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Howard William Segal

September 7, 1934 - March 5, 2021

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Obituary for Howard William Segal

Howard William Segal, our beloved father, loving husband, and 'Papa Howie' has passed away peacefully at the age of 86, in the early morning of March 5th in Austin, TX, surrounded by family at home.

Howie always maintained that one's most treasured possession was his/her/their good name, and he instilled this quality in his entire family. His gentle spirit will live with us forever, and we are so grateful to have known this true mensch of a man. He truly appreciated talking with people from being kind-hearted, genuinely hilarious and generous to everyone around him, from those he knew his whole life, down to strangers he met for the first time.

Howie is survived by his beloved wife of 46+ years, Millie, and his children, Lisa B. Segal (Arthur Strimling), Daniel (Melissa) and Matthew Segal (Elizabeth Fine); and by his step-children Mark (Mardi), Randy (Agustina) and Daryl (Dana) Kunik. His loving grandchildren who all called him Papa Howie: Jack, Jolie, Leo and Nina Segal; Max, Illan, Julian, Sophie, Elise, Nathan, Gael, Malena, Maddox and Reese Kunik. In 2019, the entire family dedicated a new lakeside bench with a commemorative plaque to Howie & Millie on the shores of Cedar Lake.

Additionally, he is survived by his sister, Lois Berman, sisters-in-law Beth Ann Segal and Patty Fallek, brother-in-law Larry Fallek, as well as so many wonderful, caring nieces and nephews. Howie is preceded in death by his parents Mollye and Julius and by his much loved brother, Saul.

Born on the North Side of Minneapolis on September 7th 1934, attending Minneapolis North High School, he also earned a degree from the University of Minnesota in architectural engineering. At the age of 49, he retired from 20 years at Fingerhut where he was well respected for his exceptionally strong business ethics.

Howie had three children with his first wife, Merle, after they lived in Hawaii for two years while he served in the US Navy.



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In 1974 he married Millie with whom Howie just celebrated over 46 incredible years together. He lovingly took in and brought her three children up to Minneapolis, forever linking two families in a big cross-country, Jewish Brady Bunch; his Minnesotan kids learning to say "Shalom Y'All" and the Texan kids experiencing true winter.

He was a dedicated music lover and piano player, bringing his children to countless concerts from classical to gospel. Later in their lives, he encouraged his family's musical, artistic talents and professions with pride.

Howie was funny. He always had the quickest wit, with his warm, clever and silly sense of humor; forever looking to get a laugh and usually nailing it. However, he was probably the most funny when his jokes were not. Howie maintained many lasting friendships throughout his entire life, and had a deep love of the importance of family; instilling in them his values of generosity, compassion, a love of nature and of social justice.

He was passionate about philanthropy towards causes he held dear in his heart, including the Native American College Fund, the World Wildlife Fund, and so many other arts, indigenous rights, civil rights and environmental organizations.

Howie had a great appreciation for cultures, arts and peoples from all around the world, and had a special love of travel: from living in Paris, to visiting Israel, Egypt, Kenya, the Galapagos, Europe and more, being also particularly proud of his unique collection of international antique swords & armaments.

But Howie was truly happiest standing in a river as a master fly-fisherman, going on literally hundreds of fishing trips with his wife, children and friends; from Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and Alaska, to New Zealand and Costa Rica. He and Millie's most beloved place to hike, relax and fish was Minnesota's North Shore where they made yearly trips.

Howie's passions for social justice are reflected in where donations in his name are requested, if so desired: Please contact 'The Millie and Howie Acts of Kindness Fund' at the Jewish Family & Children's Service; Can-Do-Canines, the PRISM Food Shelf, and any organizations which support and benefit Native Americans.

Howie was our beloved warrior, taking special care of his family and community; his memory and our fondness for him will always last as a blessing and enduring legacy in all our lives.

Rabbi Ellen Lippmann and Cantor Joanna Dulkin will officiate on Tuesday, March 9th at 11:00am Central Standard Time (CST). In addition, we welcome family and friends to join us for the shiva, which will also be held remotely that evening at 7:00pm (CST) lead by Rabbi Lippmann. * To receive an Informational Email on attending both funeral or shiva via Zoom Link, please send an Email to Hodroff-Epstein Funeral Home at zoom3@hodroffepstein.com.

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