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RICHARD J. MEDALIE



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MEDALIE, Richard J. Lawyer and Scholar Richard J. Medalie, 92, of Hull, MA, formerly of Washington, D.C., lawyer and scholar, loving husband and father, died on November 5, 2021 from Covid-19. Mr. Medalie was born in Duluth, Minnesota, and was the son of William and Mona Medalie, who emigrated from Russia around the time of the Russian Revolution. He was the beloved husband of 61 years of attorney Susan Abrams Medalie, and the father of Samuel and Daniel (Diana). He is also survived by twin grandchildren Clara and Benjamin Medalie, brother-in-law George S. Abrams, and nieces Rebecca Abrams (Nathan Benn) and Sarah Abrams. He was also brother-in-law of the late Supreme Judicial Court Justice Ruth Abrams. Rick was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota where he majored in Russian studies. As a Fulbright scholar in London he pursued his passion for Slavonic and Eastern European language and culture. He subsequently earned an A.M. in Russian and European Studies from Harvard prior to entering Harvard Law School in 1955. He was case editor of the Harvard Law Review, and was selected as a member of the first U.S.-Soviet student exchange under the Lacy-Zaroubin U.S.-U.S.S.R. Exchange Agreement. On several nights at the world youth festival in Moscow, he took his place at a favored debating spot in front of the Lenin-Stalin mausoleum in Red Square. There he would engage up to 100 young Russians eager to argue the pros and cons of nuclear disarmament into the early hours of the dawn. His exploits were widely reported and then recorded in the US Congressional Record of 1957. During the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations, Rick served as an assistant to Solicitors General J. Lee Rankin and Archibald Cox. He worked on appellate briefs in over 50 cases and appeared in oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court. He subsequently practiced law for over 50 years in the District of Columbia and New York. His exceptional legal skills were tested over the years in a variety of notable cases ranging from the impact of the Miranda ruling to the Penn Central Railroad reorganization, to the Iranian assets freeze. In 1993, at the reunion of his law school class, Richard and his peers created the Appleseed Foundation to "plant a seed" to grow public service among lawyers and other professionals, and to focus on broad systemic social initiatives. He served as chairman for most of its first decade. There are now 17 Appleseed centers nationwide and in Mexico. Appleseed centers are working to break down school segregation barriers, protecting voting rights, mobilizing civic engagement, and invigorating democracy across the United States and Mexico. Rick spent summers in Hull, MA, and moved full-time to the town 15 years ago. He

rapidly became active in the community, speaking at the local men's club on a variety of topics. One of his happiest memories was a lecture he gave on Bitcoin and the origins of cryptocurrency. He proudly boasted that most of his source material came from his granddaughter Clara's college thesis. He also relished the frequent heart-to-heart conversations he had with his grandson Benjamin about how to become a good person in a complex world. He and Susan were an inseparable pair, reading the NYT to one another, arguing about the most recent Supreme Court decisions and enjoying beautiful omelets that Rick cooked on weekend mornings. Rick was brilliant without a hint of conceit, resolute without being hard, independent but a quintessential team player. He had a good life, filled with accomplishments, honor and a loving family. He will long be remembered.

[View the online memorial for Richard J. MEDALIE](#)

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