



RICHARD DEFONCE

Community Member

Richard P. DeFonce was born September 25, 1939 in Jersey City, NJ. He attended St. Peter's Preparatory High School where he was on the Yearbook Staff, as staff photographer, and was a member of the baseball team. He attended Seton Hall University where he received a BA degree in Social Studies, graduating in 1961. While there, he participated in baseball and was the secretary of The Varsity Club. Richard returned to Seton Hall and majored in biochemistry until 1963.

After completing the biochemistry major, he was uncertain about his future. In 1963, two incidents came up that summer that would have a lasting effect on his life. Richard met a young lady, Maureen Dolan and they dated through the summer and to be sure, they are still dating and have known each other for 56 years and been married for 53. Second, Richard received a phone call from one of his elective professors. His brother-in-law was leaving his teaching job at a private parochial high school in Irvington, NJ. Richard was being recommended, to the Principal, as a replacement and requested he go for an interview. Richard told him he was not interested in teaching and was going to join the Air Force. Since that was not a certainty, Richard went for the interview and within a week was offered the job. Richard accepted and his teaching career began and lasted 40 years.

Richard obtained his Master's Degree and in September 1966, he began his 31 year career at Point Pleasant Boro High School. In 1967, he moved to the Guidance Department as a counselor and was assigned to the Class Of 1971. He worked with that class for the next four years. In 1972, Richard was promoted to the position of Director Of Pupil Personnel Services for the district. In 1978, Richard requested and returned to the classroom teaching Chemistry, Biology and Oceanography. In 1987, Richard was asked to return to Guidance and in 1988, was selected to become the Guidance Department Supervisor, a job that lasted until retirement in 1997. After retirement from Point Pleasant Boro, Richard became a Guidance Counselor at St. Rose H. S. in Belmar. He decided to take the job for one year and that became four years before he finally retired from teaching.

He took a job as a Tour Director with Curriculum Travel Of America out of Allentown, Pa. The job required accompanying students to historic sites from Massachusetts to Virginia. That job lasted for 12 years and concluded Richard's working life and he went into full retirement.

Richard and Maureen lived in Point Pleasant, with their two children Christopher and Paul, from 1967 until 2005. They now reside in a Retirement Community in Brick, N. J. They have four grandchildren, Zachary, Joshua, Max and Olivia.