

3397 Richard John Setten (RMC 1955)

Richard was born in Oxford, England on August 3, 1933, the oldest of three brothers. He died in Madison, Connecticut, USA on December 5, 2008. He is survived by his wife Adele and children Julie, Jennifer, Michelle, Christopher and Alec.

He attended Forres Preparatory School in U.K. from 1941 to 1947. His family emigrated to Canada in 1947 where he completed his secondary schooling at York Memorial Collegiate in Toronto.

In the autumn of 1951 he entered the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario and graduated in 1955 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. He spent two summers at Camp Borden in the infantry and the third summer with the RCR in Germany.

During his four years at RMC Richard excelled in academics, sports and military training and accumulated many honours. In sports he won the Recruit Boxing tournament and also won the Boxing Gold Cup three times as the best boxer in the College. He also played on the senior soccer team for two years. In his third year he was a Leading Cadet and in fourth year he held the rank of Cadet Squadron Leader in Wing Headquarters as Wing Training Officer. Academically, he won several prizes including the fourth year History prize. On the graduation parade he was awarded the Harris-Bigelow Trophy which recognizes the Fourth Year cadet who has displayed the best combination of academic and athletic ability throughout the entire course of study at the College. He was nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship.

After graduation from RMC Richard served in the Canadian Forces during the period 1955 to 1957 as Lieutenant 2RCR at Fort York, Soest, Germany; 1957-58 at Camp Ipperwash, Ontario; 1958-59 at Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario and was promoted to Captain Royal Canadian Hussars [Militia] in Montreal.

In the period 1957-59 he earned a Masters Degree in History at Queens University and it was during that time he met Mary Adele Louise Turner. They were married on April 18, 1959 in Ottawa and ultimately settled in Montreal where Richard joined the Sun Life Assurance Company in the Investment Department.

He spent ten years at Sun Life specializing in Fixed Income Investments as an analyst, trader, and portfolio manager in both the Canadian and US bond markets, rising to the position of Assistant Treasurer. During that time he and Adele had the first three of their five children. In 1969 a major change occurred in the Setten household when Merrill Lynch made Richard a very good offer in their Fixed Income Department in New York City. Accordingly the family immigrated to the USA and took up residence in the pretty town of Ridgewood, New Jersey. During the next 12 years they had two more children and Richard progressed steadily in Institutional Fixed Income Sales where he was responsible for maintaining relationships with the investment departments of various Banks, Mutual Funds, Pension Funds and Insurance Companies. He rose to the rank of Senior Vice President and ultimately retired in 2001.

For all those friends who knew him so well, Richard was a real family man who was devoted to his wife and offspring. In the 1970s they bought a beach house near Madison, Connecticut where family and friends gathered frequently to enjoy the seashore, the peace and the sunsets. Eventually Richard and Adele left Ridgewood and moved to Madison to a home on a hilltop with a wonderful view.

Richard never forgot his years at RMC and was extremely loyal to the College and his ex-cadet classmates. He was a generous donor to the RMC Club Foundation and he religiously attended the five-year reunions of the Class of '55.

We who knew Richard so well find it difficult to realize he has gone. His family misses him greatly, as do all his friends and classmates who were privileged to know him.