



## Richard Elwood Knapp

September 13, 1928 - August 4, 2025

Richard Elwood "Dick" Knapp, age 96, of Sewickley, PA, passed away peacefully on August 4, 2025.

Dick was born and raised in the Bloomfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh, the son of the late C. Elwood and Evelyn Knapp. From a young age, he showed exceptional artistic talent, which was nurtured by a beloved high school teacher. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Carnegie Tech.

After a brief time teaching high school art, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Langley Field in Newport News, VA. There, he met the love of his life, Jewel M. Burke, on a blind date. They married six months later and spent the remainder of his service in Hunstanton-by-the-Sea, England, where their first child, Brad, was born.

Upon returning home, Dick began a successful career in real estate and homebuilding before transitioning to banking. He rose through the ranks at Friendship Federal Savings and Loan, eventually serving as President, and later retired as Chairman of Landmark Savings following a period of industry-wide mergers.

In retirement, Dick and Jewel built their dream home on a 10-acre property in Pine Township. Known fondly as "Charter Oak," with its one-acre lake and

beautiful grounds, it became the heart of family life and gatherings for decades.

Dick experienced a vibrant renaissance in his later years. A devoted member of Orchard Hill Church, he became a warm and familiar face at the doors on Sunday mornings. He also joined the Oxford Athletic Club, where he set weightlifting records in his age group and founded the "Old Farts Club," a group of close-knit friends. He returned to painting with passion, creating beautiful works that he often gifted to family and friends. His art was even exhibited in several local shows.

A lifelong fly fisherman, Dick especially enjoyed fishing the Bighorn River in Montana and took great pride in tying his own flies.

Dick was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Jewel M. Knapp (née Burke); his son, Brad Knapp; and his sister, Nancy Roy.

He is survived by his children, Lisa L. Lorenzi (Jim), Ken Knapp (Alysia), and Laura Cheryba; grandchildren, Joe, Zack, Alexis, and Rio Knapp; Lauren Quigley (Kevin), Liz Lorenzi, (Alex Lum), Casey Knapp (Katie), Melanie Knapp, Roslyn Korai (Naush), Sam Knapp, Adam and Adrian Cheryba; and great-grandchildren, Kai Knapp, Rowen, Calla, Gray and Esme Quigley, Paxton and Liam Lum, and Phoebe Knapp.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Visitation will start at 10:00 a.m. with the celebration starting at 11:00 a.m. at Orchard Hill Church, 2551 Brandt School Rd, Wexford, PA 15090.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org/donate> or the Wounded Warrior Project, <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

The family extends heartfelt thanks to AHN Hospice at Home and especially to Dick's daughter, Laura Cheryba, whose devoted care over the last 19 months allowed him to remain in the comfort of home.

Professional services entrusted to Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd; 930 Center Avenue Blawnox, PA, 15238; [www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomasmsmithfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Elwood Knapp.

August 21, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Elwood Knapp.



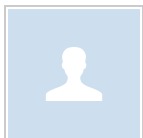
August 21, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ Love, Julie, Scott, Dana and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Elwood Knapp.



**Love, Julie, Scott, Dana and Family** - August 21, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Elwood Knapp.

August 13, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Richard Elwood Knapp.*



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August 13, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ *Dick was a great man to serve with at Orchard Hill Church, always on time and ready to greet at the door. Rest in peace Dick, you have earned your crown.*

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**Chick & Pat Poshard** - August 09, 2025 at 11:06 AM



“ *Everything I remember about Grandpa Dick is "love". That is it. My Mom and Dad took us to his beautiful house, and we would just hang in the summertime and talk. It was always "a comforting and welcoming experience". Rose and Frank Mattison loved him dearly, and Mel and I did too. What a special man! They just don't make 'em like dat anymore!!! You will be very missed - until I see you in Heaven - that will be a beautiful day for all! You will be horribly missed.*

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**Melissa Norris** - August 07, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ *Lisa, Jim and family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. We know that you will miss him. From the stories we read he was quite a fisherman and artist. He lived a long life and made so many memories. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Take care, Mike and Roger Chapin, SC*

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**Michael Naughton** - August 07, 2025 at 05:22 PM

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*Dear Ken, Laura, Margarita, and Family,*

*I am so sorry to have heard this sad news. I wish I had been around to get to know Dick longer. I remember him as being full of life, thoughts and ideas, laughter, and friendliness towards me. It was a pleasure to have met. His home was so beautiful with that amazing lake.*

*Laura and his son Brad formed a part of my life through Margarita, and of course Ken, whom I met at school. We all have much in common, that love of nature and art, that no doubt Dick also shared. Dick's artwork is beautiful and touching, unforgettable. They are a treasure now left behind for you with love.*

*No comment on the fishing because I don't think fish should be deliberately harmed, though I can relate to the peace and happiness Dick experienced in the wilderness of Montana. Happy times for sure.*

*Sending you all my love and my sincere condolences,*

*Love,*

*Sylvia 🙏 (Margarita's sister)*

*Dick lived a long and eventful life that he loved and enjoyed to his fullest. It's a real blessing. He will miss and remember him for his humanity and vibrant energy, and for Ken, Jewel, Laura, Margarita, Joe, Zachary, Alexis and Kai. He leaves many people behind.*

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**Sylvia Subramaniam (Romo-Leroux)** - August 07, 2025 at 06:50 PM