



Richard A. Guilford

March 12, 1938 - July 25, 2020

Richard Arden Guilford, beloved husband of Sue (Lash) Guilford, beloved father of Andrea, Pauline, Jennifer, late daughter Katrina and father-in-law to Joe Martinez, beloved grandfather to 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, left this world in the early morning hours of July 25, 2020, from the effects of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis - just one year, one month, and one day shy of the 60th anniversary of his wedding to Sue, the love of his life. They loved each other with their whole hearts.

Rick was a man of many accomplishments, but caring for his family was the primary purpose and passion of his life. He was our mentor and our model for how to be good. He was the good-est person we have ever known. When children or grands needed to reason things out, they sought his counsel. He always made them feel safe; he could soothe any wound with his gentle assurance. He exchanged 'blonde' jokes and played cribbage with grandchildren and was proud of the accomplishments of all of his family members. In his final days, he received many love letters from his grandchildren, who thanked him for his wisdom, guidance, and unwavering love and support. He made a pact with himself to watch over all his brood and keep them safe from harm. He kept that promise to the end.

He was a critical thinker with a life-long love of learning, and constantly sought out new educational opportunities, devouring books and lectures on concepts as varied as comparative religion, nutrition, and string theory – anything that challenged him fascinated him. He was a respected member of the United Universalist congregation in Naples FL, and spent his Sundays in community there, participating in the organization's forum and lecture series.

He considered travel one of the best modes of education, and he and Sue relished their travel adventures with Rick's brother Nick and sister-in-law Pat – together, they explored the world. Some favorite memories include renting an ancient stone villa overlooking the olive groves in Italy, riding motorbikes to the top of an active volcano on the island of Nisyros, and toasting Nick & Pat's 50th wedding anniversary with a melted chunk of the Jokulsarlon Glacier in Iceland.

He was valedictorian of his graduating class at Sturgis High School, President of his fraternity at Dartmouth College, and distinguished at the University of Michigan Law School. He was a member of the Michigan and Florida Bar Associations, and the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. After law school, Rick served in the Air Force JAG in Panama City FL while his young family was growing.

His was a life of dedicated service – he served on many boards, including St. Vincent Home for Children (Lansing MI), the Portland School Board (Portland MI), and Rotary International (Lansing MI). In his service with Rotary, he appeared at the annual Christmas party for 25 years as the man in the red suit, and his interactions with the children were deeply meaningful to him and brought him great joy. He was a founding member of Peninsula Writers (MI).

He loved photography, sought the perfect shot in evening's graceful light. He was a true wordsmith - writer, satirist, poet, speaker. He brought flowers, music, and laughter into the home. In his Michigan orchard, he watched for deer, turkeys, and racoons. He never thought he was sharing his home with them – rather they with him. In Florida he photographed birds, flowers, butterflies, and sunset waves. When he photographed people, he preferred candid shots, believing these brought out the person's true beauty.

In addition to the aforementioned family, he also leaves his brother Noel and sister-in-law Patricia, sister Vicki Doe. We are full of grief at the loss of Rick - the constant, the anchor in our lives. He was an introspective, thoughtful man, who did not act on impulse. He was the heart of our family, and he kept us grounded.

There will be no immediate services. Memorial services will be held in Michigan and in Florida as the world allows.

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

Comments



“ Andrea is following this tribute.

Andrea - August 17 at 10:58 AM



“ Andrea, please share my condolences with all your family. Your dad hired me as a receptionist at MacLean Seaman Laing & Guilford when I was 18 and right out of high school, and I worked my way up (with his guidance) to Legal Secretary status. We worked together for 30 years. I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Your dad was such a mentor to me. He was generous of his time and legal expertise, and was the very best boss I ever had the pleasure of working for. Your mom and you girls were the center of his existence. We were all blessed to have him in our lives.

Mary (Wackerly) Kelly
Eaton Rapids, MI

Mary Kelly - September 18 at 08:44 PM



“ Rick was not just a sensitive, caring leader of our college fraternity while I served as secretary, he was a deeply loving friend. He and Sue shared many moments during our visits to each other's home in Michigan. He lived with deep acceptance of us and others, and with natures' multiple friends, in the quiet woods around his home. His thoughtful words and writings spoke kindly of God's creation. His sense of us, as people, was always humble, the smaller partner in life's magnificent menagerie. He lived the fulfillment of life and is well remembered. Connie and I are blessed to have known him.

Ken Taber - August 14 at 05:11 PM



“ May you feel his love, strength and laughter in your heart even as you struggle through your sadness.
Sending love and prayers to all, especially Sue.

Kathy Eyia

Kathleen - July 31 at 08:21 AM



“ Many of our memories of Rick involved him reading scripture at Portland Saint Pat's as a lector. He had this deep booming voice, which could also be soft as well. His thoughtfulness as he read the scripture gave true meaning to the intentions of the author as to its words and meaning. He will be missed. Our hearts go out to Sue and the family at the loss of their patriarch and hero.

Dan & Melody Schrauben
Portland MI

Dan Schrauben - July 30 at 06:05 PM



“ Just a wonderful, kind and gentle person. He was a great listener which is an unusual talent that few people understand. Soft spoken but very intelligent. His family and world will miss him but not forget him.

June and Paul Mandelaro

June Mandelaro - July 29 at 12:34 PM



“ Rick was a charter member of PW, an organization I've appreciated over the years. During many PW retreats, I got to know him (and hugged Sue often). My thoughts and prayers are with her and their family. Rick had various interests, intellectual depth, and an ever inquiring mind. One year he showed me a gong his daughter had given him, which he kept on his desk while writing. He also took care of people in the group in not always obvious ways, beyond his legal or writing expertise. He had a big heart, which I felt open wide when he sang happy birthday to me at summer retreats.

Elizabeth Van Ark - July 29 at 11:20 AM



“ I will always remember Rick's seas of humor and his wonderful responses in small writing groups. When I write something, I often hear him saying, "The piece really starts about two paragraphs in and ends a paragraph before you've ended it." And he was always right! I often hear his voice making a comment when I'm working on a piece of writing.

What a loss to the world. I am so very sorry.

Phyllis Miner - July 28 at 05:12 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Family photos



Andrea - July 28 at 02:17 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Andrea - July 28 at 02:05 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Andrea - July 28 at 02:04 PM