



Richard N. Rich

August 13, 1938 - February 19, 2022

Richard Noel Rich, 83, of Centralia, passed away, Saturday, February 19, 2022 at Centralia Manor.

He was born the son of Noel Rich and Esther (Parmley) Rich on August 13th, 1938 in Centralia. Richard married Barbara J. Dilg of Junction City in 1958 and they later divorced. He married Jennette Eells in 1989 and they later divorced.

Richard is survived by his daughter: Tanga Coffey and husband Brad of Centralia and son: Tony Rich of Centralia; a step Son: Jeff Eells and wife Christy of Winterville, NC; daughter-in-law: Michelle Eells of Ithaca, NY; three grandchildren: Jordan Coffey, Tyson Coffey and wife Karlie and Bethany Essner and husband Michael all of Centralia; three step Grandchildren: Kayla Eells, Cole Eells and Cade Eells all of Ithaca, NY; great-grandson: Shepherd Coffey; sister: Elizabeth Risinger of Owensboro Ky,; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, step-son: Greg Eells, brother; Marlin Rich, sister: Mary Kathleen Bryant, brother-in-law: Steve Bryant, and brother-in-law Bill Risinger.

Richard graduated from Centralia High School in 1956, he then attended Centralia Jr. College in 1965, he graduated from Eastern IL University with his Bachelors Degree in 1968, and in 1970 he graduated from Eastern IL University with his Masters. Richard was in education for 34 years. He was a Counselor and Dean of Students at Centralia High School for 20 years. He

was the Principal at Sandoval Jr. High and High School for 4 years. He was employed with Patoka High School as a Counselor for 10 years. He was also a member of the board of trustees of Kaskaskia College.

Richard was deeply involved with Central City Baptist and served in several Leadership Positions in the church. He enjoyed serving his Lord and Savior in any way he could.

Services will be held Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Central City Baptist Church, 304 South Broadway, with Rev. Mike King officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Park of Centralia. Visitation will be held Wednesday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of service at the Central City Baptist Church. For those who wish, memorial donations can be made to the Central City Baptist Church, CHS Alumni Association, World Vision, and Wounded Warriors and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Rich Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com and the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home Facebook.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **23**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Central City Baptist Church

Funeral Service

FEB **23**. 1:00 PM.

Central City Baptist Church

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard N. Rich*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - February 22, 2022 at 02:53 PM

SH

Was a dera friend and support to me while I was a student at Centraillia Jr. College in 1965. He had a powerful testimkny when a crash in a motorcycle race ended his career there. I see he lead a distinguished life in the years that followed. The Reverend (1969) Dr. (2026) Stephen H. Hoard. He was a great man.

Stephen Hoard - October 23, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Funeral Service*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - March 01, 2022 at 06:02 PM

MB

“ Richard was a most positive influence to all who met him. His smile and kind words were always an uplifting part of one's day. As a fellow Centralia High School staff member, you could always count on Rich for a warm greeting and helpful comment! Even as I would visit him these past several years, he was still himself - jolly and more concerned about the other person than himself. He was a great person and positively changed the world! - Mark & Debbie Beckmeyer

Mark & Debbie Beckmeyer - March 01, 2022 at 08:45 AM

G7

“ Nicest person you would ever meet. Assisted me so much with guidance regarding my education and future. RIP Mr. Rich. 💕💕

Gloria Freels , class of 73' - February 24, 2022 at 11:43 AM

DW

“ Mr. Rich assisted us both greatly at CHS in the early seventies, so much so, that Donnie invited Richard to be part of his own retirement send off from CHS. Richard served to guide Donnie through the college recruiting process and helped with paperwork, testing, and college admission application. Mr. Rich had a smile and a wink for everyone he met. He certainly loved his family and so many people loved him. Heartfelt condolences and comfort for his closest and dearest. (Donnie and) Mary Walker

Donnie and Mary Walkef - February 23, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard N. Rich.*



February 22, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *He was a good person and always had a smile on his face and I enjoyed having talks with him when I would clean his room there at Centralia Manor. You will surely be missed Mr Rich.*



Heather Niepoetter - February 21, 2022 at 11:17 AM



“ *Mr Rich was a counselor at CHS and I worked in the Guidance office when I was in HS. He was always funny & kind to the students and staff. I saw him a couple years ago when my mom was rehabbing at Centralia Manor after a fall. (I believe it was his grandson Tyson that worked with her in the rehab program.) He was just as funny and kind as I remembered, and he remembered me from way back when as well.*

Many condolences and prayers for peace and comfort, I know he will be missed by you all.

Laura (Hollingsworth) Daugherty

Laura Daugherty - February 21, 2022 at 11:01 AM

DQ

“ He was a good friend. We talked last year when I was also in Centralia Manor. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Delores Queen - February 20, 2022 at 02:16 AM

MM

“ OH Mr. Rich, I my heart is breaking right now, more words later.

Mary Martin - February 19, 2022 at 05:00 PM

SD

Dear family,
I have never met many of you but am Sherrie McMeen Downs, the daughter of LaVerne Rich McMeen, one of Richard's many sisters. Cousin Richard was one of the most delightful people I have ever known. He never met a stranger and made everyone he met feel loved and special. His smile was contagious and just lit up the room. You knew very soon in a conversation with him that he cared about you and how much he loved the Lord. I envision him standing at the gates to heaven welcoming new arrivals with his warm smile and loving heart. He loved to serve the Lord here on earth and will continue to do great service throughout the eternities. I feel privileged to know him and look forward to visiting with him once again in the hereafter. A truly great msn!

Sherrie Downs - February 21, 2022 at 10:07 AM

SM

My sympathy to the family especially Tyson. Richard was the most optimistic person I have ever met. I believe he is walking again on the streets of heaven.

Sue Miller - February 21, 2022 at 06:11 PM

DP

What a nice tribute Sherrie. Karen, Stephen, and I drove down for the funeral. I'll be posting pictures and I think you may be able to watch the service. I'm posting them on the Rich family page and my page on FB. Karen also wrote something about Richard that I'm hoping she will post here. One of the things she mentioned was that when Richard was talking to you, he always said "You're my favorite cousin" before he said I love you and goodbye. That was so like Richard.

Diana Hess Pohlod - February 23, 2022 at 08:20 PM