



Richard "Rick" Stracke

May 19, 1944 - April 17, 2018

Richard DeWayne "Rick" Stracke, age 73, passed away on April 17, 2018 in Fife, Washington.

He was born to Pauline and Harold Stracke on May, 19, 1944 in Tacoma, Washington. Rick graduated from West High School in Bremerton and went on to attend Pacific Lutheran University and University of Puget Sound, where he earned Master's Degrees in Public Administration and Business Administration.

Rick served in the United States Air Force from 1962 to 1970 during Vietnam War. He received the Purple Heart medal.

He married Cindy Hatfield in 1981. The birth of their children and grandchildren were the most important events of his life.

Rick will be remembered as a self-less, loving, hard working and dedicated man, who always had a positive outlook on life. He will be deeply missed.

A Funeral Service for Rick will be held at 1:00PM, Friday, April 27, 2018 in the Valley Chapel with interment to follow at Mountain View Funeral Home & Memorial Park. Immediately following graveside a reception will be held in the Willow Room.

If you would like to make a donation in Rick's honor, the family requests those donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Please share your memories of Rick and condolences to the family by visiting the tribute wall.

Cemetery

Events

**Mountain View
Memorial Park**
4100 Steilacoom
Blvd. SW
Lakewood, WA,
98499

- APR 27 Funeral Service** 01:00PM
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- Valley Chapel
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood, WA, US, 98499
- APR 27 Reception following the graveside** 02:00PM - 05:00PM
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- Willow Room - Celebration of Life Building on the grounds of
Mountain View Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, LAKEWOOD, WA, US, 98499
- APR 27 Graveside Service** 02:30PM
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- Mountain View Memorial Park
4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood, WA, US, 98499

Comments



“ "Genuine" is what we should all aspire to be remembered as....
Loving thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace in this time of loss Cindy and Tiffany - your foundation has surely been shaken - but your fond memories will support you and get you through... It was so evident that you were his world and he will always be with you in your hearts until you meet again... Love and hugs <3

Teri Gieck - April 24, 2018 at 02:02 PM



“ When you spend 8 hours a day, 260 days a year for more than 20 years with someone, you learn their likes and dislikes, habits, moods, body language and each share parts of yourself because you become comfortable and secure. Rick was more than a boss and co-worker; he was a leader, collaborator, problem solver, team player, mentor, our cheer leader and comic relief. I can't tell you how many times Rick poked his head in my office on his way to the bathroom, with newspaper in hand, and said "If, no I mean when the president calls, take a message, I'll get back to him." Or sheepishly came and said, "Don't be mad, I know I'm a pain in the ass, but do you have a copy of.....?" 99.9% of the time I had what he was looking for, with his squiggled initials on it meaning he had read it.
I cut something out of the Seattle Times and put it in the scrapbook I made when he retired that said something like: Boss, a mentor that helps you reach your full potential. That was Rick. We are all better people because of him. He didn't do things for the accolades or awards, he did them for the betterment of students and staff of the Renton School District.
He was intelligent but not pompous, thorough but concise, down to earth, a forward thinker, resourceful, inclusive, caring and kind. He was our friend. He had a wealth of knowledge and remembered everything, he could recall the what, when, why and how of past projects and issues. He wasn't afraid to look "outside the box" and try something new after researching it.
We have shared life happenings; marriages and weddings, the births of grandchildren, anniversaries and birthdays. We shared tragedies too; sickness, life's ups and downs, the loss of family and friends. It has built a bond that cannot be broken.
If I had to choose one word to describe Rick, it would be genuine, defined as being the same in fact as appearance. There was never anything fake or questionable about Rick – he was authentic through and through.
Mucho grassy ass my friend, rest in peace, you will be missed more than you know.
Theresa Reece

Theresa Reece - April 23, 2018 at 02:04 PM



“ Theresa, you beautifully stated how all of us that worked with Rick feel.

Jack Connell - April 23, 2018 at 07:19 PM



“ Amazing tribute to a truly amazing man! Well said!

Julie Hatfield - April 24, 2018 at 02:16 PM