



## Mr. Richard O. Sykes

February 27, 1918 - November 5, 2011

Richard O. Sykes

Loving Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, and Friend

ORFORD, NH--Richard "Dick" Oades Sykes, 93, the beloved husband of the late Myrtle (Chapman) Sykes, a former resident of Chelmsford, MA, Laconia, NH and Naples, FL, died peacefully at home on November 5, 2011. He was surrounded by love. Richard was born on February 27, 1918 in Lowell, Massachusetts a son of the late Richard O. Sykes, Sr. and Katherine (Vennard) Sykes. He was educated in Lowell and graduated from the Riverside School and Lowell High School, Class of 1936. He celebrated over 52 years of marriage to his beloved late wife, Myrtle Sykes.

Richard was one of the first drafts from Lowell in the United States Army in 1941 and was a member of the Squadron I 112 Army Air Force Base Unit. He received his training at the Dover, Delaware Air Force Base. He fought in World War II as a bombardier and nose gunner and engaged in 64 missions while overseas. Staff Sergeant Sykes fought for our country in different parts of Europe and North Africa while stationed in Corsica. During one particular mission his B-25 Mitchell was pierced by flak, resulting in a neck wound to Sergeant Sykes that earned him the Purple Heart. A day that was never forgotten by Sergeant Sykes was a mission in which 4 planes went into battle, with only his plane returning to base. For his skills and bravery, Richard was also decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the American Defense Service Medal, the Air Medal, the European theatre, Pre-Pearl Harbor ribbons, and the Good Conduct Medal; representing efficiency, honor, and fidelity.

He married Myrtle Chapman on May 23, 1945 in Lowell during a leave from the war. His quick wit and good fortune led him to a transfer to Westover Field soon after his marriage and he served his remaining time in the service there before his honorable discharge in August 1945. Richard returned home to Lowell and worked in the George C. Moore Mill for over 25 years. "Sykesy" was "the boss" to anyone who remembers him in the mill. He and Myrtle raised three boys together, Richard, Kenneth, and Ronald in their home on Brentwood Drive in Chelmsford. He enjoyed spending time helping with the family

business, Sykes the Florist of Lowell. After his time in the mill, Richard went on to work as an electronics supervisor at GenRad. He retired from there in 1980 and thoroughly enjoyed his retirement years with Myrtle, his family, and many good friends. They moved to Naples, Florida during the winter months and spent time volunteering for the Naples Hospital and Naples City Hall. In recognition for his over 20 tireless years of volunteer work as a member of the Volunteers in Police and Emergency Services (VIPS) at City Hall distributing beach passes, March 21, 2007 was proclaimed "Dick Sykes Day" in the city of Naples by Mayor Bill Barnett. While he wasn't volunteering, Richard enjoyed riding his bike, playing golf, traveling with his wife, and visiting with friends by the pool.

Richard was a leader, as demonstrated by his abilities during WWII and his held positions during his working years and beyond. He was a Brother Master Mason of the William North Lodge of Lowell for 57 years. He was the president of the Calusa Club in Naples for several years and organized the Men's Club at the Naples United Church of Christ, of which he was a long-time member. He participated in Habitat for Humanity home building events in the Naples area. Richard was always a social man, often striking up conversations with strangers and making friends easily. He was generous and always willing to help others. He enjoyed traveling with his wife during their retirement years and spent many days visiting family and good friends, of which he had many. Richard's greatest joy and pride in life was being a grandfather and he would tell anyone and everyone this. He was a "bragger" when it came to his grandchildren and he simply didn't care. He often said, "The two best words in the English language are 'Gramma' and 'Grampa'". The love he had was reciprocated right to the end. He was one-of-a-kind and the type of man, family member, friend, and countryman that many people aspire to be. He will be greatly missed, but will be remembered for generations to come.

Surviving Mr. Sykes are his son, Ronald Sykes and his wife, Jean, of Chelmsford; his brothers, Henry Sykes and his wife, Beverly, of Lowell, MA and Dr. Thomas Sykes and his wife, Aubrey, of New Port Richie, Florida; his sister, Isabelle Shepherd and her husband, Frank, of Haverhill, MA; his grandchildren, Tiffany Sykes of Orford, NH, with whom he made his home, Matthew Sykes of Orford, NH, and Kerry Sykes of Chelmsford, MA; his sister-in-law, Mrs. Donald ("Dottie") Chapman of Normal, IL; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his wife, Myrtle, in 1998; his son, Kenny, in June 2011; his brother, Frank Sykes and sister-in-law Helen Sykes; and his sister Janet Bowden and brother-in-law Richard Bowden, and brother-in-law, Donald Chapman.

## FUNERAL NOTICE

SYKES—In Orford, NH, November 5, 2011 at his home, Richard O.

“Dick” Sykes, 93, formerly of Chelmsford, MA, Naples, FL, and Laconia, NH. He was the husband of the late Myrtle (Chapman) Sykes.

Family and friends may call at the FAY McCABE FUNERAL HOME, 105 MOORE STREET, LOWELL on TUESDAY from 3 until 7 PM. Funeral Services will be held on WEDNESDAY MORNING at 11 AM in the Funeral Home, with Rev. David Allen presiding. Burial will follow in The Lowell Cemetery. Condolences can be sent to his family at: PO Box 103, Piermont, NH, 03779. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Dick’s memory may be made to the VNA and Hospice of NH and VT, 66 Benning Street, Suite 6 West Lebanon, NH 03784 (<http://www.vnavnh.org>) . ARRANGEMENTS BY THE FAY McCABE FUNERAL DIRECTORS, 978-459-9222. <http://www.faymccabe.com>

# Cemetery

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## Lowell Cemetery

Lawrence Street  
Lowell, MA, 01852

# Events

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**NOV 8** **Calling Hours** 03:00PM - 07:00PM

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Fay McCabe Funeral Home  
105 Moore Street, Lowell, MA, US, 01852

**NOV 9** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

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Fay McCabe Funeral Home  
105 Moore Street, Lowell, MA, US, 01852

# Comments

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“ Sean Rourke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard O. Sykes



**Sean Rourke** - November 10, 2011 at 10:09 PM