



Mr. Richard Arthur Rappel

June 10, 1944 - December 24, 2023

Richard was born on June 10, 1944, in Drumheller, Alberta, the youngest of Arthur and Margaret Rappel's four children: the favourite child, according to his sister Myrna, due to his sweetness, humour and good nature.

The Rappels lived in Rosedale, a small mining village just east of Drumheller. They were a musical family, and Richard learned to play the trumpet. He performed in his school's and the Young Soldiers' bands, plus he'd also step in if his father's dance ensemble were short a player - a potential disaster in those times, when community dances were enthusiastically anticipated social events. Later, in the early 1960s, he joined a folk singing group, the Valhalla Trio, with Tommy Johnson and Walter Puzianoski, and they achieved some southern Alberta airplay and even a television appearance.

In 1956, he won a Good Deeds Radio Club award for saving the life of a friend. Billy Gowden had come into contact with a live electric wire, and, after all but one of the other kids they'd been playing with had run away, Richard used his toy wooden gun to break the connection and save Billy from electrocution. The award was presented in Calgary, and as his future wife Eddie (Walter Puzianoski's younger sister) was often in the audience for the weekly show's free entertainment, it's possible she first saw him there on stage accepting his hero's honours.

On leaving home, Richard was lured to the big city of Calgary where he formally met and then married the love of his life, Eddie (Edwardine), in 1965. Together, they had two sons: John, 1966, and Christopher, 1967. Richard – or “Rick”, as he was known to his workmates – then spent several years as a heavy labourer at Cominco’s former Calgary plant until he joined the Calgary Police Service in 1973.

He served the next quarter century as a police officer and rose to the rank of detective, not seeking further promotion into a position where there would be more administrative than active work. After formally retiring from the CPS in 1998, Richard worked for the police part-time for several more years, handling security clearances for the city - doomed to the paperwork he had formerly tried to avoid. He and Eddie also took the Heart and Stroke Foundation’s Big Bike charity event across Canada every summer for the next two decades.

Richard loved sports. As a boy, he’d played baseball, later coaching both his sons in Little League and umpiring in the city league. He played for the Calgary Police basketball team that went to the San Diego World Police Olympics in 1982, although they were thoroughly trounced by the teams from much larger cities. After basketball, he played many years in the Calgary Police old-timers hockey league, finally quitting when he noticed most other players could now skate faster backward than he could forward.

He liked to bowl, and as an avid league bowler in the 1970s won a trophy for a near-perfect 5-pin game, scoring 448 of the possible 450. He loved to golf and discovered pickleball later in life, even painting his own pickleball court onto the road in front of his house to ensure he always had a place to play and dominate the lesser pickleball titans of the neighbourhood.

In 1980, Richard helped his aging parents move from Rosedale to the house next door to his in Calgary to make certain they were well taken care of, and

further, in 1990, he helped his wife's mother Irene move from south Calgary to just up the block so that he could similarly help take care of her. Irene always called him "my Richard!" and thought he was the most wonderful son-in-law imaginable in his selfless concern, demonstrated not just for her, but for everyone.

After the passing of both his parents – Arthur in 1988 and Margaret in 1998 – and with his mother-in-law moving to a retirement home, Richard and Eddie relocated to High River, going back to an environment akin to that of his small-town youth. He was his area's HOA president for years, served a brief spell as community garden vice-president, and maintained the Happy Trails' flower beds along the municipal river path behind their house.

He loved traveling all over Europe and North America. He especially liked visiting his sister Myrna, who had emigrated to Scotland, trips to Hawaii with his grandsons, and lounging about in Indio, California, where he spent most of his retired winters – although the latter preference was partly due to yielding to his wife's loathing of cold weather. He kept a travel blog in his persona of Ramblin' Rick (not to be confused with Ranger Rick, his earlier, hiking-specific alter-ego) and wrote some travel articles for the High River Times detailing his experiences in Italy.

Travel also dovetailed somewhat with his passion for bird watching. At home in High River, and in Indio, he kept many bird feeders topped up with seed to attract his little avian friends, and visited bird sanctuaries and other habitats wherever he went, filling his birding journal with hundreds of North American species as well as making a respectable start on Britain's birds.

While Richard was instrumental in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for Heart and Stroke Foundation, he was not immune to the disease. He suffered

a stroke in 2020 that ended his active lifestyle, and a further diagnosis of mesothelioma worsened Richard's health. There was to be no recovery.

On Christmas Eve 2023, he passed away peacefully at home, his loving wife at his side. Besides Eddie and his two sons, John and Christopher, left to mourn were his daughter-in-law Virginia and three grandsons: Anthony, Ricardo and Paul. Richard was also survived by his older brother Larry, sisters Valerie and Myrna, and many nieces and nephews. Through Eddie, Richard gained another family: sisters-in-law Julie (Joe), Patsy (Stan d. 2000), Gloria (Jim) and Annie (Phil d. 2016). He was predeceased by his father Arthur, mother Margaret, brother-in-law Wally and Wally's wife, Penny.

His funeral date is 11:00 AM, January 6th, 2024, at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in High River. For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed at <https://www.lylereeves.com>.

In place of flowers, please donate to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

206 - 9th Ave. W.

High River, AB T1V 1B5 (CA)

(403) 652-2203

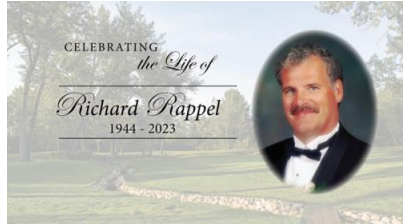
francisdesales@shaw.ca

<http://www.francisdesaleshighriver.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Livestream, Saturday, January 6 at 11:00AM (MST) in memory of Mr. Richard Arthur Rappel*



Lyle Reeves Funerals - January 06, 2024 at 12:31 PM

LB

I am deeply saddened upon learning of the passing of Richard who was a boyhood friend while growing up in Rosedale- We spent endless hours playing road and ice hockey, marbles, kick the can, and baseball. In baseball, Richard was a great outfielder and while pitching distracted the batters with his unorthodox windup. He was reluctant to wear a baseball cap because it would mess up his hair. My belated condolences are extended to his primary and secondary family members. May you cherish the many memories that you experienced with him. God bless all.

Lawrence Brandenburg

Larence Brandenburg - January 09, 2024 at 03:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Video Tribute*



Lyle Reeves Funerals - January 06, 2024 at 03:28 PM

RM

“ Chris, Virginia and Family;

Sorry to hear about the passing your dad (grandfather). Our deepest condolences to all of you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Randy, Silvia Mauro and Family

R. Mauro - January 05, 2024 at 03:52 PM

SD

“ Dear Eddie and Family,

I was so so sorry to read of Rick's passing and for your loss.

Rick had SOO many wonderful qualities, but I will remember him most for his kindness, patience and his willingness to help us young officers navigate the world of policing. I was very fortunate to work alongside Rick beginning in the Fall of 1995. Rick was an investigator who embraced the Community Policing philosophy and did so head on. Working with S/Sgt Chris Magnusson, he assembled a 6 person investigative team whose primary focus was investigating street crimes/gangs in District 4. I had the honor of working alongside some of the finest officers I've ever had the privilege to know during that year and we were lead, inspired and coached by Detective Rick Rappel. I can't think of too many other people capable of leading that group and enjoy the success that Rick and the Team experienced over that time period. After I left 4 District, Rick stayed in touch and in February of 1997 I once again had the pleasure of meeting Rick and his lovely wife Eddie on the beautiful Hawaiian Island of Kauai. I'll never forget swimming toward the beach in Poipu and realizing the sunhat wearing gentleman standing on the beach waving at me was Rick Rappel. Standing there in his holiday garb with his welcoming, heart warming smile, he shouted "Howdy Stranger" followed by his trademark giggle. That night is one of the nicest experiences of my life. We had bbq steak, drank lovely red wine, and shared hours of stories and our Hawaiian Island experiences.

Rick was a rare, inspiring and just a wonderful human being. We all want to leave this world better than we found it. Few of us actually do that. Rick is one person who did! From his "Big Bike" charity work, his methodical and meticulous police work, his willingness to be available and mentor young police officers, his dedication and his love for his family and finally his commitment, love and shining example of what it is to be a great husband, Rick Rappel you are the example of what a GREAT person looks like. Thank you for

everything you did for all of us. You will be dearly missed!

Sean Doyle

Sean Doyle - January 05, 2024 at 03:52 PM

CL

“ *I, like others featured on this tribute wall, was fortunate to have Richard as his training officer following Police academy graduation. Our first shift together started us off on a personal and family friendship lasting 5 decades. My wife and I shared many great vacations with Richard and Eddy. We also enjoyed many family holiday gatherings. Richard was a dedicated family came first man, this was evident in his daily life whether he was serving the citizens of Calgary, planning family trips or making sure guests always felt welcome. Richard was competitive no matter what the activity, basketball, golf, bridge, mens poker nite, family hockey drafts, or my personal favorite, table top hockey in the Rappel family room following those 1100 pm ending shifts. He also never shied away from sharing his opinions. Richard was my best man, a person who always believed in doing what was right. He will be remembered forever as a sharing friend providing lasting memories.*

Chiko Lee, Qualicum Beach, BC

charles lee - January 03, 2024 at 12:46 PM

RB

“ Dear Eddie, John, Chris, Virginia & Boys,

We extend to each of you our deepest sympathy and also want you to know how grateful we are for having had Richard, these many years, as our neighbour, friend and fellow pickleball player. Our grandchildren were just babies when we first moved to High River, visits were not complete until they checked and asked about "Mr Birdman" and would see if all the feeders were "full".

Richard gave so much of his time and energy as President of our "Homeowner's Association" as well as our on site "groundskeeper" ex gratia for the open area behind our homes.

We thank him for everything he has contributed to our community.

Sincere condolences - You will be missed Richard!

*Bob & Aileen Bechard
High River, AB*

Robert L Bechard - January 02, 2024 at 03:50 PM

JS

“ *Love and condolences from all Richard's family in Scotland. We have lovely memories of his visits here over the decades. Uncle Richard was so kind to us all, taking care that we enjoyed our visits to Canada and arranging for us to spend time with family. He was much loved and is sadly missed.*

Jo Scott-Moncrieff - January 02, 2024 at 05:26 AM

GM

“ *Sending love and condolences, may you find comfort knowing how special and loved Richard was. A sweeter and kinder soul will live in our hearts forever.*

Gloria and Jim Munro - December 31, 2023 at 01:05 PM

CP

“ *Sending my condolences and love. You will be missed Uncle Richard. I wish I could be there in person . Love from Cayley and Travis.*

Cayley Puzanoski - December 30, 2023 at 10:44 PM

PJ

“ *To Rick's family, those of us who knew Rick and had the privilege of working with him, we share your loss. Rick had a strong work ethic and always kept a gentlemanly approach to those he was working with. Heaven was waiting for him. Peter Johnston.*

Peter G Johnston - December 30, 2023 at 12:34 PM

GB

“ *My sincere condolences to the Rappel family on Rick's passing. Very early in my career I had the very good fortune of working for Rick. He was a patient teacher for us "young whippersnappers". Our paths never crossed much after that, but he left an indelible impression on me as being a very good man and leader. I remember any time I came on shift with Sgt. Rappel, it was good feeling knowing he was in charge. Rest in peace Sarge.
Gord Bryant*

Gord Bryant - December 30, 2023 at 12:07 PM

GM

“ *Gord McGimpsey*
Rick was my first officer coach in 1977. Rick was an intelligent caring person who was a great teacher and role model. Rick had a great work ethic and always treated people with dignity and respect during difficult situations.
Such a positive fun person who will be missed.
Blessing and sincere sympathy to his family.

Gord McGimpsey - December 30, 2023 at 12:45 AM

TL

“ *I started in District 4 when Rick was in the Detective rank. He was a man that had the time for rookies, had sage advice for investigative avenues and was always a smiling face in the office. He was a good man and detective. Rest in Peace Rick.*

My condolences to the family in their grief and in missing Rick.

Terry Larson - December 29, 2023 at 11:00 PM

DL

“ *When I was a young patrol officer, Rick was one detective amongst a notorious group of District detectives, who kept his door open for me and others who we're 'wet behind the ears' as new cops. He was a great mentor, someone I sought out simply because he was a good man, and a good detective, in that order! Rest easy Detective Rappel!*

Darren Leggatt - December 29, 2023 at 09:26 PM

GB

“ Richard was an exemplary police officer and a great person. He always seemed in good spirits and a very caring individual. I worked in 4 District beside him in 1982 or 83, it was awhile ago.

I will miss Richard.

Please accept my deepest condolences. I won't forget him.

Gerald W Bailey - December 29, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ Biggest hugs fo Eddy and familyl. We will remember Richard with love and affection. His beautiful smile will live forever in hearts. Whenever we see a bird feeder nearing empty, his voice will echo in our minds giving us a gentle reminder to do what needs to be done!
Love, Al and Jeanne Sprague

Jeanne Sprague - December 29, 2023 at 07:41 PM

LW

“ Richard was the BEST Uncle that anyone could have. He was kind, considerate, caring and a really funny guy!! A lot of my sense of humour developed from his! I read all of his comic books whenever I visited as a child, as we shared of love of reading and comics! I felt like I had a special bond with him growing up as we also shared the same birthday. He's always in my heart and thoughts and I will miss him. My heart goes out to my cousins John and Chris and my aunt Eddy as I know they've lost a father/husband who was the heart of his family.

Finally, since my mother Valerie (Richard's sister) is not capable, I'm entering what I believe she would say today. She's going to miss her little brother terribly and she is saddened that his family is now without him. I know she loved him deeply. She's so very grateful that she was able to see him just a few weeks ago in High River.

Loranne Arboleya (nee Webster) - December 29, 2023 at 04:15 PM

BR

“ Rick made my life in CPS a little happier: the ‘Bird Alerts’ at 4 DO, a kind caring Supervisor in 4-1 during a difficult time in my life, and more. One of the ‘Peach of a guy’ as my Uncle Ken Evan’s would describe him. Eddie - the perfect partner for Rick, many big hugs to you. All my love and caring, Bonnie Rothwell

Bonnie Rothwell - December 29, 2023 at 03:59 PM

GS

“ didn’t know him really well but had a Service wide reputation for work ethic, family and community. great man gone to soon.

gord sands - December 29, 2023 at 02:32 PM

BV

“ I had the pleasure of working with RICK in two different unit and it was such a pleasure to work with him, a great police officer but also just a great teacher to many younger officers. Rick you will be missed
Ben villeneuve

BEN VILLENEUVE - December 29, 2023 at 01:25 PM

RP

“ Rick was my first partner and coach as a member of the Calgary Police, from whom I learned so much. A truly intelligent, sensible and charismatic man with a great sense of fun and an ever present glint in his eye his example was inspirational. Heaven will be better for his arrival but we have lost a great guy. My condolences to Eddie and his family.

Richard Powell - December 29, 2023 at 12:58 PM

GV

“ Rick was the most ambitious, understanding and caring partner I had the opportunity to work along side within the CPS. I truly cherished having had the opportunity to have partnered with such a passionate and understanding person, who always strived to serve and treat each and every citizen with dignity and a caring approach!! Always made such a demanding job, a little easier to succeed, thanks to his humor and positive approach to things. Will miss you pal!! Thinking of you Eddie and Family as you deal with the loss of one of the best!! Sincerely
Garry and Ann VanHereweghe

Garry Douglas VanHereweghe - December 28, 2023 at 09:50 PM

SC

“ Richard was a friend and he will be missed, I loved his stories and time.



Scott Caron - December 28, 2023 at 05:36 PM