



## Richard V. DeSalvo

August 7, 1926 - August 27, 2023

Richard V. DeSalvo was born 97 years ago, on August 7, 1926, in Center Ridge, Arkansas, to Joe Luke and Mary Rossi DeSalvo. He peacefully left this life on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at his home in Center Ridge with his daughters around him. We know without a doubt that Jesus welcomed His faithful servant home with open arms, a smile, and a hug. We also know without a doubt his sweetheart, Cecilia, was there to welcome him home. He was a veteran of the United States Army, 82nd Airborne Division, and 325th Glider Infantry Division, proudly serving in World War II and the Korean War. He served in the European Theater during World War II as the aimer lead man on a mortar team and attained the rank of Sergeant. After the war ended, he was sent to New York City where he marched in the ticker tape parade. He was called back up to active duty during the Korean War and was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, as a pharmacist on base. His first daughter, Janie, was born while he was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, and she paved the way for his next 8 daughters. In 2013, he was invited to attend the Honor Flight in recognition of his service to his country and he and his daughter, Ellen, traveled to Washington, D.C. for his celebration. He was also presented with a Quilts of Valor by the local chapter. He asked Ellen to move in with him and she was a true blessing in his life. They enjoyed many of the same things and forged an unbreakable bond. Her sisters want to thank her for taking such good care of him, giving him companionship, and bringing so much joy to him over the last 8 ½ years. He

surely loved his El.

Upon returning home to Center Ridge after WWII, he was accepted into Pharmacy school at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, graduating in 1950 with his Pharmacy degree. He played on the college baseball team as a catcher and played on semi-pro teams during the summers. He especially enjoyed watching two of Natalie and Gary's sons follow in his footsteps playing baseball for the University of the Ozarks. After graduating he worked as a pharmacist in Little Rock, Conway, and Perryville, before opening DeSalvo Pharmacy in Morrilton, which he owned for 32 years before retiring. His daughter, Laura, worked at the pharmacy with him and many of his former customers still ask her about him, sharing stories with her of his generosity and kindness toward them over the years.

Richard and Cecilia had 9 daughters and he was a self-proclaimed "female specialist". They raised their family in Morrilton where they were faithful and active members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church until moving back to Center Ridge. He served on the Sacred Heart Parish Council and the Sacred Heart School Board. He was a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and held the offices of Grand Knight and Financial Secretary. After returning to Center Ridge, they were very active members of their childhood parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church, where he served on the Parish Council and Finance Committee. He was a well-known face at the annual Spaghetti Dinners where he sold dinner tickets for many years.

The thing Richard treasured most of all was being with his family. He was always quick with a comforting word in times of need, an ear to listen, sage advice, and just his steady and strong presence. He loved nothing more than holding the new babies born into the family. He led his family through his examples of unwavering faith, strong character, a sense of humor, and unconditional love. He taught his children and grandchildren how to face adversity head-on "Whatcha gonna do? Buck up and deal with it as it comes". He made sure each one of us was left with a special memory of him that is unique to only our relationship with him. He looked forward to Joelle, his

caboose, sending him a kiss on the forehead on nights she couldn't be with him in person. He had a sweet tooth almost as big as his heart, and he spent many hours trying to teach Celeste how to make biscotti. He loved and cherished each member of his large family, and his and Cecilia's legacy of love will continue for years and generations to come. He was a special man. He enjoyed many other things in life: deer camp and a good poker game with the West Fork Hunting Club, turkey and dove hunting, playing golf, making homemade wine for the family and his grandchildren's weddings (Terri was his keeper of the wine inventory), a good gin and tonic and red beer in the summer, gardening, working on his farm, and watching just about any kind of sports and westerns on TV.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law: Jane and Howard Yates, Ellen Johnston, Terri and Rickey George, Laura and Edward Moore, Celeste and Ray Bailey, Natalie and Gary Beck, and Joelle and Todd Lowder; 21 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Lorene Dumboski and Minnie (Buddy) Hoelzeman; sisters-in-law Betty Jo DeSalvo and Anne Andrews, brother-in-law Ray Andrews; a host of nieces and nephews and friends, many of whom looked to him as their second Dad. "Lawdy, Lawdy Miss Claudie" was also a valued member of the family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Cecilia Andrews DeSalvo; 2 daughters, Alicia Carole and Mary Cecilia; grandson, Joseph Batchelor; son-in-law, Lynn Batchelor; brothers, Ed, Vince, Bob, Gene, and Paul DeSalvo; sisters, Amelia Paladino, Julia Paladino, and Irene Dumboski.

He charmed and won the hearts of many medical providers over the last few years. His daughters wish to thank Dr. Bart Throneberry, Dr. Mary Jo Shaver, Dr. Sue Tsuda; and Katelyn, Courtney, Jeri and Angela with Hospice Home Care for the loving care they took of Richard. They called him their "super human" patient. A very special thanks to Father Jack Harris for his friendship

and spiritual guidance over the years.

The pallbearers will be grandsons: Richie Tanner, Kyle Johnston, Frankey Clayton, Joshua Moore, James Batchelor, Wade Beck, Tyler Loughridge, and nephew Paul David Charton. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the West Fork Hunting Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Sacred Heart School Endowment in Morrilton, Arkansas, St. Joseph Church in Center Ridge, Arkansas, St. Joseph School Endowment Anthony Joseph Batchelor Current Needs Fund in Conway, Arkansas, or [www.JoeBearapparel.com](http://www.JoeBearapparel.com) (non-profit foundation established in memory of Joseph Batchelor, grandson, whose dream it was to start a business and donate profits to Alzheimer's research in memory of his Nonna).

Rosary will be held 6:00 p.m. at Harris Funeral Home in Morrilton on Wednesday, August 30, with visitation immediately following. Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Center Ridge on Thursday, August 31, with Father Jack Harris presiding. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Center Ridge, AR

# Previous Events

## Rosary

AUG 30. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St  
Morrilton, AR 72110  
(501) 354-4575

## Visitation

AUG 30. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St  
Morrilton, AR 72110  
(501) 354-4575

## Funeral Mass

AUG 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
343 Catholic Point Rd.  
Center Ridge, AR 72027  
(501) 893-2889



# Tribute Wall

DA

“ *It has been many years since I was in Center Ridge to see the DeSalvo family. Visits there and seeing your family will never fade. May the Lord bless and comfort you and yours Ellen.*

*Your cousin David Andrews*

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**David Andrews** - September 01, 2023 at 04:25 PM

JM

“ *Ellen, I was so sorry to learn of the loss of your Dad. I remember him as a person with a grand presence. He was also very kind and loving as he lead this family of females. I can see him seated at the head of the table at dinner time...many wonderful memories of your family. I was also not surprised you were taking care of your Dad. You were always caring for others; thoughtful and sincere. It's been a minute since we've talked but I had to pay tribute to your Dad as well as express my heartfelt condolences to you and all the girls. Praying for you all to feel Gods comfort and peace. Much love to you, Ellen!*

*Janet Mourot*

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**Janet Mourot** - September 01, 2023 at 02:46 PM

CF

“ *Natalie,  
Love and prayers for you and your family.  
Chris*

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**Chris Fuerst** - August 31, 2023 at 11:50 PM

PM

“ I remember Richard always being the most kind and loving person every time I saw him. I will miss him. Cecelia was the same way. Two special people I looked forward to being with whenever we came to visit family in Center Ridge. What a blessed family. My sincere condolences and prayers to the entire family.

Paula Kerr Mizell - August 31, 2023 at 11:55 AM

DT

“ Wishing you peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love at this time of sorrow. My heart goes out to you at this difficult time. Wishing you the best and know you have my full support in every moment. I am thinking of you and your family and sending caring thoughts your way to support you through this. Cara you are such a blessing to me and the amazing person you are is in direct relation to your amazing family! I loved hearing stories about your special Grandfather and you Mom and her sisters! Sending love your way.

Deana Tipton - August 31, 2023 at 10:24 AM

AK

“ Terri and all the family,  
We were so saddened to hear of your loss.  
You were so blessed to have your dad for so many years. He and your mom are having such a beautiful reunion in Heaven. God Bless you all.  
Love and Prayers, Jerry and Alison Kordsmeier



Alison Kordsmeier - August 31, 2023 at 09:15 AM

ET

“ *The Tendon family from Québec wishes to extend their deepest love and compassion for the passing of your father. We bless you and your beautiful family in the peace of Jesus Christ*

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**Eric Tendon** - August 31, 2023 at 05:35 AM

DM

“ *When I was a little girl we lived around the corner from Richard and Cecelia. I thought Richard was the most handsome and kind man I had ever known. Cecelia was the most Beautiful and Classy lady with her hair pulled back that today I am still impressed with her. I decided if I ever had a little boy I would name him Richard after Richard DeSalvo and my favorite uncle, Richard Calciano. At age 26 I did have a little boy and I did name him Greg Richard after your Dad and Uncle Richard!! And the best part of the story is Richard DeSalvo turned out to be my son's Uncle and his Dad was also named after your Dad. How amazing is that? I loved your Mom and Dad, they were wonderful people. I am very sorry for your loss.*  
*Donna McGee*

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**Donna McGee** - August 31, 2023 at 03:45 AM

KL

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Richard, he was a very loved and respected man that served many people of Conway County and we were one of those that he took care of for many years and remained friends with after he retired. May he rest in peace and God comfort your family during this difficult time.*

*Bennie Latimer  
and Kelly Latimer Lentz*

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**Kelly Lentz** - August 30, 2023 at 04:54 PM

PD

“ The DeSalvo family of Arizona wishes to extend their deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. What a wonderful life he lived, and how he loved your mother and all of you girls. A special thanks to everyone who helped him make this journey with peace, dignity and love. I will greatly miss our holiday chats by phone and news of the family. God bless you all. Phyllis DeSalvo

Phyllis DeSalvo - August 30, 2023 at 03:18 PM

KJ

“ Richard was a great man. Was always helping so to many people and loved by everyone he met. Prayers for all of his girls and family. He will be missed and remembered by so many friends and family. My thoughts and prayers will be with you all. I know he is always with you all in your hearts and memories.

Kathleen Jackson - August 30, 2023 at 12:03 PM

MS

“ So sorry for the passing of Richard. He was a good man and always willing to help others out. My sincere sympathy to the family. Mike Stinnett

Michael Stinnett - August 30, 2023 at 10:08 AM

JM

“ Sorry to hear of Richard's passing. He & Cecilia were my God parents. I always made a point to see them at the St Joseph's spaghetti dinner over the years. My Dad was Joe Zarlingo & he loved them both dearly. My prayers to all the family. I am sure he was like my Dad & his shoes will be tough to fill. Judy Moore

Judy Moore - August 30, 2023 at 08:24 AM

SP

“ Richard and I were roommates briefly. at Cof O Pharmacy school. I cherish the few times that we shared together. My condolences to the family.

Sidney Phillips - August 30, 2023 at 08:15 AM

JC

“ Ellen, sending hugs. I wish they were real. ❤️

Jaynie Clark - August 29, 2023 at 07:58 PM

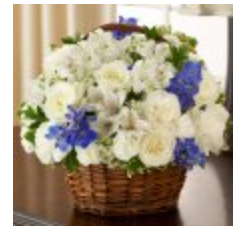
FM

“ Prayers for Family and Friends in your time of Sorrow. May God be with each of you.

Frances (Camper) Mahan - August 29, 2023 at 07:21 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Richard V. DeSalvo.



August 29, 2023 at 06:49 PM

SR

“ Dearest Celeste & Family, be assured of much love and many prayers at this time of your loss. The Tribute and Obituary are beautiful. Thank you for sharing always about your Dad, Mom and the family. Much love, Sr. Richard Mary

Sr. Richard Mary Burke, RSM - August 29, 2023 at 05:18 PM

RT

“ *In loving memory.a very kind and loving man Richard was.and was my mom's friend and our pharmacist for years rest in peace Rhonda Reedy Tanner*



Rhonda Tanner - August 29, 2023 at 11:38 AM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Richard V. DeSalvo.*



August 29, 2023 at 11:01 AM

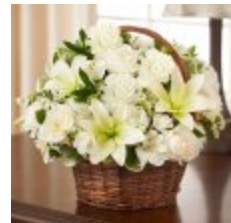
DH

“ *Our prayers and love are with all of the family. Richard was such a very kind man and will be missed. What a joyful celebration he and Cecilia must be having! Love you all. Rick & Dee Dee (DeSalvo) Hill*

deedee hill - August 29, 2023 at 10:48 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of Richard V. DeSalvo.*



August 29, 2023 at 09:49 AM



“ I can remember as a small child going to the doctor who was doctor hickey and them next door to the we called the drug store. He was always nice to my family my father was ill all of my growing up life took alot of meds had a charge account with mr DeSalvo which you never hear of now charge account at the drug store prayers for the family

Larry Shannon - August 29, 2023 at 09:37 AM



“ All of you have my sympathy and prayers. Richard will be missed by many . Heaven gained a great man. May he RIP  
Denise Lasowski, Bernadine Noll's daughter

Denise Lasowski - August 28, 2023 at 09:17 PM

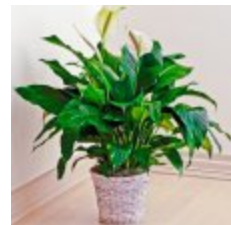
HH

“ HASKEL & SHERRY HICKS planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard V. DeSalvo.

HASKEL & SHERRY HICKS - August 28, 2023 at 02:36 PM

HH

“ HASKEL & SHERRY HICKS purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Richard V. DeSalvo.



HASKEL & SHERRY HICKS - August 28, 2023 at 02:36 PM