



Richard Cichoski

January 25, 1947 - March 25, 2021

CICHOSKI, Richard. March 25, 2021. Age 74. Beloved husband of Patricia for 52 years. Dearest father of Lisa (Kevin) Richter and Kristie (Michael) Szejbach. Loving grandfather of Brianna, Addison, Noah, and Aubrey. Cherished brother of David (Marsha) and Dennis (the late Susan) and brother-in-law of Bill (Rosanne) Cherfoli. Beloved uncle of Matt, Billy, Lauren, Taylor and Connor.

Rich worked in the automotive engineering field for over 50 years. He was passionate about cars and especially loved his 1969 Z28 Camaro. Even after he retired, you could find him tinkering in his garage re-engineering everything from small engines to household appliances. He loved to apply his engineering talents to help his daughters on their school projects. Rich's motto was "go big or go home". One project was so elaborate with hand-whittled canoes, a mountain range and teepees. While most kids in his daughter Kristie's class made theirs in a shoebox, Rich had to take the day off work to deliver the massive-scaled project to the school. His daughters were once princesses for Halloween, he created their "wands" out of solid wood 1" thick where each point on the star came to a sharp point. They were actually the first princess warriors! It was a perfect example of how he was always there to protect his "princesses" and if he was not, he made sure they could protect themselves!

Rich could never sit still for long; if he did, he would invariably have a snooze, which he had the God-given ability to do anywhere, anytime. He was often found doing the things he loved like woodworking, playing a variety of sports from baseball and hockey in his younger years to bowling, poker, darts and golf later in life. On the field, he was a force to be reckoned with...even after his newlywed wife accidentally turned his football jersey pink.

He passed down his knowledge and love of sports to his daughters by coaching their softball teams, playing basketball in the driveway with them and participating in family and neighborhood kickball games. He also was a Bocci Ball Champion!

If you ever borrowed one of Rich's many tools, there was no doubt who owned it. Rich

was known to label everything he owned multiple times and in permanent marker. If you sent Rich to the store, be prepared for him to return with multiples of every item you requested. He simply could not buy just one, often saying the store was giving them away “for free”.

Rich loved a good joke! He was always the life of the party with a hearty laugh, big bear hugs and a firm handshake. If you asked Rich how he was feeling, his favorite reply was “with my hands”. He often teased, “even a stopped clock is correct twice a day.” On his daughter Lisa’s 16th birthday, he told her he had a surprise for her in the driveway and tossed her a set of keys to her favorite car...a Corvette! Running outside with excitement, she discovered her new car....a remote controlled Barbie Corvette! Oh, how Rich loved to joke!

If you grew up in Sterling Heights you know there were no streetlights...there was The Rich Cichoski Whistle. When the neighborhood heard it, everyone knew it was time to go home! Above all, he was a man who loved to tell stories. If a story was good enough to be told once (and they all were), it was good enough to be told 50 times. And horseradish. He loved horseradish.

Rich’s grandchildren simply adored their “Poppi”. Some of their fondest memories were spent with him, holding hands, walking and laughing at Disney World...much as he did with his daughters when they were children. He loved to play long games of “Hide and Go Seek” with them. In fact, sometimes so long that they would fall asleep waiting for him to find them. While on vacation, Poppi watched his

grandchildren enjoy their time in a resort pool. Upon their return, he decided to turn his backyard into an outdoor oasis complete with an in-ground pool and pond especially for them. In the winter months, the grandchildren loved to play cards and games with their Poppi. They found it even more entertaining to try to catch him cheating! Rich passed down his passion for cars to his grandchildren. He loved sharing his collection of model and remote controlled cars with them. They especially loved spending time together racing the cars with their Poppi.

If you were a friend of Rich, his wife, daughters or grandchildren, he would not think of you as a friend; you became a member of the family and he would treat you like one. Poppi was a force of unwavering love, simply direct, larger than life (especially when he answered the door) with the biggest bear hugs!

Our lives will forever be empty without him. He will always be remembered for the full life

he led and the lives that he touched. We love and miss you so much more than we could ever say. Christians never say goodbye...we just say see you later!

A 10am Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, August 21st at St. Clement of Rome 343 S Main St, Romeo, MI. with a luncheon to follow. Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" @ WujekCalcaterra.com

Tribute Wall

PO

“ *My sincere condolences to the Cichoski family on the passing of Rich. I knew Rich (along with his Dad, Dave and Dennis) when he lived in Detroit many years ago. The tributes posted are an excellent testament to someone who obviously enjoyed life, family and friends.*

Paul Oziem

Paul Oziem - April 22, 2021 at 05:26 PM

LR

Thank you, Mr. Oziem. We miss him every moment!

Lisa Richter - April 27, 2021 at 03:06 AM

Gail
Ruth

“ *Pat, Lisa, and Kristy, I am so saddened of your loss....sending prayers and hugs during this difficult time.*
Gail Ptach



Gail Ruth - April 07, 2021 at 08:51 AM

LR

Thank you so much, Gail!! We truly appreciate your prayers!! XO

Lisa A Richter - April 07, 2021 at 07:09 PM

LP

“ *Lisa, I am so very sorry to hear about your dad. What a beautiful tribute to him and your family. Sending prayers and love during this difficult time.*
Lisa Phillips

Lisa Phillips - April 07, 2021 at 08:38 AM

LR

Thank you so much, Lisa! It's a very sad time, but we are surrounded by wonderful and supportive people (like you!) that help make it a bit easier. Thank you, Lisa! XO

Lisa A Richter - April 07, 2021 at 07:10 PM

BV

“ Returned from vacation and heard the bad news from Roy Kolwalski. Rich was a great fellow usher and fun golfing competitor. Enjoy playing in the Capuchin outing with him. he will be remembered fondly. My love and prayers to the family.
Bob Vetter

Bob Vetter - April 03, 2021 at 01:27 PM

LR

Thank you so much, Mr. Vetter for your thoughts and prayers!

Lisa A Richter - April 04, 2021 at 11:59 AM

LR

“ Lisa A Richter lit a candle in memory of Richard Cichoski



Lisa A Richter - April 03, 2021 at 09:59 AM

DE

“ To the Cichoski Family,

I also have so many fond memories of Richard and your family whether we were socializing at the Romania picnics, meeting at St. Peter & Paul for mass and gathering downstairs after church for one event after another, at your home, banquet hall events, weddings, anniversaries, baptisms and even funerals. Richard made a point of always welcoming others to an event, giving bear hugs, sharing a laugh, a friendly joke and /or words of wisdom. He spoke with the young cousins as easily as the elders. Richard was definitely an accomplished, incredible man, sincere cousin and presence, yet genuine, down to earth and inclusive with extended family.

My thoughts & prayers are with his family.

Deborah Michael

Deborah - April 01, 2021 at 12:54 PM

LR

Thank you so much, Deborah! My Dad was definitely a very social man and loved any get-together with family and friends. If you walked in as a stranger, you left as a friend. That was just the type of person my Dad was. I truly appreciate all of your kind words.

Lisa A Richter - April 01, 2021 at 01:19 PM

CS

“ Cichoski family - I know you're a close knit family and have so many cherished memories over the years - these memories will keep Rich alive in all of you the rest of your lives. There are so many great memories I have of him from when I was growing up - holidays, family celebrations, backyard barbecues - and all the fun and games that went with those events. I certainly remember what a great craftsman he was. My dad made my brother Kevin and I a rubber band gun when we were just young boys. We had a blast playing army with it in the neighborhood. My brother and I, along with the neighborhood kids we played with, had so much fun with those rubber band guns that my dad thought it might be something he could market to a toy company. Knowing what a great craftsman cousin Rich was, my dad brought the gun to him and asked if he could make a nicer looking model (what would be a prototype) he could present to a toy company. Cousin Rich made a gun that Kevin and I went nuts for - it was gloss black and had all kinds of sleek features to it. Every time we played army we fought over who would get to play with the gun cousin Rich made. Cousin George (and Betsy) send our love and know the strength of your family will help you get through this difficult time.

Cousin George M. Stefut - March 31, 2021 at 10:20 PM

LR

Thank you so much for posting this...I was completely unaware, but certainly not surprised. My Dad absolutely loved to create at every chance he could get! I'm so happy to learn that he touched your lives by making the toy gun! We are definitely leaning on memories like this to help us through these dark days. I will say, I do think my Dad may have had a hand in the weather this morning...2" of snow...on April Fools Day...Classic Dad!! ;)

Lisa A Richter - April 01, 2021 at 07:31 AM

SK

“ So very saddened to hear of Rich's passing. I've so many memories of Romanian picnics, bocci ball, trivia (and the fabulous arguments that went along with it). May the beautiful family you've created and the memories of all the love and great times you've shared sustain you in the days ahead. Sending love and hugs.

Susan (Stefut) and Dennis Kimble

Susan Kimble - March 31, 2021 at 05:52 PM

LR

Thank you so much, Susie and Dennis...those were great times, weren't they? My mom and I have been laughing and crying all week over memories just like these. I'm so grateful to have shared so many amazing moments with my Dad. Thank you again.

Lisa A Richter - March 31, 2021 at 06:33 PM



I have many good memories of Rich. We shared sport, cards, trivia most of all laughter. There is something that I remember about him from my childhood and it's stuck with me forever. He couldn't wait to be a father. Before there first child Lisa was even born Rich had went out and bought

Kevin Stefut - April 05, 2021 at 10:23 AM



Opps. All kinds of kids toys and sports related items. Plastic hockey sticks baseball bats and whiffle balls his shop was packed with all this stuff and Patti was only 6months along. Looking at his his love for family had no bounds. I'm feel very blessed for our families to have spent so much time together.

Kevin Stefut - April 05, 2021 at 10:39 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Alahudin Sarkic - March 31, 2021 at 09:20 AM

AS

Rick, I can never thank you enough for support and mentorship you provided. You are sorely missed my friend. Attached is a picture from one of our lunches as a group of engineers that cut the hole in the car roof so people can see the sun, which is what often you did for me when I struggled with problems of the job.

Alahudin Sarkic - March 31, 2021 at 09:26 AM

LR

Thank you so much for sharing the picture and your thoughts. My Dad was the reason I pursued engineering. His passion for the automotive industry was contagious. I'm so happy to read that he mentored you, too!

Lisa Richter - March 31, 2021 at 09:33 AM

BG

Rick, was a friend of mine. We worked together at ASC and GM. We always talked about work and family. He was very proud and loved his family and friends. And we loved him. I will miss my friend.

Bob Gore - April 01, 2021 at 02:49 PM

LR

Thank you, Mr. Gore. My Dad was one of a kind...I cannot believe I will never see him again. Simply said, he was larger than life. Thank you for sharing your memories of him.

Lisa A Richter - April 02, 2021 at 07:39 AM

LI

“ While there is no doubt that Rich loved and protected his family, he also did some wonderful acts of kindness for others. Years ago, I had a stray cat lingering around my porch and winter was coming. I mentioned this to Pat and she said Rich can make an outdoor cat house. Pat delivers the house and “Go big or go home!” was indeed in play. This cat house was so beautiful and really just too nice to put outside. I reluctantly did put it on my front porch because the intended purpose was to protect the cat. Once on my porch, I was afraid it would attract all the neighborhood stray cats because they could definitely fit. Not sure how many parties my stray cat had, or who stayed in there other than him. I would just put food on the deck of the cat house, and the cat I was trying to save was protected from the elements.

The neighborhood I lived in was beginning to have a rat problem. This particular day, a police officer knocked on my door and said a neighbor complained that my husband is ignoring the city ordinance and is repeatedly feeding bread to the birds. If this continues, we will be fined. The officer was very passionate and went through a 10-minute lecture on how any food is bad, it keeps rats alive, and they will multiply! Literally sitting two feet away from the officer is the cat house with fresh food and water in plain sight. I listened to the officer and continued to nod in agreement that rats, and my husband, are bad and they must be stopped. He lingered and kept repeating himself, and at some point, I knew he would add the cat house to the complaint. Finally, as he turned to leave, he briefly looked at the cat house. I thought, oh boy, now he’s going to add me to the “bad” list and I’m going to get lectured all over again. Nope, he turned toward the patrol car and wished me a nice day.

To this day I wonder what the officer thought this magnificent cat house was. To me it was an act of kindness on behalf of Pat and Rich - of which - I, the stray cat, and probably a few rats, were grateful!

With lots of love and memories,

Linda

Linda - March 30, 2021 at 05:55 PM

LR

Linda, thank you for sharing this story! I remember him building the cat house. I am a bit surprised it didn't have multiple levels and a wrap around porch. 🤔 I always loved the projects my Dad created. ❤️

Lisa Richter - March 31, 2021 at 09:39 AM

LF

“ Love, Jim & Kori Adams and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard Cichoski.



Love, Jim & Kori Adams and family - March 29, 2021 at 09:29 AM

TC

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Taylor Cichoski - March 29, 2021 at 08:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Cichoski.



March 28, 2021 at 09:50 PM

FP

“ We would like to offer our condolences to your family. Richard was one of our favorite and most liked customer. He always had something funny or a warm friendly word to lift our day. He will be missed. The owners and staff of Sapori Restaurant

FRANCESCO POMA - March 28, 2021 at 04:34 PM

LR

Thank you so very much!!! My Dad absolutely loved visiting Sapori's!!! It was, by far, his favorite restaurant! You can rest assured we will be dining with you often! Thank you for your kind words!

Lisa Richter - March 28, 2021 at 07:18 PM

JS

I was shocked to hear the news today of Rich passing. We shared allot of great times together from High School to Ushering at St. Jane Francis and golf outings for the Capuchin Brothers. Rich was always happy and a great friend to me. He would always be there if you needed a hand or just to give you support. He has departed too soon from us and I pray for the family that he leaves behind. Rest in peace my good friend.

Jim and Sue Schade

james h Schade - March 29, 2021 at 08:04 PM

LR

Thank you so much! My Dad mentioned you so many times in his stories of growing up.

Lisa Richter - March 31, 2021 at 09:35 AM

TN

I'm sad to hear of Rich's passing. I first met Rich at St. Jane when the church was meeting at Flynn Jr. High School, right next to where our new house was being built in December '76 or January '77. We didn't even move in until May of '77, but were checking out the church. Rich approached me and asked if I wanted to help usher. Responding, "Sure," he put me to work immediately! I ushered for the next 28 years.

Later, I was pleased to play golf with Rich, and other veteran St. Jane ushers at the annual Capuchin outings for a few years. Good times- good memories.

Best to the family,

Tom Nash

Tom Nash - March 31, 2021 at 11:05 AM

LR

Thank you for sharing your memories of my Dad, Mr. Nash. I know he loved ushering for St. Jane's...I had almost forgotten that mass was held at Flynn prior to the construction of the church! I'm so happy you have fond memories with my Dad. Thank you again!

Lisa A Richter - March 31, 2021 at 03:04 PM

LR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa A Richter - March 28, 2021 at 03:41 PM

BC

“ My Uncle Rich was a guy who was easy to like. Everywhere I went with him, he knew somebody and they were always pleased to see him. Could have been at a restaurant on Sunday after church, the golf course, grocery store, or even out of town on vacation it seemed. He'd always run into someone he knew and stop to talk.

One of my earliest memories of him was when I was a little boy at Disney World. My family and I were at the Indiana Jones show and I got out of my seat to sit on my mother's lap so I could see. A man immediately took my seat and my mother politely told him several times that it was my seat and it was still taken. He pretended to not speak english. After the 3rd time of my mom trying to explain to the guy... Uncle Rich reached across 3 of us, grabbed the guy by the collar, looked him in the eye and said. "She said it's HIS seat." The guy suddenly spoke perfect english and got out of the seat. Haha. That's how my Uncle was... Friends with everyone until you messed with his family. Then he became a force to be reckoned with. His friends and family were everything to him.

I am completely crushed by his loss and will miss him dearly...

Billy Cherfoli - March 28, 2021 at 03:14 PM

LR

I love this memory so much, Billy. This is classic example of my Dad! Thank you so much for sharing this!

Lisa A Richter - March 28, 2021 at 03:49 PM

KS

I remember that Billy! There was also a skirmish at the Haunted Mansion when we were kids. Nothing like having your own private bouncer. I always viewed his as being the biggest, strongest man.

Kristi Szejbach - March 29, 2021 at 08:08 AM

JL

“ I was fortunate to sit next to Rick during our last 2 years working at GM. He arrived much earlier and always had a warm greeting and good story as a group of us would kick off the day with a cup of coffee. His dedication, love of family and fun were all very evident in his stories. He was well loved and respected at GM. I was very sadden by the news of his passing and will always remember him fondly.

James M Lombardi - March 28, 2021 at 12:53 PM

LR

Thank you so much for sharing your memories of my Father.

Lisa Richter - March 28, 2021 at 07:31 PM

KS

Thank you for sharing, he prided himself on arriving early enough to get the closest parking spot!

Kristi Szejbach - March 29, 2021 at 08:10 AM

LC

“ *Love, The 5 Mary & Bader Michael Children purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Cichoski.*



Love, The 5 Mary & Bader Michael Children - March 28, 2021 at 11:01 AM

MS

“ *8 files added to the tribute wall*



Michael Szejbach - March 27, 2021 at 04:29 PM

LR

“ *15 files added to the album Memories Album*



Lisa A Richter - March 27, 2021 at 02:27 PM

LR

“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa A Richter - March 27, 2021 at 02:14 PM

JM

“ Rich was always so much fun. Every time we saw him he brought joy. We will miss him.

Jerry and Marlene

jerry mercier - March 27, 2021 at 01:44 PM

ET

Rich smiled with his whole face and belly laughed like no other! He put people at ease with his big bear hugs and always welcoming demeanor! My memories of him are grand ! Until we see you again ! Sending all my love and strength.
Erin, Domenico, Gabi, Fran , and Luc

Erin Telemaco - March 27, 2021 at 02:15 PM

JC

The memories are all fond.
Our heartfelt sympathy tp Pat and the family. We are happy for the many years they shared together. Joe and Susan Chiesa

Joe Chiesa - March 27, 2021 at 08:36 PM

RP

When I was informed of Rich's passing, I immediately had memories of growing up in our Detroit neighborhood, hanging around with his younger Brothers, David and Dennis. During those years Rich was always there to watch over us, and keep us in line. It was nice to read the tribute to Rich and learn about the Man that he became over the years. Rest In Peace Rich, my thoughts and prayers for the entire Family.

Rich Pawlowski - March 28, 2021 at 10:23 AM

LR

Thank you all so much for sharing your memories of my Dad! We are absolutely shattered but have so many wonderful memories to help us through the sadness.

Lisa Richter - March 28, 2021 at 07:33 PM