco Broadcasting Corporation in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1967-68. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Radio Television Club (director 1967) and National Academy Television Arts Sciences (Board of Governors 1968).

Dick enjoyed traveling, fishing, writing, and spending time with his family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Shirley Thrall, in December of 2019.

He is survived by his children Vallerie (Bert) Alm, Cynthia Graser, Laurie (Steve) Woodward, and Jim (Tracey) Hochberg; brother Jesse (Jane) Thrall, and sister Miriam

Hanson; grandchildren Robert, Alanna, Ashley, Calvin, Christopher, Jeffrey, Nick, Corey, Jordan and Ryan.

A Celebration of Life Funeral Service will be held at Spring Hill Funeral Home in Nashville on Friday, May 22, at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow in the Historic Spring Hill Cemetery. Due to Covid-19 restrictions for group gatherings, attendance is limited to 10 people. The service will be livestreamed. A link will be posted to the top of this obituary at SpringHillFH.com that will allow you to view his service.

Arrangements entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral and Cemetery, a Nashville landmark since 1785. "Where Nashville Comes to Remember"

Cemetery

Spring Hill Cemetery

5110 Gallatin Pike S
Nashville, TN, 37216

Events

MAY **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM - 11:45AM

22

Spring Hill Funeral Home

5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville, TN, US, 37216

MAY **Interment** 12:00PM - 12:30PM

22

Spring Hill Cemetery

5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville, TN, US, 37216

Comments



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Lynn Batey - May 22, 2020 at 02:00 AM



“ We send condolences to the family upon Dick's passing. Dick was the guiding light to so many careers and always a pleasure to work with. He always supported the syndication department with his advice and knowledge. He was well known and respected in the broadcast industry. It was an honor knowing and working with him. He will be missed.
Mike and Janet Brown



Michael Brown - May 21, 2020 at 11:55 PM



“ Dear Val, Laurie, Cindy and Jim,
Thinking of you and your families in this sad time. I have happy memories of playing with you all as cousins when we were kids, and was always so happy to see Dick and Shirley during their sibling visits, when they visited Mim and Dave with Jesse and Jane. Dick and Shirley shared such lively conversation, joy and love of beauty, nature and family. I am so sorry for your loss.
Love, Karen Erickson

Karen Erickson - May 21, 2020 at 10:23 PM



“ Sending deepest sympathy to the Thrall Family. Dick has been my Friend and Mentor for 50 years! We spent quality time together professionally and personally, first in Cincinnati and then here in Nashville. He is the “centerpiece” of my personal Mt. Rushmore of Mentors giving me countless opportunities and sometimes needed pushes to achieve greater heights! He also was a very “hands on” executive always willing to jump into the action to get the job done! I am just one of countless individuals who benefited from his presence.

Steve A. Womack

Steve A Womack - May 21, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ .

I just was told that Dick Thrall had passed it is so sad that his wife Shirley had passed, Dick called me the night before she died and wanted me to know that she might not make it through the night, it was late and I can not drive at night so I got up early daylight and told him I was on my way when I got there Dick was sitting by her bed and she had just passed, and he gave me some time to be with her, a great friend since 1980 maybe or earlier it was when Multi Media moved to Nashville, He was the producer of Music City News award Show, I think that was the name of it Pamela Phillips Repp can give you all the details. While working on Louis Mandrell's special Dick came up and introduced himself as the producer and said I love your work and would you do my wife's hair? I had been in the business for a while and this was the first producer, that complimented me for my work. Well, I think he might have regretted that we met cause we were hell on wheels and shopping. I had my salon in Hendersonville "He & She" and I talked to them to move to the lake and I lived on the lake. Then I moved to Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel and opened up Demith @Vanderbilt Plaza. First Day Spa in Nashville. When Multi-Media moved Dick to New York and rented their lake house it was very sad to me. Since I took her to New York the first time she had ever been there. My client Mrs. Jack C. Massey's had a business trip planned and I was supposed to go with her sister. Her sister could not go last minute and she asked me if I wanted to take a friend, so I asked Shirley. I always sat up front in the plane by the pilots and Mrs. Massey sat in the back, but Shirley liked to talk and she went back and sat next to Mrs. Massey. We stayed at the Ritz Carlton and had a blast when on the ferry, bus all the way and she talked to all the New Yorkers on the bus by the time we got to the ferry they were all giving us a tour. Russian Tea room, took a cab to the Bronx to go shopping at a place that had designer clothes at a discount. We separated and I went through 4 floors in one hour and went to meet Shirley and she was not there and I heard a bunch of laughter in the dressing room and it was one big room full of women half naked and there is Shirley having a great time and had not gone past the first floor. That was Shirley shop till you drop. The last night we went to the theater and dinner and was taking the elevator upstairs and got into the elevator and there was one man on it looking down with a ball hat on Shirley screams DAVID LETTERMAN!! and he looks up at Shirley and yells at her that she should not be wearing all her diamonds and gold in New York. Dick had to write a letter to David saying the redhead that he met in the elevator was his wife and he was sorry. Thanks Dick and Shirley for the good times.

Glad to say I was Shirley & Dicks hairdresser for 40 plus-minus New York
RIP,
Linda DeMith

Linda DeMith - May 21, 2020 at 10:41 AM



“ Mike and Janet Brown purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr..



Mike and Janet Brown - May 20, 2020 at 05:48 PM



“ Gene and Nancy McPherson, Indianapolis, Indiana purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr..



Gene and Nancy McPherson, Indianapolis, Indiana - May 20, 2020 at 04:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lynne McMahan - May 20, 2020 at 04:24 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr..



May 19, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Dear Val, Cindy, Laurie, and Jim - I am sad about Uncle Dick's passing, I'm also glad he is with Aunt Shirley again. You are in my thoughts, Love to you from Kristin.

Kristin Erickson - May 19, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ My earliest recollection of my brother Dick was of him on crutches. I was probably four at the time, which would put him at fifteen. He had broken his leg playing football. With a brother eleven years older and a sister, Miriam, thirteen years older, my relationship with my siblings while not typical was enjoyable and rewarding. They both took it upon themselves to look out for my well being.

Early on Dick became interested in theater arts. At Linden McKinley High School in Columbus he and two other classmates produced a series of recorded satirical stories of one “Timothy Thimblefinger, Average American Boy”. I at that time was attending Linden Elementary School, becoming involved in politics for the first (and last) time by parroting in the school yard, “Truman’s in the White House, waiting to be elected; Dewey’s in the garbage can, waiting to be collected.” I had no idea who either man was, and I’m glad our father never heard the chant, he being a lifelong Republican.

Dick pursued his love for theater at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. I saw him in a play there, Jean Cocteau’s “The Infernal Machine”. Upon graduating from Miami Dick took jobs directing local Columbus theater groups. I recall him attaching pages from plays into larger notebooks so he could have adequate margins to record his director notes.

One of my fondest memories of Dick was in 1955 when he took me with him on a trip from Columbus to New York City. I was fourteen and he twenty five, working at the time at WBNS-TV as a program director. We stayed at the Sloane House run by the YMCA. I recall we saw the movie “Love Me or Leave Me” which had just come out. He had set up an appointment to visit a CBS television studio, and we were privileged to be in the control room for an airing of Douglas Edwards and the News. Also in the control room was an upcoming newsman by the name of Walter Cronkite. We shared an elevator with Walter on the way out.

Then there was that crazy trip to Florida. Dick and our mother and I left on the spur of the moment and drove all night to Florida. I don’t remember much about Florida, but was impressed to cross the Suwannee River, immortalized by Stephen Foster in “Old Folks at Home”. Now with the coronavirus there are a lot of us old folks at home.

No matter where he lived as his career in broadcasting advanced, Dick always came home to visit, sharing many stories and jokes. Those were the happiest of times.

I understand that Dick probably passed away in his sleep. I am reminded of the poem many of us used to say as we went to bed: “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep; If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.” Dick’s soul has so been taken.

Jesse Thrall



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr..



May 18, 2020 at 02:14 PM



“ Love, Judy and Jerry Solomon purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. Richard C. "Dick" Thrall Jr..



Love, Judy and Jerry Solomon - May 17, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ I will be forever grateful for your friendship and many laughs. RIP my dear friend. It was an honor to work with you and Shirley.



Deborah scales - May 17, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ Mr. Thrall was a wonderful person to work for and get to know. While at Multimedia, my dept. reported to him and he always supported us. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing...such a good man and I send blessings to his loved ones.

Di Stamper - May 16, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ Dear Laurie Jo and Family,
We are saddened to hear of the loss of your dad. Our prayers are with you and all of your loved ones at this difficult time. Losing a parent is always hard, and unfortunately you have lost both in such a short time. We were fortunate to have met Dick and always enjoyed seeing him and your mom.
With deepest sympathy,
Ray and Paula Trudeau and Family
Marilyn Burkholder

Paula Trudeau - May 16, 2020 at 08:51 AM



“ He was our neighbor and friend for 20 years. He will be greatly missed. We shared many moments of laughter, fireworks, helpfulness and kindness. What a great man, Very determined, we love you Dick. God bless.
Lenore and Konrad Maurer

Konrad Maurer - May 15, 2020 at 10:14 PM