

## **Richard E. Desjarlais**

Richard Edmund Desjarlais, long-time Littleton resident and community member passed away peacefully Tuesday evening, February 16th at Leominster Hospital. He was 84 years old. Born April 1, 1925, he grew up in western Massachusetts, one of four sons and two daughters born to Frank and Stella (Veautrairie) Desjarlais, of Chicopee, Mass. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and served in World War II stationed on the island of Guam as a Radio Technician. After his discharge, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and was awarded a B.S. degree in Education in 1950 and an M.S. degree in Education in 1951. He also matriculated at Boston University in the Doctoral program in education, finishing A.B.D. in 1966. Dick began his career in education as a teacher in Hadley, Mass., before serving as a Principal in the Farmingdale, Long Island, N.Y. school system from 1955 to 1960 before becoming an Assistant Superintendent in Winchester, Mass. In 1965 he became the Superintendent of Schools in Littleton, Massachusetts, serving for more than two decades before retiring in 1984. Dick was past President of the Rotary Club, member of the Lions Club, member of the Friends of the Reuben Hoar Library and in the past, sang tenor with the Sounds of Concord barbershop chorale. He was an avid antique radio expert and, after retiring, owned his own company, Dicks Radio Days. He belonged to the NEARC and worked at Antique Radio Classified in Carlisle, Massachusetts as an editor and contributor. He was an active member of the Congregational Church in Littleton. Dick enjoyed Scrabble, antique radios, birding, and the company of his many friends and family. He was a very loving person, father and grandfather whose sense of kindness and caring will be missed. He was very dedicated to his family and friends and he will be remembered and loved each and every day. He is survived by his loving significant other, Polly Hadley of Norfolk, Massachusetts, daughter Pamela Taylor, of Jacksonville, Florida, daughter Wendy Boston and her husband Gary of Littleton, Mass., and son Jeffrey Desjarlais and his wife Jennifer of Concord, Mass., and his grandchildren, Jacquelyn (Matt) Arconti of Danbury Connecticut, Joseph Margres (Melissa Williams) of Warwick, Rhode Island, and Jessica (Chris) Scales also of Warwick, Rhode Island. He is survived by his brothers, Donald Desjarlais and Roger Desjarlais of New York and his sister Jean Szostak of Connecticut. A memorial service was held at the Congregational Church, Littleton, Mass. on Saturday, February 20th. Donations may be made in his name to The Deacons Fund at the Congregational Church in Littleton.