



Virgil R. Rehg

December 21, 1926 - January 18, 2021

Virgil wrote the following obituary:

“I’m sorry that I had to leave but look forward to being with all of you again someday. I am excited about seeing my father and mother, Richard and Rose Rehg (Cange), my daughter, Ellen, my sister Virginia, my grandparents and all my aunts and uncles. I was born in St. Louis on December 21, 1926, where I lived with my sisters Doris and Virginia, and my brother Jim until I went into submarine service in the U.S. Navy in 1944. After the Navy, I earned my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from St. Louis University. I will especially miss my beautiful and loving wife Eileen (Downes), who I married on October 6, 1951, and my wonderful children and their families. Eileen and I have been blessed with 21 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. I love all of them and pray that they make God and Christ an important part of their lives. I was blessed throughout my life and thank God for all the opportunities I had. I worked for ten years in St. Louis and moved to Dayton in 1960 to teach statistics at the Air Force Institute of Technology on Wright Patterson Air Force Base for 37 years. I enjoyed my job because it gave me the opportunity to continue to learn. I retired in April 1997. I also continued to learn by doing volunteer work at Hospice of Dayton, Catholic Social Services, Carriage Hill Farm, and the Dayton Art Institute where I was a docent and a volunteer, and at the Red Cross where I taught English to immigrants and refugees. Eileen and I enjoyed being members of the Miami Valley Folk Dance group where we

danced on Thursday nights. I also learned from the members of the St. Helen's Bible Study group and valued my time on the bereavement committee. Having a chance to be creative in whatever you are doing leads to joy, health and wellbeing; I'll never forget how these various groups gave me the opportunity to be creative. While I was here, I tried to be a humble person; if I were asked for my advice, I'd say 'Be humble in all that you do, thank God every day for all your blessings, and continue learning all your life.' I'll be watching over you, please pray for me."

We, Virgil's children, add the following thoughts and memories of our Dad:

We enjoyed the many ways our dad enriched all our lives through the traditions he started and the activities and hobbies he included us in. He made homemade pizza every Sunday night for dinner, and often baked fresh bread and pasta. He'd make the dough for soft pretzels and let his kids and their friends create the shapes for him to bake. He also loved to make bean soup and he would buy gallon tubs of natural peanut butter from the Dayton Nut Company. He took many of us on bike rides and played whiffle ball and hot box with us in the backyard. He loved playing the game Dictionary when we were all home for Christmas, which usually resulted in him laughing so hard he cried and had to stop the game to compose himself, which then meant we all had to do the same! That is one of our favorite memories!

Dad could often be found working in the garage with his table saw making furniture or something for our house, and later in life, he used his woodworking abilities to express his faith, making religious artwork out of wood and other materials. He enjoyed gardening and enlisted various kids to pull weeds throughout the summer, not our favorite activity! He travelled the world for work, Elderhostels, and sightseeing, and he and mom had friends all over the world. His work at AFIT often required him to work at out-of-town

bases, so he and Eileen would pile all seven kids into the station wagon, towing the trailer behind as we made our way across the states, Eileen screaming “Eegads!” as he got too close to the edge of high mountain roads. Dad had a zest for life, a love of learning, and a passion for helping others. We are forever grateful that God blessed us with him for our father and husband to our mom, Eileen, and for his example of love, humility, and faith in God. We all miss him.

Virgil is preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Rose Rehg (Cange), sister Virginia Drawing, daughter Ellen Rehg, and granddaughter Dyan Rehg. He is survived by his wife, Eileen M. Rehg (Downes), his sons William (Society of Jesus), John (Chi), Michael (Bibiana), Paul (Joann), and daughters Anne (Kevin) Degnan, Carolyn (Sean) Weiss, as well as 21 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, his sister Doris Thone, brother James (Marci), sister-in-law Alice Jean Adcock, and brother-in-law John Downes and many nieces and nephews.

To keep everyone safe and healthy, we will delay a celebration of Dad’s life until it can be done safely. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley or the American Red Cross.

Tribute Wall

JR

“*Virgil taught me to play catch at age three, and I have a picture backhanding a throw at age four. Any baseball skills I had were a result of his tutoring. My brother was an outstanding baseball player and had a wicked roundhouse curve in corkball. Had he grown up in a time other than the depression, Virgil could have enjoyed playing sandlot ball or being on the St. Mary High School baseball team with Joe Garagiola, the future major league catcher for the Cardinals. Instead, he played street ball with the neighbors and worked part-time in numerous jobs. Money was tight. Aside from his sports ability, my brother was, plain and simply, a good person. Words from his family have already supplied the many adjectives that accurately describe his works and accomplishment. I second everyone. I will miss that smile and his fantastic laugh that was contagious. I love you, bro. You will be missed. Love Jim.*”

James Rehg - February 04, 2021 at 12:52 PM

RL

“*Virgil was a legend, an idol - the best of the best among the professors at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He mentored me and inspired me in numerous subjects such as statistical process control, design of experiments, reliability and maintainability - and quality. He encouraged me to study the world-known experts like Dr. W. Edwards Deming. But most notably he was completely humble, despite being so rewarded by his peers. My heart has a great loss.*”

Richard A. Di Lorenzo - January 25, 2021 at 10:47 PM

DR

“ My deepest sympathies to the wonderful Rehg family. So so sorry.

When we moved to Winterberry Ct. the Rehg family was already there. What a magical place it turned out to be for my family. The people who lived there, their children who grew up there, the caring attitudes everyone had for their neighbors. When I was trying to figure out what to do with the rest of my life, Virgil Rehg was instrumental in my going into banking. We were just having a casual conversation one evening standing on the asphalt of the court dodging basketballs. I expressed my dilemma. He asked about my interests, my talents, my passion. When “numbers” seemed to show up in every answer he asked, “Have you thought about banking”? I had not, but his question lead me to Winter’s National Bank in Dayton, Ohio and the rest is history. Thank you Virgil for directing me to a profession where for many years I could hardly wait to get to work. I have such wonderful memories from the 18 years we were in your orbit. You will be missed.

Fondly,

Darlene Munson Rogers

Darlene Rogers - January 25, 2021 at 08:08 PM

KM

“ *The memories I have as a kid across the street are of:*

A Geo-domed monkey bar playground apparatus.

Eating tomatoes straight from the garden.

Homemade soft-pretzels.

The fort in the rose-bushes.

And being introduced to some silly English comedy troupe called “Monty Python” who my own kids can quote for hours.

Keith Munson

Keith Munson - January 25, 2021 at 09:52 AM

EK

“ *I knew Virgil at AFIT from 1979 to 1995 --- he was also my Statistics professor in his after hours graduate teaching at Central Michigan University in the mid-1970's. I edited two of Virgil's short course textbooks, including multiple updates as the subject matter became more diverse. He had an easy manner and was well-liked in the classroom. We shall miss him. Ernie Keucher*

Ernesst Keucher - January 24, 2021 at 11:59 PM

SJ

“ *My deepest sympathies to Virgil's loved ones.*

I worked with Virgil at AFIT in the early 70's. He was such a wonderful person, always with a smile and a kind word. It was a pleasure to see him coming toward you with that smile.

Sue Beall Jackson

Sue Jackson - January 24, 2021 at 09:00 PM

KF

“ Being one of the boys in the neighborhood that played "hot box" with Mr. Rehg all the time, I can tell you he was a magician with his mitt and had a real knack for the perfect timing it takes to play the game. All of his children (our playmates) were excellent athletes due in large part to Mr. Rehg's example. He also provided a wonderful example for our civic and spiritual development and lived what he preached. Watching him do his woodwork was also magical - while we didn't want to bother him, many of us would gather and hide just to watch him working in his garage. Mr. Rehg and the whole Rehg family were a significant part of a wonderful group of people to grow up with on our street on Winterberry Court. While many people regret aspects of their childhood, I don't think any of us from Winterberry Court has anything but fond memories of growing up together and the times we had with Mr. Rehg. We wish Mr. Rehg a peaceful, ever-lasting life with our Lord and our friend Ellen and send our condolences to Mrs. Rehg, Bill, John, Mike, Paul, Anne and Carolyn. Each of you is in our hearts.

With love and respect, Kenny Munson and family

Kenny Munson and Family - January 24, 2021 at 06:53 PM

JH

“ At AFIT, Virgil was a very positive force with those that he came in contact with, to include staff, faculty and students alike. His family can truly be proud of the life he lived and should celebrate being a part of it. We need more like Virgil in this world today. -Jim Helling

james t helling - January 24, 2021 at 01:51 PM

KH

“ I was always happy to see Virgil and Eileen when I went dancing with MiamiValley Folk Dancers. Lovely, warm people with a real sense of community and love of life and humanity. His was a life well-lived; Virgil will be missed. My love and condolences to you, Eileen, and condolences to all family and loved ones. -Karin Hirschkatz

Karin Hirschkatz - January 24, 2021 at 11:14 AM

RD

“ I am very sad to learn of Virgil's passing. I knew him many years when we worked together at AFIT. He was one of my favorite friends and we enjoyed lots of conversation where he always had sound advice. He was always cheerful, laughing and smiling. I will always remember him as a kind friend. My deepest sympathy to his family. I know you will miss him but have many wonderful memories.

Rebecca Delk - January 24, 2021 at 07:50 AM