



Richard J. Vane

May 7, 1939 - June 30, 2025

Richard J. Vane passed away June 30, 2025, surrounded by his family in Austin. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Dick was born in Detroit on May 7, 1939. His childhood fascination with art, particularly drawing, would spur a lifelong love of architecture. He graduated in 1961 from his beloved University of Michigan with a bachelor's of architecture, eventually earning many state and board certifications. He also moved to Houston in 1961. As an advisor to Loeb AZA, he met Houston native Sue Rosenbloom. After they dated a few months, Sue asked him, "What are your intentions?" They were soon engaged, and got married in 1964, the start of more than six decades together. They had two children, Mark Vane and Jennifer Melrose.

Dick launched his own practice, which later became Osborn & Vane Architects, specializing in commercial projects. He took pride in knowing that the firm he built with Al Osborn continues to operate in Houston under that same name. He taught Sunday School at Temple Emanu El, where he was also active in the Brotherhood. After retirement, he volunteered with Jewish Family Service visiting homebound people.

Dick loved watching old movies and musicals, reading history and non-fiction, listening to jazz, and nurturing his many house plants. He and Sue traveled to

New York several times to see Broadway plays and musicals. Dick also was a regular theatergoer in Houston.

He was an avid Michigan Wolverines fan, often wearing Michigan gear when relaxing during the weekends, and was always thrilled to share a "Go Blue!" story with anyone he'd meet who was also wearing Blue and Maize.

He adored his five grandchildren: Eddie and Sam Vane and Madison, Parker, and Noah Melrose. Dick happily adopted the new nickname of "Pa," and wrote them letters every week for many years. He and Sue often traveled to Austin for their grandchildren's activities while still living in Houston. His children and their spouses, Sharyn Vane and Evan Melrose, enjoyed hosting Dick and Sue during their many visits to take part in their grandchildren's birthdays, school and extracurricular events, and random weekends "just to see the kids." An early riser, Dick was game to read his grandkids books, watch their TV shows, and do art projects the minute they awoke.

Sue and Dick eventually moved to Austin in 2022 to be closer to family.

Dick was preceded in death by his mother Sylvia, beloved stepfather Simon Strauss, brother Dean and stepbrother Gary Strauss. In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, he is survived by stepsisters Davida Bilgrad (Robert, z"l) and Nadine Strauss; sisters-in-law Joanie Wyll (Gene), and Judy Arfa (Ken); aunt Elaine Polk (David, z"l); cousin Donna Lipson; and Pierre Terlinchamp. He also had many nieces, nephews, and cousins across the country. He and Sue enjoyed years of camaraderie with their many friends in Houston.

His family would like to express deep appreciation to the caregivers who provided essential support during the past two years, including Glenda Mitchell, Dawn Richards, Suzanne Jambo and Erika Ruiz.

A graveside funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, July 6, at Temple Emanu El Memorial Park, 8341 Bissonnet St., Houston. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Holocaust Museum Houston (<https://hmh.org/>) or Houston Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.houstonhabitat.org/>).

Previous Events

Computer Accessible Graveside Service

JUL 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

A Facebook account is not required in order to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

Graveside Service

JUL 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Emanu El Memorial Park
8341 Bissonnet St.
Houston, TX 77074

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service Recording*



Austin Natural Funerals - July 08, 2025 at 01:55 PM

DR

“ *He was a man of integrity and he was incredibly loyal to his family especially his wife, i watched them together each day and their love was incredible, i was fortunate to be apart of something special. Dick was funny but strong in his decision, I enjoyed every moment spent with him and I will cherish each moment we had . May he Rest In Peace*

Dawn Richards - July 02, 2025 at 10:27 PM

AC

“ I remember the day I met Dick. He knew I was the founder of a Christian women’s ministry and was quick to say he was Jewish but liked what we did and therefore will help us anyway. He grew to become a trusted friend who was amazingly patient and kind. He drew and redrew the plans to design our headquarters, even when I wasn’t clear what I wanted. He was a true friend when I needed a friend to walk with me as we built the ministry. In the midst of the architectural discussions he would talk about his grandkids and couldn’t wait till I experienced having grandkids of my own. I will always remember Dick as a true and steadfast friend who made a big difference in my life. I thank God he chose to use his talent and time to encourage me and our ministry. Anita Carman, Inspire Women in Houston, Texas.

Anita Carman - July 02, 2025 at 07:26 PM

TP

“ Dick dry sense of humor comes to mind when you think of this gentle man.

Terlinchamp Pierre - July 02, 2025 at 12:03 PM

SR

Dick and Al drew the plans for the first 5 strip centers I built starting in 1997. Dick was a pleasure to work with and had a great combination of competence and personality. My deepest condolences to his family.

Sam Roberts - July 02, 2025 at 03:30 PM

RO

Was a great guy. Always enjoyed our lunches together

Richard Otwell - July 02, 2025 at 04:53 PM

EM

The Michigan branch of Dicks family wish to send our condolences to Mark and Jennifer and their families and to Sue , may all of you find comfort in your shared memories. Elaine Polk and family

elsine polk Richards aunt thru marriage - July 04, 2025 at 10:34 PM

JN

I had the pleasure of working with Dick for many years before his retirement. He contributed to the majority of NewQuest Properties' projects and consistently did an outstanding job for us. Our last project together was a meaningful one—renovating the new office for Interfaith Ministries and constructing a new building for Meals on Wheels. I later learned that after retiring, Dick volunteered with the organization as a way to continue serving the community. That speaks volumes about the kind of person he was.

James Ngu - July 07, 2025 at 01:01 PM