



Stanley Appelbaum

December 7, 1931 - January 1, 2016

Stanley Appelbaum, 84, passed away on January 1, 2016 in Bonita Springs, Florida. Stan was born on December 7, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY. Raised in foster homes and orphanages from the age of 6 months, Stan 'took charge' of his own life at an early age. He graduated from High School at the age of 15 and college (CCNY) with a degree in Psychology at the age of 19. Stan served in the Army from 1950 to 1952. Stan found a career in retailing starting with Robert Hall Clothing, and in 1974 started his own chain of giftware stores (Gifts, Etc.) in the Chicago area. He sold his company in 1985 and retired to Bonita Springs. Stan loved boating, but after a few years knew that he wanted to help children in the foster care system. He became a Guardian Ad Litem in 1990. He was also Chair of the Citizens Foster Care Review Board, Chair of the Florida Local Advocacy Council on Mental Health and Chair of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Advisory Council. He was also a member of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board at Florida Gulf Coast University. In addition, he was also on the Board of Children's Network of Southwest Florida. The project that he was most proud of was starting a non-profit for foster children (The Friends of Foster Children Forever) in 1999. Friends of Foster Children Forever has helped thousands of children and continues to be an integral part of the foster care system in Collier County. In recent years Stan had become the 'go to' guy when people had trouble getting mental health aid for a family member.

Stan is survived by his loving wife, Cathy, children Deborah, Karen (Rick), Todd (Tracy), and Mike (Kirsten). Stan was a proud 'Papa' to grandchildren Elizabeth, Matthew, Christina, Carly, Jordan, Riley, Jessica, and Michael.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name may be made to the Friends of Foster Children Forever, 2675 Horseshoe Dr. S, Suite 402, Naples, FL 34104 or to Hope Hospice, Joanne's House, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Stanley Appelbaum*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Stanley Appelbaum.*



January 07, 2016 at 01:23 PM



“ *When we were together on Foster Care Review meetings, it took me no time to find that Stan had a sarcastic sense of humor and a great heart. We bantered for years, holding each other in the highest esteem. Over the years, our paths crossed in different venues, mostly relating to foster kids. A fighter, a Warrior, a prince of a man! Rest well, our Stan!*

lorel martens - January 05, 2016 at 07:22 AM

BW

“ Stan was a beacon of light that touched so many who struggled through the darkness that sometimes enters the lives of so many. Stan was generous with his time and sharing his wisdom to help others.

Stan was admired and was an inspiration to myself and my wife to do more for our local children in our community.

He helped us to design a business plan for Naples Auto Donation Center that will carry on his efforts to insure that children at risk get every opportunity to thrive both in school and in life. He will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Cathy and the entire family.

Bill & Jennifer Walsh Naples FL

Bill Walsh - January 05, 2016 at 06:35 AM

TS

“ I have known Stan since 1958. We traveled the country opening Robert Hall stores and have been friends ever since. Later on in life, we met up in Naples, FL and went on to invest in several business ventures. He was a friend of my entire family in Chicago and Naples, plus we socialized periodically thru the years. God bless my friend, I will miss him. Tony Manes and Susie. Naples, FL

Tony Manes & Susie - January 03, 2016 at 01:32 PM