



## Richard R. "Rich" Mueller

October 3, 1943 - March 28, 2018

Richard Raymond Mueller was born October 3, 1943, in rural Shickley to an enterprising and close-knit family, whose priorities were two, God and family. Parents Anna and Ray Mueller, along with Richard's older sister, Janet, were dedicated and devout Catholics, attending St. Mary's at Turkey Creek, before moving to Geneva and joining St Joseph's parish. Richard and Janet both attended St. Joseph's through 8th grade and graduated from Geneva High School in 1961 and 1956 respectively.

Richard's high school years in Geneva were a great time to be an American. The post WWII economic boom was good to most Americans and the Muellers were a part of it. While Richard, Janet, and their parents didn't have "everything" they had what mattered, God and family.

Following high school, Richard dabbled in college in Lincoln and Fairbury, but found his fondness for the "ponies" was too much of a distraction. After a few years, he decided his next adventure was to move to California, where the action was!

After a short time in Southern California, Richard joined a small transport company called Lilly Shipping. Richard rose quickly through the ranks to become Vice President at the firm.

He spent twenty years with Lilly, before they sold out to a larger company and

Richard took a new direction, too. That's when Richard and Shirley made the decision to exit the hustle and bustle and return to Richard's roots in his hometown of Geneva, Nebraska.

In March of 1992, they packed up their Arcadia, CA condo and moved with Richard's mother-in-law, Gladys, back to the "Good Life" in Geneva. They quickly adjusted to the pace of small town Nebraska. There were daily and weekly card games, regular trips to Aksarben, The Fairgrounds in Lincoln and Fonner Park. It wasn't Santa Anita or Hollywood Park, but it was home. Richard enjoyed the life he shared with Shirley and Gladys in Geneva. Not only was he back home, but he was back with family. In and around Geneva was his only sibling, his sister, Janet, but also many close relatives and friends. Aunts Deloris and Margaret, Uncles Charlie and Johnny and many cousins, all with whom he enjoyed spending time. His friends are too many to mention, some of whom, like Richard, passed way too early. What Richard had in Geneva was something he cherished to his last breath; family. Whether blood relatives or friends, he loved them all.

He grew up in Geneva, moved to the big city, came home, and is now in his eternal home with our Lord. We'll all miss you, Richard!

Richard was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; and his parents, Ray and Anna Mueller.

He is survived by his sister, Janet Bartak; Shirley's children Vince and wife Bridgette Smale of Seffner, Florida, Todd and wife Rosie Smale of Tujunga, California, and Tori Tirotta of Azusa, California; seven grandchildren: Kami Tirotta, Kyle Rios, Kasey Rios, Lacey Smale, Taylor Smale, Sam Smale and Ricky Smale; Aunt Deloris Stengel; and several nieces, nephews and many friends.

A Memorial Mass for Rich was held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Geneva. Father BalaRaju Morneni officiated

the service. A Rosary was prayed prior to the Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Charlotte Bumgarner led the congregation in the singing of "How Great Thou Art," "All You Who Seek A Comfort Sure," "Draw Near & Take The Body Of The Lord," and "Song Of Farewell." The recorded selections "Call To Post" and "Proud Mary" Were played at the conclusion of the service.

Honorary Pall Bearers for the service included Jeff Bartak, Stanley Bartak, Zsolt Haverland, Dale Korbelik, and all of Rich's close friends. Private Interment was held in the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the Geneva Legion Baseball Improvement Project or St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Farmer & Son Funeral Home conducted the services and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

MG

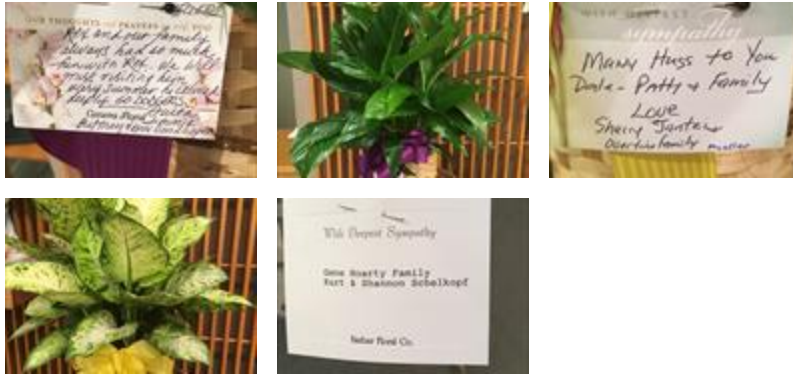
“ Mike Grace lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller



Mike Grace - March 15, 2022 at 04:04 PM



“ 42 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - April 02, 2018 at 12:49 PM

JA

“ I met Richard when I attended Fairbury Junior College 1961-1963. Rich came over to the apartment on occasions to visit with the guys. He was a good, humorous and well liked person. My condolences to the family. Jim Anderson - Ashland, NE.

Jim Anderson - March 31, 2018 at 11:29 AM

QD

“ *Quita, Jimmie, Brittney, & Korri Dondlinger purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller.*



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**Quita, Jimmie, Brittney, & Korri Dondlinger** - March 31, 2018  
at 11:28 AM

VJ

“ *Virginia And Mike Johnson lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*



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**Virginia and Mike Johnson** - March 31, 2018 at 08:45 AM

GG

“ *Gary & Liz Gerberding lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*



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**Gary & Liz Gerberding** - March 30, 2018 at 07:19 AM

MH

“ Janet & family,

*We are so very sorry to hear of the loss of your brother, Richard. We know he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. God's Blessings to you and your family during this time of sorrow.*

*Sincerely,*

*Marvin & Bridgette Brummer  
and Joan E. Henke*

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**Marvin & Bridgette Brummer & Joan Henke** - March 29, 2018 at 05:10 PM

MB

“ Marvin & Bridgette Brummer lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller



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**Marvin & Bridgette Brummer** - March 29, 2018 at 05:06 PM

AT

“ Rich and Shirley were always so much fun to have along on Ambassador Club trips. We never had to worry about snacks or drinks when Rich was along. He had such a great sense of humor and entertained us with so many funny stories that we were always entertained. He always fought to keep going no matter what his problems were. I will miss him.

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**Alice Tatro** - March 29, 2018 at 04:06 PM

PC

“ *Perry And Victoria Chapman lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*




Perry and Victoria Chapman - March 29, 2018 at 10:24 AM

ME

“ *Mark, Sarah, Brandon & Ethan lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*



Mark, Sarah, Brandon & Ethan - March 29, 2018 at 09:48 AM

 Joanna Kuhns

“ *Richie was the kindest most generous man I have ever known in the few years I have had the pleasure of being one of his caregivers we shares many memories and laughs together he will be forever missed by his "JoJo from Cocumo" God Bless You his family you are in my thoughts and prayers*

Joanna Kuhns - March 29, 2018 at 01:39 AM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*



Kent & Rose Theobald - March 28, 2018 at 10:16 PM

DK

“ *Dean And Laura Kassik lit a candle in memory of Richard R. "Rich" Mueller*



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**dean and laura kassik** - March 28, 2018 at 06:29 PM

DK

*he was a man of strength..janet...so sorry for your loss of your brother....he reminded me always of my dad..big man big heart..rest in peace dear rich*

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**dean and laura kassik** - March 28, 2018 at 06:30 PM