

Daniel Oehler Reich



The family of Daniel Oehler Reich mourns the death of this husband, father and grandfather on February 14, 2018.

The son of Therese (Teddy) and Stanley Reich, Dan was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on Christmas Day 1931. He spent his formative years in Bay Ridge and graduated from Poly Prep Country Day School in 1949. Upon graduation, he attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Following his graduation in 1953, Dan proudly served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dan met and fell in love with a local Bay Ridge girl, Olive Buerk, and they were married in Bellport in August 1956. The newlyweds bought their first home in Bay Ridge, where the family still resides. In the early years of their marriage, Dan had hoped to pursue a law degree, but he never sat for the bar exam. He worked as a salesman for a paper company to pay for law school and found his professional niche; he launched Daniel O. Reich, Inc., now known as Reich Paper, in 1958.

The Reich family's ties to Shelter Island began in 1964 when they were invited to spend a weekend at the home of Jenny and Gunnar Knutsen on South Midway Road. The spell of the Island prompted them to buy a home in Silver Beach where they summered until 1974, followed by a move to "Aquarelle," a Victorian in the Heights.

Dan was an avid, self-taught sailor who enjoyed the thrill of racing and fondly leveraged the Bowdoin polar bear mascot in naming the family's boats. When not sailing his beloved Stuart Knockabout, *Ol' Bear*, Dan could be seen cruising as far north as Maine in the family's Lord Nelson tugboat, *Teddy Bear*. The Reich family joined the Shelter Island Yacht Club in 1967, where Dan rose through the ranks to serve as commodore in 1976-7.

He is also remembered as chairman of the board of the former Brooklyn Federal Savings Bank, the first president of the North Ferry Corporation, the president of the New York Paper Club and a member of the New York Yacht Club, the Off Soundings Club as well as Gardiner's Bay Country Club.

In addition to being passionate about boating, Dan was an avid reader of history and politics, and loved animals — especially the family's beloved adopted dogs.

Dan leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Olive; his sons, Peter (Loren) and Duke (Lisa); and daughter Robin (David); three grandchildren with equally strong passions for boating — Melissa, Daniel and Luke; two nieces, Susan and Holly.

A funeral service was held at the Union Church in Brooklyn. A memorial service to commemorate Dan's life and to wish him fair winds and following seas will be held at Union Chapel on Shelter Island this summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society or the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons.