



Richard Dent Shillinglaw

February 19, 1948 - December 9, 2014

Richard Dent Shillinglaw, 66, was born Feb. 19, 1948, in Nashville, Tennessee, and passed away on Dec. 9, 2014, in his adopted hometown of Tyler, following a lengthy illness.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Marvin United Methodist Church.

Dent was born to Wayne Dent and Richard Perkins Shillinglaw and attended Montgomery Bell Academy where he was a standout tennis player. He took those skills with him to SMU where he continued his competitive tennis career while majoring in English.

He made lifelong friendships as a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Upon graduation, Dent joined the National Guard and proudly served two years during the Vietnam War.

He began his career in Houston, Texas, in the publishing and advertising business and ultimately was a partner in an advertising agency serving industrial clients.

Dent married his loving wife Pam on Oct. 17, 1992. They moved to Tyler in 2000 where he began a career with Smith Tank and Equipment Co. Inc.

He was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church and the Rotary Club of Tyler. His passions were history, literature and politics. Dent took great pride in his book collection and was an avid reader. He was happiest entertaining friends and family on his patio while listening to Frank Sinatra and enjoying a cigar or two.

Dent was a true gentleman. He was cut from a cloth that is hard to find these days. An old schooler at heart, he was always dressed as if he were attending his first job interview.

Those close to him knew him as “the Dentster” and enjoyed his stories and his retelling of the same stories as if they were hearing them for the first time.

Dent was kind, generous and never expected anything in return. He loved to tease his many nieces and nephews with his fun-loving wit and sarcasm. He could recall appropriate quotes and recite poetry to suit every occasion. He enjoyed verbally sparring with children and adults alike. Dent was a renaissance man.

He is survived by his wife, Pam, of Tyler; son, Patrick, of Austin; a brother, Drew Shillinglaw (Becky), of Nashville, Tennessee; a sister, Sunny Adair (Gary DiVall), of Utica, Kentucky; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. O.L. Ferrell, Bullard; sister-in-law, Sherry Adams (Dana), Bullard; brother-in-law, Oran Ferrell (Paula), Tyler; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Dent fought his illness with grace and dignity. Pam and Patrick were the light of his life and he lived to please them. We will miss him greatly.

“All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts...”

— William Shakespeare

Dent’s favorite charities were Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, The Rotary Club of Tyler and Marvin United Methodist Church.

We would like to thank our many friends and family, Dr. Martins, Dr. Philley, Dr. Stovall, Dr. Zasik, caretaker Cheryl Fite, and pastors at Marvin United Methodist Church for their support this past year.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Dent Shillinglaw.*



December 11, 2014 at 01:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Dent Shillinglaw.*



December 11, 2014 at 11:09 AM