



Richard Walton

July 7, 1959 - January 3, 2010

After a long battle with prostate cancer, Rick passed away on Sunday, January 3, 2010 at the Seasons of Life Hospice Home in Woodruff, Wisconsin. He was 50 years old. True to his nature, he 'went home' shortly after the Chicago Bears beat the Detroit Lions in their final football game of the season.

Born July 7, 1959 in Evanston, Illinois, "Dick" (as he was known in the early days) was the youngest child, and the only son, of Charles Russell and Vera Lois (nee Holmquist) Walton. As a child, he was involved in Boy Scouts and worked as a newspaper boy. He enjoyed the annual family summer vacations to Ilg's Resort on Rest Lake in Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin, where he learned to love the North Woods.

After graduating in 1977 from Evanston Township High School, he chose to further his interest in forestry by attending Michigan Technological University in Houghton. He earned his Associates Degree in Applied Science in 1979.

Rick moved to Laramie, Wyoming, working for the forestry department for about 5 years. In 1984, he relocated to Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin, initially being employed as a cook at the Gateway Lodge and then at the High Hat. Rick ultimately found his home as a cook at the Red Man Supper Club where he was employed for over 20 years and affectionately known as "Ricko (the

rock)."

An avid sports fanatic, Rick was a diehard Chicago Bears and Cubs fan. Besides playing Fantasy Football, he participated in an area football pool, winning 2nd place one week along with several honorable mentions throughout this past season. He enjoyed bowling on a league at T & M Lanes for many years and was an active member of the Rusty Nail team in the WUPY Y-101 Trivia Contest.

Rick is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Judy (Tony) Athmejvar, of Titusville, NJ and Mrs. Jean (Mike) Uptmor, of New London Township, PA. He also leaves behind 7 nieces and nephews, 4 great nieces and nephews, his cousin Doug Coulter (and family) of Evanston, IL, and countless friends from the Land O' Lakes area. He was preceded in death by his parents and two infant sisters.

A special thank you for the love and support given to Rick, Jean, and Judy goes to

PEGGY SAAD – Ricko's "second mom" – and the entire Red Man "family" Rick loved as his own

MISSY Z, Ricko's dear friend to the end: thanks for all the visits and trips with Rick; always remember The Refuge

SEASONS OF LIFE HOSPICE HOME STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS: Linda & Nancy (remember "DA BEARS"), Connie (thanks for "chaperoning" Rick's porch visits), Jane ("Annie Oakley" will not be forgotten), Lori (your "giggles" brought many smiles), "Perky" Sue (Rick loved your cooking, especially the cookies), Jackie, Nancy R., Pat, and all the CNAs. Also volunteers Joe (thanks for the donuts) and Carolyn (the back rubs were wonderful). Judy and Jean would also like to thank everyone for the caring support and friendships made during their extended stays at the home.

As per Rick's request, he was cremated and will be buried at a later date by

his parents' side at Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, Illinois. A celebration of Rick's life will take place on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Chuck's Rusty Nail in Land O' Lakes. Friends and acquaintances are asked to stop by anytime after 8:00 pm to share their pictures, mementos, and stories about Ricko. Snacks will be served and a cash bar will be available.

To honor Rick's memory, donations to the Seasons of Life Hospice Home would be greatly appreciated. Donation envelopes will be available at the Celebration of Life gathering, or checks (made payable to "Dr. Kate Hospice") may also be sent directly to Ministry Home Care, Dr. Kate Hospice, P.O. Box 770, Woodruff, WI 54568.

REST IN PEACE, RICK - WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE...

God looked around his garden and He found an empty place.
Then He looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you, and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering, He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered, "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you. But you didn't go alone.
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

Tribute Wall

BG

“ Dear Judy and Jean I lost your phone #'s, so I am glad that I found this place to give you our condolence. Ricko was was great guy and will be missed in the cummunity. The two of you deserve some peace of mind after spending the holidays up here, God bless you. Love Kemp and Bodil

Bodil Gajewski - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

LA

“ Uncle Rick:

Thank you for visiting over the summer so we could make some lasting memories (even if tubing turned out to be more exercise than it looks!).

We will all love and miss you forever.

You are always in my heart.

Laura Nadia Athmejvar - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

CC

“ Dear Judy and Jean,

We are so sorry about the loss of Rick. He will be missed by many. I am sure he was so happy visiting your families last summer. Looks like he had a great time tubing and beaching it with Judy. You are in our thoughts.

Love,

Doug and Chris

Chris and Doug Coulter - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

CB

“ I moved to Land O Lakes 14 years ago and Rick was one of the first people I came to know here. He was always friendly, polite and made me feel welcome. We enjoyed many a laugh over the years and he always greeted me with a smile.

My husband Joe and I will miss seeing him, especially at the Redman, where, when he could get out of the kitchen, he always greeted us warmly.

God Bless you Rick, you will be missed by us all.

Chris Hagen Boone

Chris and Joe Boone - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

JB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family.

Janet

Janet Curry Buckley - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

MP

“ Judy and Jean...

So sorry to see that you lost your "little" brother "Dickie". What memories those photos brought back. I see he died in Wisconsin, had he lived there too?

So much time has passed since we were kids. Has Anna Mattes been in touch? Paul passed away last year also.

Please accept my condolences...this was a beautiful memorial to him.

Fondly,
Marilyn

Marilyn Korte Pete - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

PR

“ Rick, I thought of you today (and every day that I hear the Cubs played). I miss you a lot and hope you are able to watch the games in heaven. God bless you forever.

Pat Rine - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

AW

“ Dear Judy and Jean, I'm so sorry for the loss of your brother Rick. It's been so long since I've seen him, probably 1980, but for a few years I knew him well. I remember when your family moved to McDaniel, and Dick, as he was then known, was so friendly it was easy to get to like him. We became fast friends. I remember that he had a strong imagination and would pretend to be a Disc Jockey using the big collection of 45s in the basement. Your dad seemed very smart with electricity and I was very impressed with the train set up they did together. When he joined my Boy Scout Troop, he quickly became the top Christmas Wreath salesman when he went door to door outside of the immediate neighborhood, maybe visiting Reba Place, and made a lot of money. He was a good scout and very well liked in the troop. We went on a lot of campouts together. He laughed like no one else I have ever known, and he did it often. Much later, I would hear about Rick from Michael's dad, Hans, who was a neighbor of mine on Cowper St. I'm not at all surprised that he chose to spend so much of his time in the woods, he loved being outside. It's nice to see he had so many friends at the Red Man. Also good to see he remained a Chicago sports fan. Rick was a great guy, and a good friend. I'm so sorry that he has passed on, but glad that he has been remembered so lovingly on this site. Sincerely, Alan Williams.

Alan Williams - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM