

Walter F. Cavanagh

September 11, 2018

Walter F. "Dick" Cavanagh, formerly of Clarks Summit, died Tuesday at Sunrise of McLean, McLean, Va. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan M. Cavanagh, who died Nov. 22, 2012.

Born in Scranton, he was the son of the late Walter and Mary McNally Cavanagh. He was a graduate of St. Paul's High School and the University of Scranton. Prior to retirement, he was the owner of the P.A. Cavanagh Co.

Dick was a devout Catholic and active member of Our Lady of the Snows Church community. He worked to extend the reach of the parish as part of the finance council, which oversaw building of the new church of St. Benedict's in Newton Ransom, Pa. He and his wife, Joan, were eucharistic ministers. They were volunteers for several nonprofit organizations and donated to many charities, but more than any other was Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Dick was treasurer of the Scranton chapter when it was founded in 1973 and remained an officer for 30 years. His work and passion for the cause was recognized at the annual prayer breakfast in 2009. He was one of the first 100 members of the country club of Scranton, where he spent many years on the golf course, playing cards and having dinner with friends.

In his retirement, he spent winters in Delray Beach, Fla. He was known to invite all family and friends to visit. He appreciated this blessing and wanted to share his good fortune and the warm weather with everyone.

Dick was proud of his Irish heritage, relishing every train trip with the Anthracite Adventures crew to South Bend, Ind., to see Notre Dame play football. He loved to travel in and out of the United States. Two favorite and special trips were a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia Herzegovina, with the entire family and an extended trip to Ireland with Joan.

He learned to scuba dive, snorkel and water ski. Water skiing, in his younger years, was mostly done on Lake Ariel behind the boat of his dearest



childhood friend, Bill Harding. In later years, these friends would have lunch most Friday afternoons at McMullen's in the company of several other classmates who have remained friends for over seven decades.

Surviving are three sons, Francis A. and wife, Dana Moran, of Costa Mesa, Calif.; Patrick F. and wife, Shachar Cavanagh, of Washington, D.C.; and Walter F. and wife, Kari Cavanagh, of Charlestown, Mass.; and three daughters, Karen Moran Saunders of Clarks Summit, Joanne Moran Lewis of Great Falls, Va., Kathleen "KC" Cavanagh and wife, Leanna Blankenship, of Berkeley, Calif.; and a sister, Kateri Molnar and husband, Gene, of Cary, N.C. He loved his 12 grandchildren, Virginia, Billy, Lewis, Francis, Mary, Danielle, Shea, Tim, Quinn, Maggie, Anna, Leo; and all his nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be Tuesday from the Albert P. O'Donnell Funeral Home, 2025 Green Ridge St., Dunmore, with Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Snows Church, 301 S. State St., Clarks Summit, to be celebrated by Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, pastor of Our Lady Snows Parish. Interment, Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton.

Friends may call Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. All those attending the funeral are asked to proceed directly to the church the morning of the funeral.

To offer an online condolence, visit ODonnellfuneral.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pennsylvanians For Human Life, 400 Wyoming Ave., Suite 110, Scranton, PA 18505 or to Friends of the Poor, 2300 Adams Ave., Scranton, PA 18509.

Kathleen F. King

