



Richard A. Bleistine, Sr.

June 14, 1933 - February 22, 2022

Richard A. Bleistine was born in Lebanon, PA, on 14 June 1933. He graduated from Lebanon High School in the Class of 1951. He was married for 59 years to the late Joan Bleistine with whom he shared three children. He was employed by Harpel's in Lebanon for 48 years. Mr. Bleistine served on the Lebanon City Council for 24 years and was the first Chair of the New Form of Government Board.

Richard has a long history of military and veteran service. He enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-1959. He served for four years in the active Navy and four in the reserve as a Gunners Mate 3rd Class. For the last 53 years, Mr. Bleistine had been a life member of the Lebanon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 23, and he served 45 of those years on the post Honor Guard with the additional duties of Secretary and Treasurer. During this period, he served more than 12,000 military funeral honors. Mr. Bleistine was a life member of the Navy Ship Club and Plank Owner, the AmVets, as well as the American Legion for 63 years. He was a past Commander of the American Legion's Voiture 55 40 et 8. He was also a life member of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Memorial Council. Additionally, Mr. Bleistine served as President and Treasurer of the Lebanon Veteran Advisory Council which organizes the Memorial Day parade and ceremony and the Veterans Day ceremony for the City of Lebanon. Notably, he served as Chair of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to save Fort Indiantown Gap in the 1990s.

Mr. Bleistine was also a volunteer firefighter with the Liberty Steam Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 3 in Lebanon for the last 65 years, and he spent 45 of those years on the active fire line. He served many years as the President of the Company. Mr. Bleistine was also a member of the Liberty Fire Company Marching Club. He was a life member of the Lebanon County Firefighters Association and served many years as Treasurer. Mr. Bleistine was also a life member and past President and Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania Firefighters Association.

In Mr. Bleistine's spare time, he held memberships in Mt. Olivet Lodge F&AM, Tall Cedars of Lebanon Harrisburg Consistory, and Zembo Shrine.

Mr. Bleistine's awards include: Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal, Pennsylvania Military Funeral Honors Service Ribbon, Lebanon Chamber of Commerce's General Frank Smoker Beyond the Call Award for 2019, Pennsylvania Firefighter of the Year Award for 2014, and the Frank G. Ceresini Distinguished Fire Service Award for 2011.

He is survived by his sons Richard A. Bleistine, Jr., and his wife Bonnie of Lebanon and Raymond W. Bleistine of Jonestown; daughter Michelle M. wife of Gregory A. Whitman of Cleona; grandchildren Thomas, Christopher, Tannon and Jeremy; great grandchildren Amanda, Chelsea, Hannah, Tyler, Michael, Damien, Emily, Thomas, Lucy, and Caleb; and several great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his grandson Ryan.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory, Rt. 72 & Camp Meeting Rd., Jonestown. A viewing will be held on Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday. Interment with military honors will follow at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Lebanon Co. Humane Society, 150 Ramona Rd., Myerstown, PA 17067.

Cemetery Details

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

Indiantown Gap Road
Anville, PA 17003

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAR 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038

Public Viewing

MAR 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038

Funeral Service

MAR 2. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038

Tribute Wall



“ *Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard A. Bleistine, Sr.*



Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. - February 28, 2022 at 01:35 PM

RM

“ *Mr. Bleistine Sr. was an incredible person. He knew me from when I was born and my father before that. They knew each other from the Liberty Fire Department and marching club. He always called me "Rusty" Miller.*

He always was doing things for other people and enjoyed doing it. He did give me advice as I grew up a half a block from the Fire House.

He said hello all the time to my wife when he saw her at Giant Foods and asked how "Rusty" was doing.

Lebanon City will miss a really get person, husband, father, and fire fighter.

Russ and Pat Miller

Russel Miller Patricia Miller - March 02, 2022 at 09:41 AM

BS

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Bonnie Ebricht Shank - March 02, 2022 at 09:37 AM

BS

Calm Seas and Fair Winds my friend. Thank you for your friendship, your service to our country and your never-ending service to the community of Lebanon. You were always the kindest soul, a true gentleman and a dear friend to Ken and I and everyone you met.

Bonnie Ebricht Shank - March 02, 2022 at 09:37 AM

 Kathy
Snyder
Frederick

“ *Wimpie was a dear friend of my dads. When my dad passed away he was there for us kids. He reached out to me when my sister recently passed away. He always stayed in contact with me throughout the years, which says a lot considering I live in Minnesota. He always called me Kass, which I treasure deeply. Throughout your lifetime you will meet many people, they will come and go, but you are lucky to have at least 5 true friends in your lifetime, Wimpie was one of them for my dad and us kids. May you rest in peace, i know there is a huge reunion in heaven of your family and friends.*



Kathy Snyder Frederick - February 27, 2022 at 11:24 AM

BJ

“ *Bob Aubrey Dena Jess purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard A. Bleistine, Sr..*



Bob Aubrey Dena Jess - February 26, 2022 at 12:35 PM

LB

“ *I would like to, first, extend my sympathy to the family of my friend Dick Bleistine. Also on behalf of the Firefighters' Association of the State of PA, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. What a guy, he will never be forgotten by those of us who had the privilege of knowing him. Rest In Peace my friend. Larry Baughman*

Larry Baughman - February 26, 2022 at 10:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard A. Bleistine, Sr..*



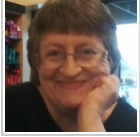
February 25, 2022 at 07:58 PM

BL

“ *So sorry. He was a great guy. Mary Ann and Dick Blosky*



Blosky's - February 25, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ *Dick was a colorful person who will be greatly missed. Loved his red jacket!*

Phylis Dryden, West Lebanon

Phylis Dryden - February 25, 2022 at 02:18 PM

GW

“ *Richard served his life for his family, country and community. God Bless*
Marine Gail Wise

Gail Wise - February 24, 2022 at 11:15 AM


GH

“ *Dick was one of those people who give us faith in humanity. I knew him years ago when he was working for Harpels. Whenever I think of him I have to smile because he was one of the kindest people I ever met. On top of that I found him to be honest to a fault, caring, showing his love for his family, community minded, just a really great person to know. I consider it an honor to have known him for those years. Our love and prayers to the family.*

Gary Heuer - February 24, 2022 at 09:22 AM

Linda Meyer


“ Richard or Whimp, as he was known by many of his dear friends, was the kindest, most polite man you will ever meet. He helped me in many ways when my Dad passed away.. The city of Lebanon lost a hero in Dick, he was an asset to this city in all the organization's he belonged to, helped the club's and devoted much of his time being an Honor Guard at many Military Funerals, including my Father. Thank you Richard for all you have done for Lebanon, and many of us who knew you for years. Fly High Dick, say Hello to my Mom & Dad for me. You can party with all your friends in Heaven. 🙏🙏💙💙🌹🌹



Linda Meyer - February 23, 2022 at 09:58 PM

CH

“ Mr. Bleistine, you will be missed by many Veteran's and their spouses. Your dedication to the Indiantown Gap, and many cemeteries in the community to honor our Veteran's is simply amazing. Thank you for many quips and your advice on being a Gentleman always! Till Valhalla my friend!



Chip - February 23, 2022 at 09:36 PM

RB

“ I will always remember my Uncle's sense of humor and his fondness for the New York Giants. I remember when Uncle Dick first decided to run for city council as he walked around the neighborhoods to collect the mandatory number of signatures to put him on the ballot. He entered politics for the right reasons: To serve his community and to help others.

I will always remember the wonderful Eulogy he gave at my Pop's funeral (his brother Bill); he was a talented speaker and gave so much of his time to volunteerism. I pray that you are now reunited with Aunt Joan, Pop, Aunt Jacq and Aunt Gwen surrounded in God's love and peace.

Nephew Ray Anthony Bleistine

Ray A. Bleistine - February 23, 2022 at 09:03 PM

PR

“ I will always remember Mr. Bleistine. He was a Lebanon City Council member the day I started working for the City of Lebanon. I will remember him as Uncle Sam taking donations at the firecracker on the Fourth of July and his presence at the Memorial Day parade. He encouraged my run for a position on City Council. He was a good friend to my father, uncle and brother. He will be missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him. Sympathies and prayers to his family.

Patrice Royer

Patrice A Royer - February 23, 2022 at 03:51 PM