



Richard Edward Root

June 16, 1945 - March 19, 2024

Richard Edward Root, a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away on March 19, 2024, at the age of 78.

Rich was a St. Paul, MN native who grew up in the neighborhood of West Seventh Street and graduated from Cretin High School. He married Carol Marie Mack, another St. Paul native, in 1966 and had two daughters, Donna and Anne. Rich and Carol partnered to put Rich through the Civil Engineering program at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, where Rich received a bachelor's degree in 1968 and then a master's degree in 1970.

The young family first moved to Maryland in 1971 when Rich started work with The Asphalt Institute as a research engineer. They then relocated to Ohio in 1974 when Rich transferred to the Columbus office of The Asphalt Institute, as a District Engineer. Finally, the family settled in Libertyville, IL where Rich worked first as a Vice President and then President/Owner of the Chicago Testing Laboratory and continued to grow his career as an international expert in asphalt pavements and as a developer of industry testing standards and procedures. Through the Lab, he taught mix design methodology to hundreds of Department of Transportation and contractor personnel around the United States. Rich authored many industry articles, volunteered with many industry associations and served as the president of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists in 1985. After "retirement" Rich continued his career as an

expert legal consultant on pavement designs.

While on vacation in Scottsdale, Arizona, Rich and Carol found a beautiful lot and began work to design their dream home in the Sonoran Desert. Rich used early CAD capabilities to architect and develop the plans for the home which they then built and have enjoyed for close to thirty years. As his children and grandchildren began settling in Minnesota. Rich took on his second home design project on Lake Minnetonka, creating a summer hub for family gathering and lake fun. Rich gained renown among his grandchildren as an excellent boat driver for tubing outings, epic kayak adventures, fishing contests and Friday-night pizza on the dock.

Throughout his life, Rich was very active in sports. He was an avid runner, cyclist, and softball player. His sporting exploits and competitive nature became part of family lore, from bicycling awards, golf tournaments, and Senior Olympics, to two sprained ankles in one volleyball game, to cycling camp in the Rockies for his 50th birthday, to organizing and playing for senior competitive softball teams.

Rich enjoyed traveling and being with his family. He was always organizing trips, whether for softball tournaments, family birthdays, tours of National Parks, hiking the Grand Canyon, or road tripping across the United States. Rich and Carol made many trips to New Zealand and Australia - with his brother Robb and sister-in-law Kay being their frequent traveling companions.

Rich leaves behind his wife Carol, two daughters, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren as well as his two brothers. He will continue to be remembered through their love. The family is planning a private ceremony and in lieu of flowers - please consider a donation to the Special Olympics to support continuing opportunities for children and adults to experience the joy of sports and friendship.

Tribute Wall

NB

“ Carol, Bob & I are so sorry to hear the sad news. We always enjoyed having Rich spend the night with us before an ABR cycling events. He was an excellent guest; always helpful and showed us how to make an ice cream soda. You both met us one time in Moriarty, NM for the Record Challenge Time Trial. Our team Midwest Masters will miss him.

Nancy & Bob Beck

Nancy B Beck - September 21, 2024 at 02:28 PM

GH

“ Carol,

I have fond memories of the time spent with Richard and you as well. I can remember when I first met you: in 1987 at the AAPT meeting in Reno, NV walking through the casino after the banquet. I recall a lady (that might have been you) with a theory about slot machines. Buy a roll of quarters, feed them into this ONE PARTICULAR machine and you always get more than 40 quarters back. Several people did so, and indeed they received more than 40 quarters back. I fed my roll of quarters in and I received seven quarters back. That, I realized is exactly the reason I do not gamble and still don't to this day.

I learned a lot from Richard when he was working for MNDOT on field testing. By that time (summer 1988) I was with the Asphalt Institute in the Twin Cities and visited with him about technical issues. In 1990 some of those discussion spurred ideas that became research projects when I moved to the research center of the Asphalt Institute.

I was sorry to hear that Richard passed away. It would have been good if he could have spent another five or ten years with us. Still each of us has to leave this world.

I believe the measure of a good life is the effect we have had on people we have left behind. A good life is characterized by more than the love we have for our spouse, family and others close to us. It is characterized by the positive influence we have on all those who have known us. I believe Richard lived a good life.

Gerry Huber

Gerry Huber - April 05, 2024 at 12:27 PM

AW

He did live a good life and was a positive influence on so many!

Anne Marie Root Weatherhead - April 11, 2024 at 07:34 PM

TK

“*Dick Root is the one that got me started in the asphalt industry by teaching me how to do mix designs over 35 years ago. Lots of great knowledge and so sad to see him go. All my best to his family. I owe Dick a lot to my success today. I'm sure he will be driving the boat for the good lord. Rest in peace my friend.*”

Tim Kowalski - April 05, 2024 at 11:08 AM

CA

Thank you, Tim!

carol - April 09, 2024 at 01:31 AM

AR

“*1 file added to the tribute wall*”



Anne Root - April 04, 2024 at 05:06 PM

AR

Link to the newsletter:
https://seniorsoftball.com/multimedia/newsletter_v10_e2.pdf

Anne Root - April 04, 2024 at 09:08 PM

CA

Rich loved playing with all of you!

carol - April 09, 2024 at 01:32 AM

GT

“ *First of all my condolences to Rich's family members. I started playing with Rich at age 74 like 4 years ago. He was the most organized person on and off the field that I have ever played with and that goes back to 1968 when I started playing slow pitch. Rich was not only a great person but a really good ballplayer and it was a real pleasure to be on his team. He will be missed by me but never forgotten. Thanks for all you did. RIP my friend. Geno #3.*

Gene Thompson - April 01, 2024 at 03:55 PM

CA

Thank you, Gene!

carol - April 09, 2024 at 01:32 AM

BK

“ *On behalf of the Fountain Hills Senior Softball group, our deepest sympathy to Rich's family. He was a great guy and will be missed.*

Bob Kane - March 27, 2024 at 07:11 PM

CA

Thank you so much!

carol - April 09, 2024 at 01:33 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah - March 27, 2024 at 02:12 PM