

Richard Joseph Chetson, 82, passed away on September 11, 2023, after a battle with cancer. His wife, Carole Gooding Chetson, was at his side as he passed.

Richard was born in Andover, Massachusetts on August 27, 1941, to Matthew Chetson and Adele Bourassa. After graduating from Andover High School in 1959, he earned a degree in English at Merrimack College in North Andover. He then joined the Peace Corps serving in Somalia, where he taught English. He returned to the United States and continued as a teacher in the Philadelphia Public School system from 1968 until his retirement in 2003.

Richard taught English and Social Studies at C. C. A. Baldi Middle School for over three decades. At Baldi, he launched the award-winning Legal Eagles program. He was a dedicated and passionate educator, challenging his students to reach their fullest potential.

During his 82 years, Richard was a voracious reader and an opera buff with season tickets to the Metropolitan Opera House. He was a yoga instructor, a marathoner, a gardener, a fly fisherman, and a wonderful cook. He traveled to Africa, all parts of Europe, and throughout the United States. In his later life, he taught himself Italian and spent time on the Amalfi coast. He was also an avid golfer and going out on the courses was an unequalled joy for him.

Richard was a proud union member and Democrat and took an active role in helping to elect candidates whose liberal policies he supported.

In 1969, Richard married his first wife, Karen Ladden. Together they raised three children: Damon, Colin, and Sarah. Karen and Colin preceded him in death. He married his second wife, Carole Gooding, in 2014. Richard and Carole were an exceptional couple who shared many of the same views, activities, and interests.

The memory of Richard will always be in our hearts, and he will never be forgotten. There are no funeral or memorial services planned at this time.