



Richard L Gumness

May 14, 1938 - January 7, 2016

Richard Lee Gumness—traveler, avid reader, political activist in later life, woodcrafter extraordinaire, and family man—passed away on January 7, 2016. He retired from a 31-year career at Wausau Insurance in 1999 after 10 years in the US Navy. Following a brilliant athletic career and a stack of dropped books in a stairwell at UW-Marathon County, he was hooked by Gail DuBrucq in 1957. Eighteen moves in seventeen years took them and their four children from Wisconsin to London, Illinois to Kansas to South Dakota, and finally back home to Wisconsin.

He is remembered for his bear hugs, optimistic golf swing, and enthusiastic work. By his family, especially, he is remembered as a sweeper of tarps after camping trips; the booming voice in the stands at any and all of their sporting events; the driver of a 32-foot RV; the frequent subject of his wife's endless pictures; a baker of cookies and bread; and a vocal watcher of every Packer game.

Following an extended battle for breath brought on by COPD, emphysema, and lung cancer, Dick found his gentle landing surrounded by family. His legacy is love, strength, and a thirst for life that he instilled in everyone who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Ruth Gumness of Wausau, and his sister Anna Mae Hassemer of Delaware.

To his wife Gail, he was My Bear. He was known to his children—Karen Gumness-Gabert (Tom), Brian L. Gumness (Sandy), Kristen Breitzman (Bob),

and Gregg Gumness (Stephanie)—as Pops, Coach, Papa, and Dad. To his 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren he was always Grandpa Duck. He is also fondly remembered by Gail's three sisters, their husbands, and children. He will be greatly missed by his two dachshunds Snoopy and Schnitzel.

A celebration of life will be held at Norwood Pines in Minocqua on January 16, 2016 from 12:00-3:00PM. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Habitat for Humanity of Wausau at P.O. Box 1372, Wausau, WI 54402; or to Seasons Of Life Hospice at P.O. Box 770, Woodruff, WI 54568.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **16**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Norwood Pines Supper Club
10171 Hwy 70
Minocqua, WI 54548

Memorial Gathering

JAN **16**. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Norwood Pines Supper Club
10171 Hwy 70
Minocqua, WI 54548

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard L Gumness.*



January 13, 2016 at 09:00 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard L Gumness.*



January 12, 2016 at 03:59 PM



“ *Thank you all for tributes here. But please, please send tributes to his and our favorite charities - Habitat for Humanity in Wausau, which he helped found there, and ours - Seasons of Life Hospice in the Northwoods. Addresses are included in the obituary. Thank you! Karen and Family*

Karen Gumness-Gabert - January 12, 2016 at 12:49 AM



Thank you all for condolences written here, and to our family this past week! Karen and Family

Karen Gumness-Gabert - January 12, 2016 at 12:51 PM

YF

“ *Your WalzCraft Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard L. Guinness.*



Your WalzCraft Family - January 11, 2016 at 02:56 PM

MT

“ *Brian,*

So sorry to hear of the loss of your father. It sounds like he was a very interesting man and a great father. My sincere condolences to you and your family for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Mike Thompson
NFHF*

Mike Thompson - January 11, 2016 at 01:29 PM

JF

“ *Gail and Family: Our team at Spectrum Insurance Group is composed of a number of former Wausau Insurance Sales Department employees who were hired by, mentored by, and friends of Dick. Great memories were shared this past weekend thinking of him and toasting to his memory. We are better for having him in our lives. Blessings to your family. Jesse Furrer*

Jesse Furrer - January 11, 2016 at 08:38 AM

CM

“ Dear Gail and Family,

We are holding you all in our hearts. Dick was always alive to life and to those he related to. Our memories of times shared make us smile. Eating good food, "discussing" politics, carving pumpkins, a Christmas you shared with us, stimulating conversations and many good laughs.

How fortunate to have known him and you. We are grateful to and for him. We will be unable to be with you in person on the 16th but intend to raise a glass and make a toast to a beautiful man who had a beautiful wife and a beautiful family and lived a beautiful life.

Cam and John Maurice

Cam Maurice - January 10, 2016 at 03:06 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard L Gumness.*



January 09, 2016 at 04:08 PM

MA

“ *Dick, Gail, Schnitzzy and Snoopy came into my life as neighbors, and they all became good friends. They are one unit, and cannot be separated. The world is a happier place because of them. I'll always remember Dick's smile and friendly wave across the yards, and the cookies and breads he was so generous with.*

Blessings, Marie

Marie - January 09, 2016 at 09:43 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Richard L Gumness.”



January 08, 2016 at 11:18 PM