



Richard D. Guffy

May 13, 1950 - December 21, 2011

Richard D. Guffy, PhD., 61, of West Hartford, adored husband of Ellen, passed away from cancer December 21 at St Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT. Richard was born in Bowling Green, KY to Rayburn and Lillian Guffy. He is survived by his daughter Jasmine McCulloch, her husband Jonathan, and cherished granddaughter Jordyn, and sons Kia Johnson, Ian Guffy and Travis Guffy. Additionally, brother David Guffy and his partner Scot Clouse, as well as brother William Guffy and his wife Karen Smith survive him. Richard earned his PhD in Agronomy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Richard was a remarkable man who had a kind heart, a warm spirit and treated all he met with kindness and love. He will be deeply missed by all those who loved him. Friends may call at the Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home 136 South Main St., West Hartford on Friday December 30, from 5-7 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday December 31, at 3:00 p.m. at Universalist Church of West Hartford 433 Fern St., West Hartford. Burial will be private. Memorial contributions may be made in Richard's name to the American Cancer Society 538 Preston Avenue PO Box 1004 Meriden, CT. 06045-1004. For directions and online condolences please visit www.taylorandmodeen.com

Comments



“ Richard was one of the nicest people I ever knew. He was one of the best.

Marty Rose - Lexington, KY - Friend - January 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard was a Farmers Insurance Agent with office at Battani Agency' facility. We enjoyed having Richard as an agent in our office, he was such a nice man. He will be missed by many friends and associates.

Marcia Jordan - Des Moines, IA - Friend - January 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I didn't know Richard and based on the notes people shared about him, that is my loss. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you, Deborah.

Deborah Albertson - Columbus, OH - friend - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ellen, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. In the few times that I traveled to Des Moines, I always enjoyed meeting you and Richard for dinner. You both shared such great love, respect and adoration for one another.

Mary Kay Sarvas - Columbus, OH - Friend - January 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Ellen, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Hang on to ALL the good memories, they will help you get through this.

Sandy

Sandy Cox - Ankeny, IA - Friend - January 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard was a good friend who graced my life with his wit, kindness, and strength. We shared a peripheral interest in sailing: we thought it sounded romantic and fun, but we never got a chance to really pursue it. Except that one time we went out on the maiden voyage with Richard's new boat, an open cockpit sailing vessel. We had a friend of Richard's, Pat, who was a veteran sailer with us. The wind was rather strong on Lake Panorama, but we were confident we could manage, especially with Pat's help. Midway through the cruise, the tiller broke. How it happened remains a mystery. So, we were adrift in the middle of the lake. Eventually, we lashed the tiller together and made it back to shore. Through it all, Richard was his calm, cool, and gentle self, making what could have been a disaster seem more like an afternoon's adventure, which it was. He is and will be sorely missed.

James Dennert - Urbandale, IA - Friend - January 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard was truly a prince among men and breathed the rarified air that surrounds such individuals. His kindness, humility and genuineness had no equal among anyone else I've ever known or known of. I unfortunately lost touch with Richard after he and Ellen left Des Moines. I will truly regret that forever.

Ellen, while we only met once before you and Richard moved, you are in my thoughts. Ian and Travis, it's been a long time since I've seen you both. Know that you're both in my thoughts as well. There are few things as difficult as what you're all going through now. I hope that gets easier as time goes by. Be well.

Marty Swartz - Waukee (Des Moines), IA - friend - January 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard will be missed. He was a friend to so many of us in the running community in Des Moines.

Elaine Van Dyck - Des Moines, IA - Friend - January 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard and I met shortly after our wives started working together at The Hartford just a couple of years ago. I soon realized we had many things in common - actuary wives, an agricultural background, passion for each of our home State's sports teams, and an interest in strenuous athletic endeavors such as basketball and hiking. He also shared with me an interest in teaching, and came to observe my middle school classroom with many questions about entering the field. I believe he was well on his way to writing yet another incredible chapter of his life as a science teacher when his illness struck. As someone who literally was twice my age, we built a somewhat uncommon friendship as two people who found themselves in CT so far from where they grew up. After much reflection, I personally will miss Richard's ambition - one definition of which I found to be "a strong desire to do or to achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work".

Jerry Prell - Newington, CT - Friend - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Richard helped me create two amazing sons that will carry on his legacy. He always had a smile and kind words for everyone. Ellen was his shining star and I am glad he found such love and sparkle with her. I am so sorry that his life ended too early and they didn't have more time together. I thank Ellen for surrounding Richard with such love.

Deborah Conti - FL - January 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM