



Dr. Richard D. Jarvinen, 72, of Winona died Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at Winona Health.

Richard (Dick) Jarvinen spent his entire youth till graduation from Gilbert Public High School in 1956, in the colorful, supportive, yet competitive minded small town of Gilbert, MN. He delivered newspapers for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, worked at the Kangas-Jacobsen Dairy in Eveleth, and greatly helped his father in operating the family wholesale meat distribution business. He was president of his Junior and Senior High School class and won a letter for both football and basketball all four years of high school. As a senior he was the recipient of the revered Maggie Fryerason award for overall outstanding scholarship. He received a scholarship to attend St John's University in Collegeville, MN graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics and minors in physics, philosophy, and education. While a senior college student at St

John's, Richard was hired by the Mathematics Department as an undergraduate teaching assistant and taught a two-semester sequential course in mathematics for pre-med students. He went out for college wrestling at St John's in the middle of his sophomore year, and lettered in wrestling his junior year. He also wrestled his senior year. Within a week of graduating from St John's in May, 1960, he began graduate studies at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. He was a Ford Foundation Fellow at Vanderbilt and graduated with a Master's in Mathematics in May, 1961, and completed a major in physics that he initiated at St. John's. In May, 1961, Jarvinen began one of his several employments in the aerospace industry with Remington Rand Univac in St Paul, MN. He worked on the Nike Zeus project, development of a warhead missile to intercept an enemy warhead missile, a major U.S. effort during the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Richard met Kathryn Schoenecker on Friday the 13th of May, 1960 at a St John's formal dance and courted her via mail while at Vanderbilt University. On July 9, 1961 they became engaged to be married. Richard married Kathryn, the love of his life, on December 30, 1961 and subsequently moved to Syracuse, New York when he began work on his Doctorate Degree in Mathematics at Syracuse University in early 1962. While in New York, Jarvinen twice worked with aerospace industry, with General Electric in its Heavy Military Electronics Division. He published several papers as a result of the professional engagement in the area of pattern recognition, optimal radar searching techniques, and operations research.

Jarvinen joined the mathematic and Statistics Department at Winona State University in 1989 with the start of the University's Composite engineering program. He taught both mathematics and statistics virtually every semester while at WSU. Jarvinen also taught at Carleton College, St. Mary's University of MN, the College of St Benedict, St John's University, and the University of Minnesota. He held visiting Professor appointments at the University of California at Berkeley, Rice University, The University of Texas School of Public Health, and the University of Minnesota. In 1995 Jarvinen began an affiliation with the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, as a research Scientist Consultant. The last papers Jarvinen delivered at JSC were in August, 2008. He began his struggle with cancer in 2007. In 1996 Jarvinen received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Director of the NASA Johnson Space Center for his probability model he constructed to predict the probability of a gas path at the nozzle-to-case joint of the solid rocket motors on the space shuttle on past Challenger flights. It was such a gas path that caused the space shuttle Challenger accident. This award is the superior accomplishment award at the Johnson Space Center. Jarvinen was awarded a NASA Faculty Fellowship approximately 6 times between 1995 and 2007 as well as various other NASA grants and stipends to continue his research at NASA.

Many of the NASA papers have been published.

Richard has been active in community affairs: recently as chairman of the Winona Planning Commission, member of the Interstate Bridge Project and Chairman of the train depot restoration. He received the annual Meritorious Service from the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America and Annual Outstanding College Teaching of Mathematics from the Mathematics Association of America. He serves on perhaps 20 different committees of the MAA, including National Chairman of the MAA Committee on Student Papers and is co-founder of the very successful MAA Program for Student Papers Presentations at the National Mathematics Meetings. He also served as a reviewer of mathematical publications for the MAA. President Carter invited Richard as one of the 25 critical reviewers of the Panama Peace Treaties before they were brought for ratification before the United States Senate.

He was an avid distance runner and a cross country skier, having run the Boston Marathon and Grandma's Marathon. He completed 32 American Birkebeiner Marathon ski races. He received authorization from St Mary's University to build the original Cross country ski and running trails at St Mary's. He was instrumental in starting three cross country ski programs, at Carleton College in 1971 and later at St Mary's University and Winona Senior High School. He served as the first coach at Carleton and St. Mary's and co-coached at the Winona High School. He began promoting cross country skiing in Winona when he arrived in 1972, and for years did week-end ski workshops as well as conducting regional citizen's races for skiers all ages.

He leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Kathy, who was at his side devotedly and tirelessly all their years together but especially these last four years as Dick battled numerous episodes of cancer, his two sons, Caleb Thomas Jarvinen and Craig Shawn Jarvinen; two grandchildren: Henry Christopher Jarvinen and George William Jarvinen; two brothers: Jon (Margaret) Jarvinen, Bass Lake, MN; and Donald Jarvinen Cloquet, MN; a sister Anne (Keith) Young, Gilbert, MN and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by brothers and sisters-in-law: Robert Schoenecker, Washington; Jerome (Janet) Schoenecker, Eagan, MN; Mary (Richard) Stevens, Buffalo, MN; Jane (Richard-deceased) Schoenecker, Stevens Point, WI; Carol (Cathy Geist) Schoenecker, Minneapolis, MN; Patricia (Doug Shoemaker) Schoenecker, Apple Valley, MN; Susan (Bob) Steffen, Plymouth, MN; John Schoenecker, Bemidji, MN; and Martha (David) Harper, Los Angeles, CA. He was preceded in death by his father, Uno Dalvin Jarvinen, and his mother, Anne Jarvinen Kangas.

A Mass of Christian burial will be offered 11 a.m. Saturday, July 23, 2011 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Church, Winona with Father Richard Colletti officiating. Visitation will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, July 22, 2011 at Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home, Winona, MN. Memorials may be directed to Winona State University Foundation, St Mary's University of MN or St John's University, Collegeville, MN. Dick loved his family and community, loved doing math research and teaching, loved helping students, loved working at NASA, loved distance running and cross country skiing. He continued to have a strong will to live amidst the relentless ravages of cancer and struggled valiantly for years against terrible odds. He will be sorely missed by many. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Winona.