

REMEMBERING

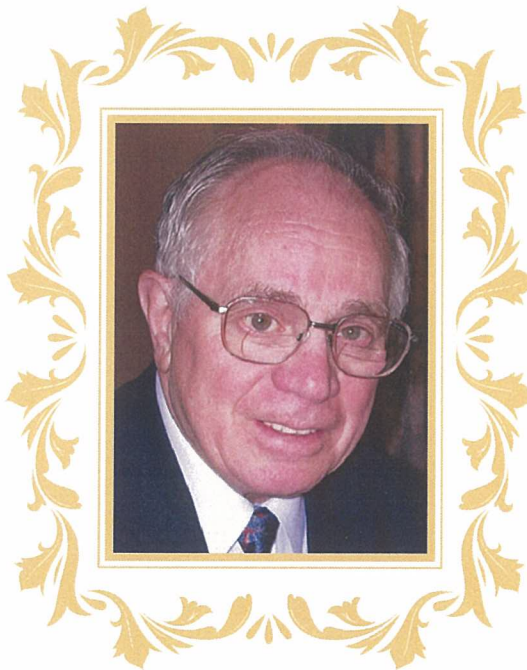
# Dick DeLuca

It is fitting that we pay tribute to our beloved Dick DeLuca by printing this special edition of the SeeWay, our club newsletter that he designed, wrote, printed, and mailed weekly for nearly three decades, eventually transitioning it into electronic format. It was one of the hardest things for him to let go when he became ill, but in true devotion to maintaining exceptional club communication, Dick helped transition it to Lisa Watkins several years ago.

Most of us knew Dick DeLuca through the Erie Rotary Club which truly became his second career when he joined on April 3, 1985. Dick lived and breathed Rotary. Some highlights of his Rotary Years:

- He learned every facet of managing a Rotary Club, its board, and membership, and the intricacies of membership in the larger Rotary District 7280 and Rotary International.
- He happily took on the role of Erie Rotary Club Secretary for nearly two decades. It has taken several Rotarians two full years to unravel understand, and reassign the many duties that Dick performed for our Club as secretary.
- He attended every District 7280

*32 Year Member  
of the  
Rotary of Erie Club*



*Born to This Life  
August 5, 1932*

*Born to a New Life  
May 29, 2017*

Conference annually and presented at many.

- In 2002, Dick embraced Rotary's tenet to create international understanding and goodwill by volunteering to travel with two other Rotarians to Haiti on a Miller Discovery Grant, a trip that resulted in a ten-year literacy project with the Rotary Club of Les Cayes.
- Dick believed strongly in the Rotary Foundation, giving annual contributions that made him a four time Paul Harris Fellow.
- He received the Four-Way Test Award, the highest honor given by the Erie Rotary Club for service.
- Above all, Dick created, participated in, and promoted the many social events we created over the years for Rotarians and their spouses/partners and families: the Holiday Party, the Summer Picnic, and the Rotary at the Seawolves.
- Dick was a mentor and educator to the end. He hoped that memorials in his name would be made to our Erie Rotary Club Scholarship Fund P.O. Box 1424, Erie, PA 16512



# REMEMBERING Dick DeLuca



*Outside of his family, Dick's life was devoted to his Rotary family.  
Here are some ways that Rotarians remember Dick:*

Dick had the gift of quickly recognizing the strength and sensitivity of those with whom he came in contact. That skill brought about lasting friendships and a deep appreciation of his personal interactions and dedication. – *Walter Harf*

Dick was an amazing and thoughtful person. His steady hand, caring advice, and willingness to "pitch in" were a living example of "Service above Self". I can say without a doubt that my experiences as a Rotarian and Club President were enriched by his presence. He will be sorely missed. – *Ray Sammartino*

Dick was always ready to lend a helping hand. Once he even offered to help me at Villa when the principal left on short notice. He was a gem. – *Geri Cicchetti*

Dick was instrumental in my decision to pursue a doctoral degree. He advised me over the course of a year drawing from his extensive background. – *Melanie Titzel*

One memory I have of Dick is of he and Sally always sitting in the top row in the balcony at the Warner for the Erie Broadway Series . . . he was just the nicest person. Always kind, always thoughtful, always friendly and such dedication to publish the See-Way every week. A life well lived. We will all miss you, Dick. – *Paul Carpenedo*

Dick was a very "steady servant" of the Erie Rotary Club. We appreciated his preparedness for Club events, e.g. Dick would always have the necessary items for a "Changing of the Guard"—Past President pin, new President pin and gavel, etc. That would take forethought to order, weeks in advance. Dick always was "on the ball", supporting the Club and its officers. – *Norm Stark*

Some years ago, Dick traveled with me to our District Conference in Clarion where the water gasket in my car promptly broke as we coasted into the parking lot. He kept me calm so I could give my presentation at the conference. That evening, he slept peacefully beside me in the front seat of the tow truck. We rode three abreast with the driver all the way to Erie. Not very comfortable, but nothing stopped Dick from getting a nap when he needed one. **Another memory:** for many years, when our clients at Stairways Behavioral Health became lonely, anxious and fearful during the long nighttime hours, they called the "Hotline" where Dick and his recruited team of volunteers patiently listened and provided a kind, calming voice. Always "Service above Self" with Dick. – *Mary Ellen Dahlkemper*

When I returned to Erie in late 2010, one of the first things that was on the top of my list was to find out how to get involved in Rotary. Bill Jackson took me as a guest and I was hooked! At that first meeting, Dick approached me with such a strong and warm welcome. He shared memories of my dad being in Rotary and it just made me feel "at home." Over the years, I watched Dick as he watched guests - and new members - always making sure they were welcomed and felt included. After joining the Board, it became very clear at how incredibly important Dick was to the Rotary Club of Erie. His dedication and commitment were unflinching. And, when the Board decided to make some changes, Dick was able to share the historical perspective - and was supportive. I will always remember Dick with a smile on his face and offering a helping hand. He will be missed...but always remembered. – *Laurie Root*

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When I became Club President in 2012 and worked closely with Dick through that year, we became friends. I learned about "Service" from Dick. He did so much in the background to make sure our Club ran correctly, that records were kept and traditions honored. If you asked his opinion or advice, he gave a well thought answer. Through our regular conversations, before each Wednesday meeting, he made being Club president easier. In a society where people often want to know what is in it for THEM, Dick simply wanted to know what he could do to help. – *John Blakeslee*

There are not many people who walk in your life and make a true impact. Dick was one of those special people! He was always concerned about everyone else and not himself. He had quite the presence at meetings. He walked around the room and made everyone feel welcome! While I was president, Dick taught me so much about the history of the club and life. He made sure the meetings ran smooth even if there was a glitch. I went to District Conference with Gary and Dick, and he was welcomed by all. What a superb reputation he had! He was a gracious, kind, and honest gentleman. He was hard-working and loved his family. A true example of the 4-Way Test! I am so blessed to have known him personally and call him my friend. I will never forget him. – *Lisa Watkins*

*"We need to find those special people who contain the lore of the race and can pass on to us what we yearn to know. They may be individuals we meet personally in the classroom or the shipyard or the office down the hall."*

– **Richard Bode from First You Have to Row a Little Boat**

Or, they may be an individual that we meet in Rotary. Certainly Dick DeLuca was one of those special people that Bode advises us to find to help us chart our course. And for so many years, Dick kept the "USS Erie Rotary Club" on course. He did so – not by serving as if he were the ship's captain – highly visible and commanding attention – but rather like being the ship's rudder – rarely noticed but entirely focused on the ship's direction.

Dick was a gentle man who was always thinking of others and ways to help them and a gentleman extending the hand of friendship with a welcoming smile and a bit of a twinkle in his eye. Through his roles as a teacher, coach, Hot Line volunteer and Rotarian, he has touched so many lives, perhaps even saving some. I feel so blessed to have known him as a friend, neighbor and fellow Rotarian. – *Linda Wilkinson*



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For the last 20 or so years, every Erie Rotary Club President was really a co-president. Dick was our right hand person – always there to help, to guide, to remind, to suggest, to support. Dick was so very humble and so filled with the love of service to the Erie Rotary Club, its members, our guest speakers, and especially to each of us honored to serve as President. Regardless of how harried my day may have been prior to coming to Rotary, I immediately settled down and became present when I saw Dick . . . his smile would put me at ease and excite me for the program ahead. Dick was a kind and beautiful soul whom we were all blessed to have in our lives. His imprint on our Club remains forever. – *Jake Rouch*

When I returned to Erie after 30 years, I wanted to meet people, and the first person I called was Dick. He knew my mother and father and, without a job, opened his arms to me and sponsored me in The Rotary Club of Erie. For 13 years he and I worked on several projects -- he was a wealth of support and friendship. Dick introduced me to fellow Rotarians, with whom I have developed many strong bonds. A true friend, he was always available for me with my numerous questions, both business and personal. I looked to him for strength & encouragement. Missed, but never forgotten. –*Norm Lymm*

Dick DeLuca was a Rotarian's Rotarian. He lived the Four Way Test and was a man upon whom all could depend. Whether it was coming early to a meeting to help set up or being available to answer questions from a member, Dick was a constant and commendable "Man for Rotary." He set the standard for the office of club secretary. He will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched. Requiescat in pace, good friend. – *Brady Louis*

Dick was one of the nicest guys I know and a true friend. He always loved to tell the story of how Dawn and I were the first couple to join Rotary together and the first Rotarians to get married, the first to have kids. I remember when he "asked" me to give the 4-Way Test speech. He said, "well, it's your turn I think you'll be great". Who could say no to Dick DeLuca, who all he did was give to this club. I really feel I am a better man because I met Dick. I will truly miss him. – *Dave Tofel*

Dick DeLuca was the epitome of a Rotarian: dedicated, helpful, and hardworking--especially in taking care of those unglamorous tasks essential to the flourishing of our club. He was a quiet force behind the club: always empathetic, respectful, and kind. For an embodiment of the Four Way Test, we need only to look at Dick DeLuca. –*Tom Tupitza*

Dick and I became very good friends as classmates in a Statistics course at Gannon in 1975. When I opened my geriatric counseling business, Dick contacted me immediately with an invitation to join Rotary and be my sponsor. The rest is history . . . through Dick, I have met all my Rotarian friends. God bless Dick and all his contributions to both Rotary and Erie. He is already missed. – *Ann Moffatt*

While club president, I came to know Dick as the club's very knowledgeable historian. I will always be grateful for the help and advice he gave freely out of true caring for my success. He was like that - his mentoring was never about him. What a good guy! I was out of the country when I heard of his passing and saddened that I could not express my sympathies in person. I liked Dick. He exuded the tenets of the Rotarian Four Way Test and was a pleasant and positive person to be around. He was a good man, and with our memories of him, he will continue to be an inspiration. – *Terry Pytlarz*

I first met Dick through Rotary and knew him for only a short time, but it seemed like years because of the sincere interest he had in me as a person - a true friend and Rotarian! – *Jim Hynes*



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Dick DeLuca was a special kind of guy. The obituary was right about him being a listener, not a talker. If you told him about something in your life that was ongoing, he would later remember to ask you about it to see how things were progressing.

We worked as a team in Rotary together. He never wanted my job, and I, his. Our jobs were to help our presidents to get through their Rotary year to be available and pitch in to make it easier on him or her.

Dick was a great historian about the club. He knew where to find the answers to questions about Rotary locally and internationally. He attended district conventions, international conventions and was on the team to go to Haiti to see the schools the club was helping.

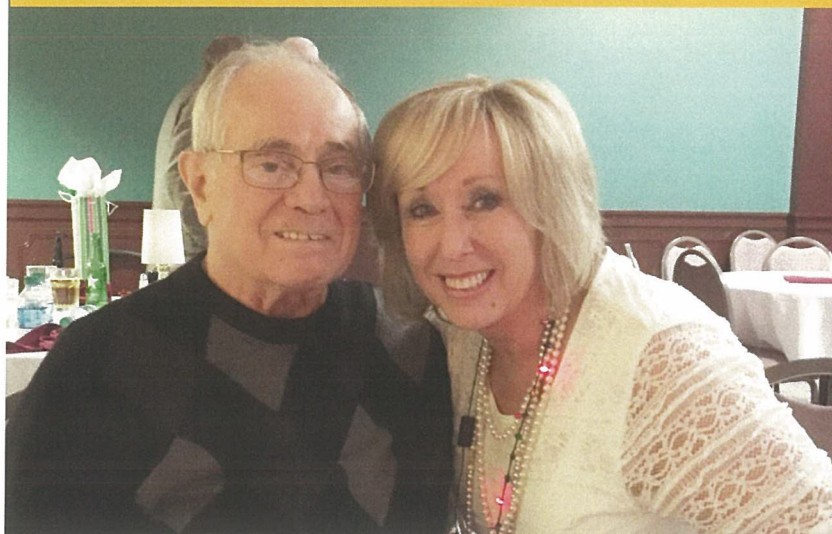
As editor of the See-way, he had a busy job getting it out to the members, which required more time than being secretary. There was always a See-way to get out and information he needed from others for its publication. He was challenged by new technology, as am I.

He loved his family, which was large, and was very loyal and supportive to them. He provided the health care workers for his sister-in-law. His family was always busy with activities which he enjoyed going to. He always told me I knew more people than he did, but I didn't believe it.

It was a pleasure to know and go with him to district meetings, conventions and other events. I'll truly miss him and I'm glad he is in a better place without pain. – *Gary Flick*

*"Your life was a blessing. Your memory a treasure ...  
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."*





## *Obituary – Excerpted from Brugger Funeral Homes*

Richard P. "Dick" DeLuca, age 84, passed away on Monday, May 29, 2017 surrounded by family. He was born in Erie on August 5, 1932 a son of the late Dominick and Congetta (Amendola) DeLuca.

Dick was a graduate of East High School and Edinboro University. He received his master's degree from the University of Arizona. He began his memorable teaching career at Fort LeBoeuf High School, where he founded their wrestling program and was inducted into their hall of fame. Later he worked as a guidance counselor, principal and finally the Executive Director of Erie County Vocational Technical School.

He loved his family and was passionate about serving the Erie community. He was most proud of his 32 years as a member of Rotary International and the Erie Rotary Club. He participated in and later ran the Erie Hotline and truly believed that listening was more important than talking. Dick was an inductee in the Erie Sports Hall of Fame and he and Sally were big Seawolves fans.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five siblings and their spouses, Joseph DeLuca and his wife Mary, Frank DeLuca and his wife Lizzie, Albert DeLuca, Betty Corritore and her husband Paul and Rose Chillelli and her husband Edward; and two additional brothers-in-law, Charles "Chubby" Marchant and John Conway.

Dick is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sally (Dillon) DeLuca; two daughters, Christine DeLuca and her significant other, Charles Frey, of Millcreek, Cindy Lou DeLuca, of Millcreek; two brothers, James DeLuca and his wife Dorothy and Edward DeLuca and his wife Shirley, all of Erie; three sisters, Jane Marchant, Edith Alberico and her husband Mac and Lena Conway all of Erie; sisters-in-law, Margaret DeLuca and Nancy Dillon. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family. Dick's family was most grateful to the staff at Westlake Woods who cared for Dick during the past year.

A funeral mass was held for Dick on June 2 at St. Jude the Apostle Church with burial in Laurel Hill Cemetery. Condolence cards to Sally and his daughters may be mailed to: 303 Indiana Dr. Erie, PA 16505 and Chris' cell No. is 528-4362

Memorials may be made to the Erie Rotary Club Scholarship Fund P.O. Box 1424, Erie, PA 16512



# Graduated 1950 from East High School

## IN YOUTH WE LEARN

## IN AGE WE UNDERSTAND

**PATRICIA CASEY**  
**General**  
 Cheerleading 1, 2, 3, 4  
 M Club 2, 3, 4  
 Eastcapades 3, 4  
 Sunrise 4  
 Student Cabinet 3

**JOSEPH CERMAK**  
**General**  
 Swimming 3, 4  
 Intra-mural Basketball 2, 3, 4

**PAUL CERMAK**  
**Distributive Education**

**GEORGE CISZKOWSKI**  
**General**  
 Basketball 2, 3, 4

**SHIRLEY CONLEY**  
**General**  
 M Club 2, 3, 4  
 Tennis 4  
 G. S. C. 4  
 H. R. Basketball 2, 3, 4  
 College Club 4

**JACK COST**  
**Commercial**  
 Choir 2, 3, 4  
 Glee Club 2, 3

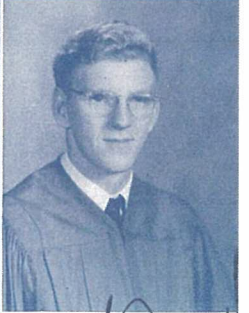
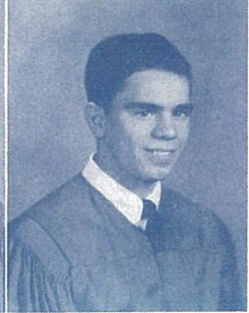
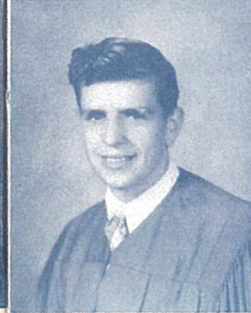
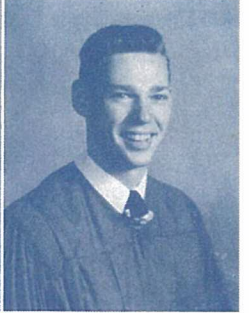
**Physical Education  
 Teacher**

**Engineer**

**Accountant**

**Stenographer**

**Public Accountant**



**LOUIS CHROSTOWSKI**  
**Distributive Education**

**TERESA CIANELLA**  
**General**  
 M Club 2, 3, 4  
 Volleyball 3

**YOLANDA CIOTOLI**  
**General**  
 M Club 2, 3, 4  
 Vice President 4  
 Cheerleading 2, 3, 4  
 Basketball 2, 3  
 Eastcapades 3

**WALTER CROCKER**  
**Academic**

**RICHARD DeLUCA**  
**Academic**  
 Football 2, 3, 4  
 Wrestling 2, 3, 4  
 Hi-Y 3, 4  
 Baseball Manager 4

**WILLIAM DENGEL**  
**General**  
 Intra-mural Basketball 2

**Drummer**

**Florist**

**Good Job**

*Richard DeLuca*  
**A Success**

**Navy**

