



Rick L. Martin

February 15, 1946 - June 29, 2018

Richard L. Martin left us too soon on June 29, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, with whom he would have celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 30.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM Saturday, July 7, 2018 at St. John's Catholic Church in Adel, IA. Visitation will be Friday, 4-7 PM with a vigil service at 7 PM at the church.

Rick was born in Charles City, Iowa, on February 15, 1946. He was preceded in death by his father, Jim; brothers, Dave and Steve; and mother-in-law Helen Latch, who - in spite of the nastiness symptomatic of her Alzheimer's - claimed Rick was a saint for moving her into his Earlham home and taking care of her toward the end of her disease. We tend to believe her sainthood claims are evidence of the last remnants of her rationality.

Rick served his country with great pride (and some other complex emotions) in Vietnam as a member of the Army. He recently enjoyed reconnecting with others who served in the 82nd Airborne in 1968-1969. He and Sandy also enjoyed an amazing "full circle" trip to Vietnam in 2016. He was looking forward to travelling there again.

Rick enjoyed spending time with his five grandchildren, enduring many hours

of music concerts and sporting events. He enjoyed good coffee and a nice Shiraz or Malbec, although not too nice; he was a hard worker and preferred putting his money toward his stock market hobby rather than top-shelf wine. Rick loved wintering in Cocoa Beach, Florida, and started complaining about the Iowa cold in early September.

Rick's survivors include Sandy; daughter Nicole (Jon) Ingraham of Urbandale; daughter Natalie (Vladimir) of Portland, Oregon; and five grandchildren: Lina, Leah, Lindsey, Logan and Luka. The first two L's were a coincidence, but yes, the next three L's were on purpose. He had a bonus daughter, Priscila, an exchange student from Brazil. He is also survived by his mother, Neva, and siblings, Bob, Bill, Kathy and Tom.

Rick will be interred at Iowa Veteran's Cemetery, arrangements made over 5 years ago which has been a great relief to his family. Please make a note to discuss arrangements with your loved ones. Rick was always ready to lend a hand, so it's fitting that he fulfilled his wish to be an organ donor through the Iowa Donor Network.

Memorial contributions can be directed to Ronald McDonald House Charities, where Rick spent a great deal of time as an important part of his granddaughter's support team, or Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for pediatric cancer research.

All floral deliveries may be sent to the church on Friday.

Cemetery Details

Iowa Veterans Cemetery

34024 Veterans Memorial Drive
Adel, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
24043 302 Place
Adel, IA 50003

Vigil Service

JUL 6. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
24043 302 Place
Adel, IA 50003

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
24043 302 Place
Adel, IA 50003

Graveside Service

JUL **10**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Iowa Veterans Cemetery
34024 Veterans Memorial Drive
Adel, IA

Tribute Wall

EL

“ We are both so surprised and sad to hear of Rick’s passing. We knew him briefly as our downstairs neighbors at Cocoa Beach and we were looking forward to getting to know him and Sandy more when we wintered in Florida. He and his kind smile will be missed next winter. Dave and Elaine Lagasse

Elaine Lagasse - August 10, 2018 at 03:30 PM

TT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tom Towner - July 09, 2018 at 08:22 PM

TT

“ Family of Rick Martin, My deepest sympathy for your loss. Although Rick and I never crossed paths, we have been on a similar path through life. I served in Vietnam May 1970-April 1971, US Army. Our daughter died at age 36 after 8 bouts of cancer in 12 years. I truly believe I gave my daughter Agent Orange..My mother at age 94 has been battling dementia for the last few years, but is content and happy. I myself am fighting Agent Orange..I have been in the hospital twice in the last 3 weeks. The Agent Orange fight continues.
Tom Towner.

Tom Towner - July 09, 2018 at 08:19 PM

JM

this is his daughter. thank you for the sweet comment and the condolences many years later. it means a lot. i'm deeply sorry for your lost too, and i hope you win you're fight. thank you so much, and i'm sending my prayers to you and your family!

jaidyn martin - August 12, 2018 at 05:14 PM

BF

My sincere condolences to Rick's family. I served with Rick in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne. We had gotten in contact with each other in early 2017, finally after so many years. We swapped messages and photos. I received an e-mail today, August 25, from his wife Sandy saying she had gone through some messages and wanted to notify me. At times, "Sgt. Rock" and I had some good times in Vietnam. I only wish we could have made contact much earlier than we did. RIP Brother. Again, my deepest sympathies to Rick's family.

*Bob Fitzthum
1st Battalion, 508th Infantry, 82nd Airborne*

Bob Fitzthum - August 25, 2018 at 05:16 PM

FF

“ *From Phil, Ann Marie, and family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Rick L. Martin.*



From Phil, Ann Marie, and family - July 05, 2018 at 11:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rick L. Martin.*



July 05, 2018 at 12:56 PM



“ My thoughts, prayers, Love and {{{HUGS}}} to Sandy, the girls and your families. Rick will be missed by many 💕

Bonnie Wetrich - July 03, 2018 at 11:54 PM

JG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. The sudden loss of Rick has saddened everyone. Although I didn't know Rick very well, I feel like I did through all of the stories you told Sandy. Keep your memories close to your heart. I pray for strength for your family.
My very deepest sympathy
Joyce

Joyce Gale - July 03, 2018 at 10:26 PM

KS

So very sorry for your loss. His obituary was a wonderful tribute. Praying for peace and comfort does all of you.
My sincere condolences.
Kim Boston Simmons

Kim Boston Simmons - July 04, 2018 at 05:05 AM

JV

So sorry for your loss. Rick was such a nice guy and I was looking forward meeting him again next year at the Class Reunion. I pray for him and all his family.
Jocy Vaucher, Foreign Exchange student in the Class 64

Jocy Vaucher - July 09, 2018 at 11:41 AM