



Richard J. Ward, Sr.

July 14, 1954 - May 21, 2018

Richard J. "Rick" Ward, Sr., 63, passed away May 21, 2018 peacefully at his home in Libertyville. He was born July 14, 1954 in Highland Park, IL. Rick grew up in Prairie View and spent his adult life in Libertyville. He was a graduate of Stevenson High School where he played football and met his wife, Linda. He instilled that love and discipline of sports in his sons, spending countless years (rain or shine) engaged and supportive of their athletic pursuits. He was a former heavy equipment operator for Land & Lakes Company for 37 years and was a die-hard Bears fan. Despite seasons of relentless defeats, his loyalty held firm throughout his life. Rick was a loving husband, an inspiring father, an adoring grandfather and a man of great integrity and generosity of spirit. He possessed a warmth and an innate curiosity and genuine interest in others. He was always the first to step in to lend an ear, or a hand of support. Rick was the ultimate host and was widely known as the grill master of the family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Linda (nee Davis) Ward; his 3 sons, Richard (Jamie) Ward, Jr., Michael Ward, and Brian (Vicki) Ward, and by his cherished granddaughter, Samantha. Rick is also survived by loving siblings, Barbara (Dale) Murphy, Herbert (Jean) Ward, Marion (the late Harold) Hoopingarner, Wilma (Don) Hartz and was a favorite uncle to many, respected son-in-law, and brother-in-law to several.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Mae Ward.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 25, 2018 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) in Libertyville. Services will take place at 11:00 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Interment will be at Willow Lawn Memorial Park in Vernon Hills. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the charity of one's choice in Rick's memory. For info: 847-362-3009 or sign the guestbook at www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ Dear Linda, RJ, Michael, Brian and Barbara, Herb, Marion and Wilma, Our deepest sympathies to all of you. Remembering my cousin, Rick, and all the great happy childhood memories of playing in his sand pile with the Levernier kids, climbing the apple tree near the kitchen window and swinging together on the tree swing. Also countless Sunday evenings playing Clue and Star Reporter while our parents played pinnocle. May you rest in peace, Rick. Love, Ardie and Carlos

Ardie Ward Cortes - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

SJ

“ Dear Linda, RJ, Michael, and Brian, My very deepest sympathy to each of you on the sudden passing of Rick/Dad. He was a wonderful man and much loved by you and me and all of us related to him. Your beautiful obituary described him perfectly. His long suffering is over and is a blessing as I see it. Hopefully each of you will eventually if not now, feel this way too as well as relief. Sending God's love and comfort and peace to each of you. Love, Sherry

Sherry Ward Johnson - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

SJ

“ May my dear daddy and friend rest in peace. Love, Peanut Butter

Sherry Johnson - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

JS

“ To all of you, we are all continuing to speak soooooo fondly of Rick. Our alley, our garages, our homes, will have a huge void forever. We hope that the stories, the memories of family events, the cars, the trucks, the grill, the fire pit, laundry Sundays , and sports help guide you all through this journey. The other am as I walked the dogs a huge skunk came strolling out of the garage area- I smiled and said good morning Rick- a huge part of all of our lives- we miss you and our prayers will help guide you ! Outlaw Jozie Wales(as you called me:)

jozie Silvertrust - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

JW

“ My thoughts and prayers will always be with you.

Joni Vitucci Woods - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM



“ So sorry to here of Rick's Passing. As Rick was in high school, I was an 8 year old boy growing up in Prairie View admiring his passion and talent as a Football and Basketball stand-out for Stevenson, hoping some day I could wear the green and gold like he did! GOD Bless!Roger Martin

June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

RJ

“ Our Condolences to the Ward Family. I will never forget all the great memories of playing baseball with Rick back in the day and all the team gathers we had. What a great guy, you will be missed! Lori & Bob Jost

Robert Jost - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

GV

“ *Richard J. Ward, Sr.*

Greg Vingan - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

GV

“ *How can one forget the good old days in Prairie View playing hockey and such with Rick and the rest of the crew. I then had the pleasure of playing softball with Rick in later years. A gentle man with a big heart. Godspeed Rick.*

Greg Vingan - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

DG

“ *Linda, Sharon and I would like to offer our sincere condolences to you the boys and all your extended family. We sure miss all the good old days when we played softball and watched the kids grow up right before our eyes. Take care of yourself. Love, Doug & Sharon Rest in Peace " Burr-Head"*

Douglas Groot - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

MM

“ *Dear Linda and boys. I am so sorry for your loss. I grew up with Rick and went to school with him thru the years. May the Lord wrap his arms around you all during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers, Marsha Sanders Mullinax*

Marsha Sanders Mullinax - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

DM

“ *Such a sweet soul, a gentleman and good person. We need more like you Rick! Growing up in the Prairie View area, I remember that row of great families...the Wards, the Murphys, the Leverniers, etc...what an idyllic place to grow up. He was a great athlete, good sportsman and all around great guy. You will be missed. Deepest sympathies to you Linda, and your boys.*

Denise Dorband Majewski - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

CH

“ *Linda and family, I am so sorry to hear of your great loss. I remember him from Stevenson and Prairie View. Rick was always friendly. He was also a great athlete. May God Bless you and your children during this time.*

Claudia Hajduk - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

CF

“ *Rick always reminded me of baseball when he was catcher and I kept score for AESHS. He was always helpful, kind, supportive, and a generally good caring guy. I'm so saddened to hear of his passing and my heart is with Linda and the whole family. Please take care and know I am sending good thoughts.*

Catherine Forslund - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

PB

“ *Hi Linda, We were very saddened to hear the news of Rick's death. We pray that the memories of your life together will comfort you during these difficult days. Our deepest sympathies, Jeff and Penny (Pfenning) Boeck*

Penny Boeck - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM

JM

“ Hi Linda; I was just informed of Rick's passing. I very sorry for yours and the boy's loss. I always enjoyed Rick's company and his passion for any endeavor he took on. He was my catcher when Stevenson won their very first baseball game after 4 years of futility. He was an exhorter that brought out your best. My God comfort you all with the comfort that only He can bring. May God Bless you and strengthen you.

John Mercier - June 29, 2018 at 11:13 AM