



## Richard E. Touw

May 7, 1945 - January 31, 2019

Wantage - Richard E. Touw, age 73, peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at his residence while surrounded by his loving family. Born in Sussex to the late Harold E. and Hazel E. (Steckelberg) Touw, Maj. Touw was a lifelong resident of Sussex County. While serving active duty in the United States Army from 1965 to 1968, Maj. Touw was assigned to the First Infantry Division, where he earned the rank of Sergeant. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was recognized by the United Services Organization for voluntary work and ultimately promoted to Sergeant and assigned as a "Provost Marshall Investigator," covering New Mexico and western Texas.

Maj. Touw joined the New Jersey State Police in 1969, where he worked at various stations in the northern part of the state; including the Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike. He was ultimately promoted to the rank of Major in 1998, the first State Police Trooper to attain the rank of Major from Sussex County.

Along the way, he was assigned to the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) in West Trenton. In 1992, Maj. Touw organized the Cargo Theft & Robbery Unit, which was mandated by the Governor to address the State's escalating cargo and robbery crime rate. While at this assignment, he developed a computer

program that increased recovery rates by analyzing theft reports to insurance carriers and law enforcement. The crime rate was reduced by 40% in 18 months. He also developed an airlock security system for tractor-trailers.

In 1995, Maj. Touw was named law enforcement officer of the year in Washington, DC by the National Cargo Security Council. He later returned to IAB and was promoted to Captain, revising the Division's internal investigation manual and campaigning successfully to have the first female trooper assigned to the bureau. Maj. Touw subsequently transferred to the position of Investigations Officer and was promoted to Major, where he supervised and directed the activities of all criminal investigations within the State; including Narcotics, Organized Crime, Official Corruption, Internet Crimes, High Technology, Arson, Bomb, and Major Crimes Units.

One of the greatest moments in his career is when he became a member of a 1982 multi-jurisdictional task force based in Boston, MA, which arrested and convicted members of the United Freedom Front, a domestic terrorist group responsible for the bombings of commercial corporate buildings, bank robberies, and the murder of Trooper Philip Lamonaco. Maj. Touw represented the New Jersey State Police as an Executive Panel Member at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

He joined the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex in 1981, where he served as an Elder, a Deacon, and President of the Board of Trustees; chairing several committees over several decades.

Maj. Touw coached t-ball and baseball for the Beemerville Recreation Association for several years and then founded the Beemerville Girls Recreation Softball League and served as a coach for many years.

Maj. Touw was very proud of the house he built for his family in Wantage in

1975 and loved working on home improvements around the house and yard throughout his life. He was a devoted family man and most of all, he loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. After a long day at work, he would always make time to go for a bike ride, play catch, go swimming, or go for walk with his children or dance with his wife. He was dearly loved by his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews, and friends.

Besides his parents, Maj. Touw was predeceased by his brother, Harold in 2009. He is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Paulette (Davis); his son, Jason Touw and his wife Kristin of Goshen, New York; his daughter, Ashley Ziccardi and her husband Richard of Wantage; his brother, Dean Touw of Strousburg, Pa; his sisters, Helen Ostertag and her husband Carl of Myerstown, Pa and Henrietta Martin of Branchville; his six grandchildren, Samuel, Baylie, August, Heath, Owen, and Emmett; and several nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex, Unionville Avenue, Sussex. Interment to follow at North Hardyston Cemetery. Friends may pay their respects to the family from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex.. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Richard E. Touw's memory to the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex, 21 Unionville Avenue, Sussex, NJ 07461 or to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation, attn: Parkinson's Research Fund, 10 Plum Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08091. Online condolences may be offered to the family at [www.pinkelfuneralhome.com](http://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## North Hardyston Cemetery

Route 94  
Hardyston, NJ 07419

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

FEB 4. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.  
31 Bank Street (Route 23)  
Sussex, NJ 07461  
(973) 875-3272  
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

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FEB 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Sussex  
21 Unionville Avenue  
Sussex, NJ 07461

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ My condolences to Paulette and the Touw Family. I worked with Dick for many years. He was a positive roll model and mentor, always striving to set the standard for the ideals of the NJSP: Honor, Duty, and Fidelity. More importantly Dick was a family man who was extremely proud of his children Ashly and Jason, and his lovely wife. As with everything in his life Dick fought a valiant fight, now he is at rest. God bless the Touw Family.

*Dave Salzmann #3143*

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**Dave Salzmann** - February 06, 2019 at 11:16 AM

JC

“ To the Touw Family, my sincerest condolences to you all on the loss of a great man. I know he suffered for many years but faced it with great strength. I worked with Dick and always respected him as a great Trooper and person. God Bless you all and give you the strength to endure these difficult times.

*Be safe and be well, Joe Cannatella #2852*

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**Joe Cannatella** - February 05, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard E. Touw.



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February 04, 2019 at 01:32 PM

CC

“ Prayers to you and your family. Carolann courtright

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**Carolann Courtright** - February 04, 2019 at 09:12 AM

EG

“ Dear Touw Families,

*What pain-free peace he is enjoying right now! It's not for us to question why such caring people need to suffer. From all I've ever heard about his wonderfully very active life he certainly did care for all those around him and beyond.*

*I, personally, will always think of him as 'Dickie' Touw. As a cute chubby little baby when he was born into our 'Mattison Section' of Frankford Twp., certainly none of our three families living in his neighborhood (and we all know who we are) could have ever predicted this precious little boy would grow up to be the man he became, doing extraordinary things for his family, friends, community, and even strangers. I, as just one from the Neighborhood, am very proud and honored to have known Our Own Major 'Dickie' Touw.*

*As he is in the Savior's own care now, I pray for all of you who he had to leave behind, and pray God will bless each in a very special way.*

*All My Love,  
Eleanor Gromlich - Hamburg, PA*

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**Eleanor Gromlich** - February 03, 2019 at 04:53 PM

HB

“ My memories of Uncle Dick were of a highly respected NJ State Trooper, an involved family member, and much more. He was also cool! He had own and drove a yellow Corvette Stingray and a BSA motorcycle. He tried his hand at restoring an older pre-stingray corvette. He enjoyed Alpine Skiing! He showed both me and his youngest brother how to directionally hit a baseball! Later when I started Junior College at CCM we would car pool with some of his fellow officers to night classes. He a had great respect for all his family members. My prayers are with him in his new life.

*Harold Brown*

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**Harold Brown** - February 03, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ Dick Touw was a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee that helped bring me to the First Presbyterian Church in Sussex in 1985. I was blessed to serve with him there for nine years.

He was a wonderful blessing to the church, the community, my family (our three children were born in Sussex) and myself. Our son John as a little boy was impressed by Dick Touw when we lived in Sussex. Today John is a federal law enforcement officer continuing Dick's tradition of service.

I have many fond memories of Dick's dedicated service for others and his love of his family. Attached is a photo of the front page of the New Jersey Herald newspaper of a church youth group scavenger hunt that Dick helped to organize to benefit a scholarship to help young people. Dick is in the back row of the group photo.

My memories of Dick were mainly when he was serving in the State Police and in great shape. Years later I came back for the church anniversary and he was having lots of physical challenges but still had his remarkable spirit and sense of humor. I helped him get out of his vehicle in the parking lot. I greeted him as I held his arms saying, "You are the reason that I am here today." He said with a smile, "You are the reason that I am standing now."

The whole Touw family and many friends have our prayers as we give thanks for this wonderful man and for God's gift of everlasting life for him and for all those who have gone before us.

Almighty God, we remember before you  
those who have lived among us  
who have directed our steps in the way,  
opened our eyes to the truth,  
inspired our hearts by their witness,  
and strengthened our wills by their devotion.  
We rejoice in their lives dedicated to your service.  
We honor them in their death,

*and pray that we may be united with them  
in the glory of Christ's resurrection. Amen.  
- copied from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship*

*We are all blessed by Richard Touw who faithfully lived out Christ's  
commandments to love God and love neighbor.*

*Grace and Peace,  
Bruce Gillette*

*Pastor, First Presbyterian Church in Sussex, NJ, 1985-1994  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, NY, 2018-  
present*



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**Bruce Gillette** - February 03, 2019 at 12:24 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased  
for the family of Richard E. Touw.*



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February 02, 2019 at 05:45 PM

RB

“ It is not a good way to start a Saturday reading that a really good person such as Richard is no longer with us. Dick worked for me in IAB and I can say he was one of the most intelligent, soft spoken, really good human beings that make up an exceptional group we call “The Outfit”. I recall him being selected by a service organization to be a law enforcement representative in South America, I think Brazile. May God bless Richard and his family as he charts a new course and a new existence where, I am sure, he will be warmly greeted. My prayers to his family and to all of us who will miss him.

*Robert W. Bauers Sr., 1958, Captain NJSP, Retired.*

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**Robert W. Bauers** - February 02, 2019 at 11:04 AM

JL

“ I was fortunate to work with Dick as a road trooper and then throughout his career. We worked on cases and we rode together the night Phil Lamonaco was murdered. I served under him when he became the major of the Criminal Investigation Section. In retirement we again worked together for his job at the insurance company. Throughout his entire career, Dick was a model trooper. He did his jobs in a professional and exceptional manner. He was respected by all of those who worked alongside of him and for him. It was an honor to have known him.

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**Jerry Lewis** - February 02, 2019 at 09:46 AM

ED

“ Essie DeSoto sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard E. Touw



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**Essie DeSoto** - February 01, 2019 at 01:49 PM

KA

“ So sorry for your loss Paulette. It has been a long battle for you & your husband. My prayers are with you.  
*Kathy Anderson*

Kathryn Anderson - February 01, 2019 at 10:03 AM



“ Uncle Dick was one of the first men in the Touw family that I met after I met my wife Tanya. He was great to me from the start and made me feel like part of the family from the first time I met him. He will truly be missed. He was a true American hero and served his country and the state of NJ honorably. RIP and God Bless.

Mike O'Shea - February 01, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ Sweet Liberty was purchased for the family of Richard E. Touw.



February 01, 2019 at 08:51 AM

WK

“ Worked with Dick in Newark station and at Div Hdqtrs, always a gentleman and easy going.  
Condolences and blessings to family.  
*Walt Kowal, Ret NJSP*

walt kowal - February 01, 2019 at 08:47 AM

NM

“ With my deepest sympathy. I did not know Dick but know his wife and daughter. They were amazing care givers and they optimized the meaning of family. My prayers to the whole family as they go thru this time of sorrow. nancy malone

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**nancy malone** - February 01, 2019 at 07:25 AM

JG

“ He was a great man husband to Paulette, a wonderful dad to his daughter and son also his grandchildren. He fought a long battle with his sickness for years and now it's time for him to rest my he rest in peace I will miss you cuz love and prayers to all the family may your memories comfort you during this time of sorrow Pete and Joyce Getchius

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**Joyce Getchius** - January 31, 2019 at 09:05 PM