



Richard Joseph LaLonde

July 25, 1958 - October 25, 2020

LaLonde, Richard Joseph October 25, 2020 Age 62. Beloved husband of Tania (nee Knapp). Loving father of John Lowman, Alannah Lowman, Garrett LaLonde, Jordan LaLonde, Gabriel LaLonde and Paris LaLonde. Dearest brother of Thomas (Mary Jane) LaLonde, Michael (Lisa) LaLonde, Tim (Nicole) LaLonde and David (Vicky) LaLonde. Visitation Thur. Nov. 12, 3-9 pm at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc. (Shelby Twp.) 54880 Van Dyke @ 25 Mile Rd. Rosary Thur. 7:00 pm. Instate Fri. Nov. 13, 11:30 am until 12:00 pm time of Funeral Mass at St. Isidore Church 18201 23 Mile Rd. @ Romeo Plank. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" @ WujekCalcaterra.com

**** Please be advised that social distancing and wearing a face covering is deeply appreciated and is mandated by the State of Michigan****

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **12.** 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Rosary

NOV **12.** 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons - Shelby Township
54880 VanDyke Ave
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Instate

NOV **13.** 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Isidore Catholic Church
18201 23 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042

Funeral Mass

NOV **13.** 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Isidore Catholic Church
18201 23 Mile Road
Macomb, MI 48042

Tribute Wall



“ *Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Joseph LaLonde*



Wujek ~ Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. - November 14, 2020 at 08:33 AM

IJ

My heart and prayers go out to Tania and the whole LeLonde family. Love, India

India Johnson - February 02, 2021 at 03:13 PM

ST

“ *I just wanted to say how sorry I am for your loss, you are in my prayers*

susan tocarchick - December 30, 2021 at 09:35 PM

AA

“ *God bless you and your family. You are wonderful people.*

A past customer that hears you on air - November 01, 2021 at 02:26 PM



“ Oh wow! I had been wondering after I noticed I didn't hear both names on the commercials. I just heard the commercial on the radio and sad let me Google it. Omg I'm so sorry to know this. I had been saying forever I'm going to see Tania and rich LaLonde to see just how much like family they will treat me. Rest well Sir! 🙏🙏

Kimberly Miller - September 29, 2021 at 02:19 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this. Your commercial came on again and I was told about your husband. Your voices are the what I think about when someone talks about a KIA. Once again, so sorry for your loss!

Kevin Schultz - September 03, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ I am sad to hear about Rick's passing. I miss hearing him on the radio commercials and was sad to read he passed away last year. May God bless his family.

Karen - April 10, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ Never met rich personally but I loved his commercials with his wife Tania sad to here of this news. RIH.

Willie Hurst Jr - April 02, 2021 at 10:45 AM



“ I do not know Richard but loved his commercials it wasn't until the other day I noticed he wasn't on the commercials anymore my heart goes out to the family

dennis bakka - March 22, 2021 at 06:35 PM



Cheryl Hohn

Same here!! I just googled it because I didn't understand why he isn't in the commercials anymore!! My heart breaks for all that knew and loved him!!! Love, hugs and prayers to his family and friends!!!

Cheryl Hohn - April 04, 2021 at 01:23 PM

BE

“ *My heart goes out to Tania and the family, deepest condolences to all.*

I have never been a customer, nor ever met Rich, but his commercials have brought joy and fun into my daughter's hour long commute to dance class for years. I even catch her humming and singing the jingle at home, "You should be drivin' a Kia from Summit Place Kia..." all the time! <3 She will go on to do the whole commercial now, "Hi, I'm Rich, and I'm Tania, come visit us..."

Sometimes it is the little things that fill your heart so much! Thank you for being a wonderful influence on the community and giving me a little joy in my heart without ever knowing it. <3 RIP <3



Beth - March 11, 2021 at 01:19 PM

AN

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire family.*

Angela - November 13, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 13, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 12, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ *Total Shock, I tried to call a longtime friend from the Harper and Chalmers days to purchase a New Jeep and found out the news that Floored me.*

*Great memories my friend what else can I say.
Prayers to the Family*

George Dritsas - November 12, 2020 at 09:10 PM

CC

I worked with Rich years ago. He was such a great guy. My condolences to the family. May you Rest In Peace my friend 🙏🙏

Cheryl Connell - November 14, 2020 at 09:14 AM

YF

“ *Your Friends at Kia Motor Finance purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Your Friends at Kia Motor Finance - November 12, 2020 at 05:37 PM

NH

“ I am so sad to hear about Rich. He was truly an awesome person and when I would go to Summit Place Kia, the employees spoke very highly of him. My heartfelt condolences to his family and also to the Kia family. R.i.p. Rich.

Nancy Hawn - November 12, 2020 at 04:31 PM

NV

“ Rich was an amazing person who certainly left a great impact with me. After working for Rich for just short of 12 years, he has definitely taught me alot. He someone who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it without hesitation. He was an amazing mentor and leader and will be missed tremendously.



Nicole Ventura - November 12, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 12, 2020 at 01:53 PM

HF

“ *HERB ROBINSON & FAMILY purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



HERB ROBINSON & FAMILY - November 12, 2020 at 12:44 PM

KV

“ *KEN VINK purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



KEN VINK - November 12, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 12, 2020 at 12:32 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 12, 2020 at 11:22 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 12, 2020 at 10:51 AM

JL

“ There are so many wonderful things I could say about Rich (or as Tania liked to call him Richard or as he like to call himself Richard Joseph LaLonde, with emphasis) trying to summarize it into a few paragraphs will be difficult.

Rich had a huge, generous and kind heart. He was willing to give of himself to help others grow and become better. As we used to say "willing to help those who are willing to help themselves." Many times, though, people weren't able to help themselves and Rich was first in line to provide assistance, love and care. Second chances were a part of his credo, he instilled a culture of ensuring we gave people another opportunity if things earlier in their life had not worked out, with so many successful outcomes.

I recall that often in meetings Rich would get a little "elevated" about an issue only to catch a little smirk on his face. His bark was much worse than his bite. He was always fair, open minded and just wanted to get to the best solution. Rich taught me a tremendous amount; he made me tougher, but also helped me look at situations from a more balanced perspective. He was willing to take risks because he believed in his team's ability. There are so many examples where Rich was willing to put it on the line, and he had a hell of a batting average. Working with him was an awesome journey and I appreciate all he did for me and all of the employees. He knew how to build a quality organization and provide wonderful opportunity for all.

Rich was all about love. He wasn't afraid to tell you he loved you, whether through words or actions. First and foremost he loved his family - Tania, John, Alannah, Garrett, Jordan, Gabe, Paris, His Brothers (Tom, Mike, Tim and Dave) and their families. Rich treated everyone that worked with him like they were family too. He loved getting everyone together for summer picnics, outings and the knockout Christmas parties. Rich always had a personal touch at the events to ensure everyone knew how much he loved them and appreciated them.

This world is a better place for having my friend Rich in it for the short period that we did; however, he is now at home with the Lord and the view is much better from up there then down here in the cheap seats. He will live through all of us; we are better for having known him. I hope we continue his legacy of love, generosity, excellence, risk taking and all the other wonderful qualities he shared with us. Richard would want us to start that TADAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I love you and will miss you, Jack

Jack Lintol - November 12, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 12, 2020 at 10:05 AM



“ *I worked with Richard as a client through his dealerships. Soon Richard became my friend and someone I looked up to and admired. Oh...he was no push-over, he was a tough but fair negotiator. But I'll always remember how much he loved his Family and how he treated his employees like Family. I recall seeing that Gentle Giant wiping tears from his eyes as he gave out bonuses to nearly his entire staff. They hugged him, took pictures of him, idolized the man. And I've always admired how much he supported the Veterans who served this country.*

I'll truly miss you Richard and am thankful for everything we've done together in the past! Rest In Peace Richard and may God Bless you and comfort all those who loved you.

Larry Olek

Larry Olek - November 12, 2020 at 09:33 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 12, 2020 at 12:45 AM



“ I remember that day as a 19 year old kid who was looking for a chance to learn finance. Meeting Rich for the first time was surreal; he was this large personality, who loved to give you hell, but he had one of the biggest hearts you would ever see. Meeting Rich Lalonde changed my life in more ways than he will ever know. It's because of Rich that I met my beautiful wife Melissa (LaLonde), which in return, is why I have two amazing children. Rich taught me many things in my early days working for the giant that was ACE. Things that helped shape me to who I am today. He is without a doubt, a legend, mentor, an inspiration and so much more. It has been 18 years since that day, I will never forget Richard J. LaLonde. He was so much to so many and I will cherish the time I was able to spend with him through the years. The world lost a man larger than life but most importantly a man who did so much and never really asked for much in return, only your best. I think about the day I heard the news we lost Rich each day. I will continue to pray for the family, his children and wife Tania. Love you Rich! Signed your little buddy, Tommy 😞

TOM SRECKOVIC - November 11, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 11, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ *Joe, April, Jacob & Ella Bousamra purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Joe, April, Jacob & Ella Bousamra - November 11, 2020 at 04:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 11, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ *Brandon Hadobas & Marissa Mocerri purchased the Celestial Love for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Brandon Hadobas & Marissa Mocerri - November 11, 2020 at 01:46 PM

SB

“ I enjoyed closeto a 10 year span working at ACE with Rich and Tania Lalonde at the helm. Rich was a Mover and a Shaker, had a great sense of humor, and was kind and generous to his employees. He would personally come down to the Call Center and hand deliver checks ,share a kind word or a joke, and or compliment us on how well we are doing! There were fun summer barbecues and Awesome Christmas parties! (Rich your gift of the TV had been mounted up in my dining room corner for some time now!) At ACE, there was a strong sense of unity and family! Let's see; Rich and Tania, Dave, Mike, Tim, and some of their children worked there as well. Even Grandma Lalonde would stop in to visit!. We also had some wonderful managers working with us as well. There was never a dull moment and truly enjoyed my time spent working there. Richard Lalonde, you will never be forgotten! My Condolences to Tania and Family. Susan Bassett

Susan Bassett - November 11, 2020 at 01:15 PM

JB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jeremy Bochenek - November 11, 2020 at 04:31 AM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 10, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 10, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ *Cox Automotive - Xtime purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Cox Automotive - Xtime - November 10, 2020 at 02:33 PM

JG

“ I have so many great memory's of Big Rich, but this one stands out the most. It was Game day back when Rich had the suite at Ford Field. Before the game we went to Senate Coney Island for breakfast before tailgating. After Breakfast Rich and I was so pumped for the game. He challenged me to a blocking contest. So picture this. Me and Big Rich in the parking lot he and I are in three point stances and he says “ Ready set” I'm thinking I better get ready or he's going to mow me down.LOI so I said alright Rich hold on now I don't want to hurt you, he says “ please! I'm going to crush you”. Get Ready! So we get down in the three point stance he says “ Ready set Hike” he charges me I charge him and it's two big Bears blocking in the parking lot the Coney Island.LMAO It last for about 10 seconds and we hug and I will never forget this” Johnny I just kicked your ass” I said Boss you sure did. He said I love you kid. Damn I love him. I hope this memory will make everyone smile and remember Rich for who he was, a tough and loving ,never back down,all in Great man. Rest In Peace old Friend.

Johnny Grubaugh - November 10, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 10, 2020 at 12:01 PM

JF

“ Johnny G and Family purchased the Forever Beloved for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Johnny G and Family - November 10, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 10, 2020 at 09:47 AM

SY

“ Skip Young purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Skip Young - November 09, 2020 at 05:20 PM

MS

“ Matt & Lisa Sprague purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Matt & Lisa Sprague - November 09, 2020 at 04:44 PM

TB

“ *Tim and Caryl Bartholomew purchased the Laver Reflections Spray for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Tim and Caryl Bartholomew - November 09, 2020 at 11:42 AM

JS

“ *Rich LaLonde was an inspiration to me. When we started the Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court my wife Jodi introduced me to Rich. He told me he would do whatever he could to help us. What a talented, organized and committed leader! His support for our Veterans was unwavering. Many of the Veterans that completed our program are alive and thriving today because of Rich and his team at Summit Place KIA. God bless Rich and the LaLonde family.*
Judge Mark Switalski.

Judge Mark Switalski - November 09, 2020 at 10:02 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 07, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 06, 2020 at 11:40 AM

PC

“ I have been a listener of 97.1 the Ticket for many years. I have enjoyed Rich and Tanya’s commercials during these listening hours. So very sorry for your loss - his voice and presence will missed. It now in the presence of Jesus. May God comfort you, Tanya, and the family. God Bless.

Pastor Gary Cech - November 05, 2020 at 09:39 PM

DB

“ Rich was an inspiration to many. Rich was the kind of man who always would go the extra mile to help anyone in need....thus, have a job and I will put you in a car. He taught everyone how to be kind and thoughtful of others. Rich had a way of making you feel special. He and Tonia built an empire in kindness and compassion. I could always count on him to answer my calls to give me advice. We could also count on him for generosity for the charities throughout our community. He will be missed by many. I am sad that we won't have conversations anymore. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

dawn bartolomeo - November 04, 2020 at 08:10 PM

TS

“ Tamara Slominski purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Tamara Slominski - November 04, 2020 at 10:38 AM

HC

“ *Honorable Kelley Kostin-Clarkston District Court purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



Honorable Kelley Kostin-Clarkston District Court - November 03, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DN

“ *It was a joy to meet and talk with Richard and Tania. And to spend time with them at work and on the golf course. I will always be grateful for Richard's enthusiasm, friendship, and support. May God watch over your family and friends, Tania.*

Dennis Neubacher - November 03, 2020 at 09:13 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



November 02, 2020 at 05:37 PM

CJ

“ I met Rich in 1996 along with Dave and George, I will tell you meeting Rich changed my life. I loved Rich he taught me many things without directly teaching me. I watched him grow his family and his companies, and I wanted to be like him. He inspired me to be the best and not to take any shit, but also be kind and thoughtful of others. I was blessed to know him and Rich had a way of making you feel that you were the most important person in the world when conversing with him. I have so many fond memories of the times I spent with Rich in person or on the phone. he truly was interested in my success more so than anyone else I've ever met. I owe my success to this man, with his passing I'm sad, hurt, lost and also appreciative that God put him in my life. I guess I never thought he would be gone. I could always count on him to answer my calls to give me advice. I will miss that. I was working a few car deals the other day and I put together a 9 pounder after I was done I said THANKS RICH.

Charles Jackson - November 02, 2020 at 02:57 PM

LN

“ Love Stan & Jessica Niemi purchased the Laven der Love Bouquet for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Love Stan & Jessica Niemi - November 02, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



November 02, 2020 at 09:38 AM

JE

“ My deepest condolences to the entire LaLonde family. Anybody who knew Rich can tell you about his drive, his passion, and his generosity. He was a larger than life presence who touched thousands of people's lives, through his businesses, philanthropic endeavors, and on a personal level. Everything I have, most of what I know, and a big part of who I am is rooted in opportunities given to me by Rich and his family. My time working for the LaLonde ACE company are years I hold dearly and will always revere. And while I was mostly in the margins of Rich's life personally, I could still tell two dozen incredible, hilarious, inspiring, or otherwise-awesome stories about him. He knew where he wanted to go and he showed gratitude to everyone who helped him get there. Rich didn't know the meaning of "lose", and never in my life have I met a guy with a bigger set of... fortitude.

Jon Eddy - November 01, 2020 at 11:15 AM

JO

“ Spring of 1994 I meet the guy who was larger than life. The man who taught me so very much about the car business, about structuring deals, about being prepared for your customers. He also taught me a lot about having fun, being a good person and being a person of integrity. I owe a lot of who I am personally and professionally to Rich and I am most grateful. We never did end up going golfing at Colonial (on Americredit's dime) but we talked it up like we were going. Thank you, Rich, for all that you taught me. I wish we'd have stayed in touch better over time. Tania and family- you have a whole army with you during this difficult time. God Bless.
Joe Opolski

Joe Opolski - October 30, 2020 at 05:04 PM



Chris
Green

“ To this day I remember interviewing with Rich and Dave so many years ago. Rich had a very strong and bold personality, and I will be the first to admit I was a little intimidated. However, something I learned very quickly was that his door was always open to you. I am very fortunate to have had the pleasure of working with him and getting to know the family. I cannot express my condolences enough to Tania, Dave, and the family. He will be forever remembered.

Chris Green - October 30, 2020 at 02:00 PM

JC

“ I remember walking into the small ACE office in 2003 to help out with a small job. I heard someone talking loudly in the corner of the office and laughing ...I then met Rich and Tania and wanted to work there immediately. I was drawn to their personalities and passion for the business, and their love for their family. Rich's determination and striving for the best for his business, employees and his family were inspiring. He was so honest and straight to the point. He had a vision of whatever his goal was at the time, and he would make sure you knew what it was, and would get you on board and full steam ahead. There was something about Rich and his energy that drew people to him. He had this beacon inside of him that gathered people of all different strengths and abilities around him. He had the gift to take those people and build something great. I always respected him for taking care of the people that helped raise him up. He was able to give others credit for helping in his success and to recognize them for their contributions. He wasn't too important to come to your office and hand you your Christmas card personally and thank you for your hard work, or to stand at the entrance of the company parties with Tania and they both would hug you and look you in the eye and genuinely thank you. I remember many of the company Christmas parties fondly, whether the smaller ones in the beginning or the larger ones a decade later. Every time, Rich appreciated and acknowledged everyone for their part and their loyalty to the company. He genuinely would get choked up while thanking us all in a heartfelt speech, and there was no mistaking his gratitude. When he acknowledged my first 10 years at ACE, it meant the world to me that he wanted to make sure I was there (I was out with a migraine that day) because he wanted to honor me. I have never had anyone do something like that for me before. I will never forget it. The same night, he surprised everyone with elaborate gifts. I have had random fond memories of Rich popping in and out of my mind...he would play music over the office speakers that would make us laugh and lift our spirits, Friday lunches with our choice off the menu and sitting with each other to get to know each other better and catch up, seeing him laugh and smile at company parties while he was watching us all enjoy

ourselves...I feel so fortunate to have known Rich and to have these memories. He changed so many of our lives and provided us with a unique atmosphere to grow as professionals, friends, and family. I will never forget you Rich LaLonde. You will be missed by us all, we love you, and our lives are better for knowing you. In all of my memories are Rich's amazing family and the sparkle of love in his eyes and his proud smile when he would be around them or talk about them....Tania, his children, his sweet mom Joanne, Dave, Tim, Mike...Sending my love and deepest sympathy to Tania, Jordan, John, Alannah, Garrett, Gabe, Paris, Dave, Mike, Tim, Thomas, and the rest of the family.



Julie Costa - October 30, 2020 at 01:57 PM

DA

Julie, such a beautiful tribute, thank you.

Dave - November 02, 2020 at 10:10 AM

ST

Tania im Canadian ocross the creek your voice is amazing I'm here in Windsor and I want bto buy a car from you your amazing my friend

Stash - August 02, 2023 at 10:43 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



October 30, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



October 29, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ *I MET RICH IN FEB 2003 AND STARTED WORKING WITH AUTO CREDIT EXPRESS IN MARCH 2003. I LEARNED ALOT FROM RICH AND HAD A GREAT TIME WORKING WITH HIM. BY OCT 2004 I WAS STARTING MY OWN BUSINESS AND WHEN I TOLD RICH ABOUT IT HE TOLD ME ANYTIME I NEED SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM A CALL. EVERYTIME I CALLED HE ALWAYS ANSWERED THE PHONE. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING RICH I WILL MISS YOU! MY CONDOLENCES TO TANIA AND HER FAMILY
SENT WITH LOVE
MIKE MIELKE*

MIKE MIELKJE - October 29, 2020 at 01:19 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Rich's passing. He had such a large heart. Always took care of the people around him. He will be truly missed. My love and prayers go out to his family.*

Janet Novak - October 29, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.*



October 29, 2020 at 08:57 AM



“ *It has been my pleasure to have called on all of Rich's Kia stores at one time or another as his Kia Parts & Service Rep. He always made time to see me and was always interested in what I had to say. On most occasions our conversations ranged from business to current events but always concluded with talk of our families. Rich could be tough and offer push back and then he would break into that big smile and laugh and say let's make it happen. I've been doing this a long time but I always learned something about the business when I met with him. His passion for the business and his organization was limitless. Rich was an exceptional dealer and a dear friend. I will miss you my friend.*

Tom

Tom Johnston - October 29, 2020 at 06:58 AM

MT

“ In 1998 as a Special Finance Manager at Roseville Chrysler Plymouth Dodge (Yes No Jeep...lol) rumors were all over the state of Michigan, if you wanted to be a true SF Manager you have to work for Rich Lalonde (not Jim Carter, no offense but it is what is and what it was) so I took the leap of faith and joined SFS, like we all did. Rich Lalonde assemble a team truly that would make Bill Belichick say “How did you find 30 Tom Brady’s” in less then two years. Rich did this everyday he could find the best talent and put the best team on the field. With that said, we all know that Rich could be the best boss ever!!! But as my friend, Rich told me if I would just stay the course and stay at one place you could be just like me Mike! I didn’t listen, folks I truly wish I did! With all my ventures and 30 plus years in this industry, if I needed anything I could always go to Rich and he’s open door policy stay true to the end. He would tell me everything I didn’t want to hear but I had to listen and take it on the chin, we all know he was usually right. His famous line to me was: (“You always take a meeting Mike, you never know if it’s a great opportunity or something we can use”) With all that professionalism aside, Rich will always be in my memories as the best family man, he loved Tania, ALL of his children and of course his favorite brother and a true friend to me as well, Dave, he loved you like know other. Rich’s family always came first biological or not, which bad we know in this business is an anomaly. Until we meet again my friend, I will miss you daily and forever grateful.

Your friend,

Mike Tilley

Mike Tilley - October 29, 2020 at 01:12 AM

DM

“ *Hearing about Rich's passing was shocking. A truly generous, giving person. Deepest sympathies for the entire family.*



Donna and Bill Miller - October 28, 2020 at 08:32 PM

BH

“ *I was stunned to hear the news of Rich's passing.*

I have many fond memories of dinners and events, but mostly of one-on-one discussions about the future of Kia and of the industry. I admired his incredible determination to be best in class in all that he touched. He always took the time to explain the "whys" behind all the "whats" he had going on. He was an excellent entrepreneur whose energy never stopped, whose commitment never wavered, and whose leadership was never in doubt. I looked up to him both as a great dealer and a good friend.

I'm going to miss you buddy!

Brad holt - October 28, 2020 at 06:54 PM

NW

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Rich. I worked for Auto Credit Express and Rich was one of the nicest people I had ever met and worked for. He was always smiling. He had such a big heart!!! He will be missed!!!*

Nicole woods - October 28, 2020 at 06:18 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



October 28, 2020 at 05:59 PM



“ It's hard to fathom the legacy that Rich leaves behind. I worked for him for 12 years and watched as he grew from small business owner to Titan of special finance and automotive marketing in the Detroit area. I remember fondly the Friday afternoons where his entire ACE office staff sat at one table in the break room and had lunch together, the summer picnics complete with clowns and bounce houses, the amazing parties at the Garland Resort, the awesome holiday banquets. Rich constantly showed us the meaning of generosity. I owe a lot to the career opportunities that Rich and Dave afforded me and the trust that they regularly put in me and in all their employees, and I'm proud to have been part of what became a family business. My heart goes out to you Tania, John, Alannah, Jordan, Garrett, Gabe, Paris, Dave, Mike, Tim, Tom, and the entire rest of the LaLonde family.

Michael Eddy - October 28, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ Friends of Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Richard Joseph LaLonde.



Friends of Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court -
October 28, 2020 at 05:22 PM

DK

“ *Dan King lit a candle in memory of Richard Joseph LaLonde*



Dan King - October 28, 2020 at 05:08 PM

JF

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



JOHN FLANAGAN - October 28, 2020 at 05:03 PM

JF

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



JOHN FLANAGAN - October 28, 2020 at 05:01 PM

JF

“ Rich LaLonde was genuine!

Rich called everything as he saw it, and what was amazing to me is with what foresight he saw everything. I've heard stories from earlier in Rich's life, before I knew him, on how he came to be so successful. A lot of those earlier decisions would have had most people saying "are you crazy" to even try. Well, he wasn't crazy. He was very intelligent, hard working, passionate, driven and a born leader. He had the "1st place or no place", "Go BIG or go home" passion for winning.

What was even more amazing than some of the ideas he had, was how he got others to go along for the ride. I not only heard if these stores, I experienced one myself.

Who hires someone and says " I want you on the bus, but I'm not sure what seat you will be sitting in just yet"? Even crazier, who agrees to it?

Well, Rich said it, and I agreed to it, and I thank him for his vision and faith that it would all work out. Rich's partner and friend Jack said " when Rich needs something or someone, the planets just have a way of aligning to make things fall into place", I believe he is right.

You wonder what gives a guy like that the kind of drive and passion to do what he did.

The only thing Rich seemed more passionate about than work and winning was his family. There was just something different in his face and his voice when he would speak of them. I would image that would be the Love shining through.

My thoughts and prayers go out to entire LaLonde family.

*We'll miss you Rich,
John*

JOHN FLANAGAN - October 28, 2020 at 04:59 PM

JS

“ I will not soon forget the ACE holiday party where we all planned to play some random games, but instead Rich grabbed the microphone and said, and I paraphrase, "I've heard when you have a good year, you take care of your employees, and we had a good year" and then proceeded to hand out countless valuable gifts like televisions, game consoles, and mixers to employees. It was a joy working for and getting to know Rich. My love to the LaLonde family.
-Jason

Jason Simpson - October 28, 2020 at 01:04 PM

TG

“ Nearly 20 years ago I applied for a job, at the time I had no idea that my life would be changed forever. I met a man, a father, a boss, a friend and to say, at the very least, a business genius. From that very day my life, as well as many others changed forever. I have never met a more generous, unselfish person in my entire life. Words could never describe how much I owe this great man. Back then it was a company of about 15 people and the sense of family was instilled in everyone, not by force, but by choice. Now 4 dealerships strong, 3 of them record breaking KIA dealerships which is not an easy thing to do in the Detroit area. I remember walking into the first dealership before it was purchased and had visions of tumbleweeds blowing through the showroom, thinking he must know something I don't. Of course he did. Now the number one KIA dealership in metro Detroit is just a testament to how great this man's vision was. Not a day went by without hearing his voice on the radio. I have watched his children grow from little kids to adults, now assuming key roles in the dealerships. All having the same work ethic, passion and drive. He cared about everyone. You will be forever missed, not just by me but, the many lives you've touched and changed forever.
Rest in peace RJJ

Tom Giacobbi - October 28, 2020 at 10:42 AM

KC

“ He was a great guy that had a profound influence on my life. I wasn't lucky enough to have known him as long as some but the time i did know him was the best
i can only hope to honor his legacy buy hard work and making the empire he built the most wonderful tribute that it can be my heart goes out to the family
Rich you are loved and will most certainly be missed
Keith Cox

keith cox - October 28, 2020 at 10:02 AM