



Rich Stewart

October 16, 1951 - May 18, 2014

Richard Stewart passed away May 18, at his home in Laurie, MO, with his beloved wife Linda and his "best friend" Bear. He was recovering from two complete knee joint replacement operations over the past 12 months. Richard was truly one-of-a-kind. He was an interesting, witty, and very intelligent man, and a great story-teller. His stories were so vivid and detailed you felt as if you experienced them personally and he could make you laugh until your face hurt. Rich never did anything halfway, and that was especially true with his love of sports. He would immerse himself in all the facts and data he could find. He knew every statistic, every detail of every player and team in the NFL and major college in the country. In 2009, Richard developed and launched an online blog titled richsfootballreport.com and wrote daily articles about the NFL draft, player personnel needs for every pro and major college team, in-depth analysis of positions, tendencies, front-office news, and even posted weekly game picks for his readers' office pools. His blog led to being invited to host a weekly football radio talk-show on KRMS at the lake. He had thousands of followers on his blog and radio program that relied on his daily analysis, many of whom he got to know personally over the years. It didn't end with football. He was also very knowledgeable about baseball and basketball, and he particularly loved NASCAR and NHRA drag racing. He knew every driver, owner, and crew chief, and current standings in every division. He was a wealth of sports information. Rich was also passionate about music, especially blues music and Stevie Ray Vaughn was his favorite blues

musician. He and Linda went to dozens of blues concerts over the years.

Richard had a kind heart which is not to say he didn't have strong opinions or convictions. If you ever found yourself in a debate with him about politics or politicians you got a taste of his convictions first-hand! Yet he was genuinely a kind-hearted person, with a true love of children, animals, and the less-fortunate. Richard was a fiercely loyal person with a strong commitment and passion for his family. He deeply loved his mother Frances, adored his sisters Ann, Nancy, and Dana, his nieces, nephews, cousins and no husband has ever been more devoted to his wife than Rich was to Linda. And if you were his friend, you were friends for life.

Richard was extremely proud of his father's WW II service record as the most decorated soldier from Independence, MO, and his uncle who was a West Point graduate and career military officer. Rich was a proud veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces having served in the U.S. Air Force and attained the rank of Sergeant. He was a member of the American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624 in Sunrise Beach, MO. Rich never missed an opportunity to recognize and thank the veteran and active-duty men and women of the armed forces for their service to our country on Veterans' Day.

Rich and Linda were married in 1976. Soon after they married they moved to Las Vegas where they lived for 20 years. Rich began his career in the gaming industry, moved through several casinos, and retired as Floor Supervisor in the dice pit at Bellagio. He has dozens of friends from high school, military service and Las Vegas that he routinely stays in touch with. Rich and Linda moved back to MO, and to the lake in 2005 to help start a new company and develop lakefront properties. Richard loved the lake and had fulfilled his dream of retiring here. We are all searching for an answer to why he was taken from us much too soon, and we each feel a tremendous emptiness in our hearts from the void of his giant personality. Richard, you are in our

thoughts and prayers. We will cherish our time with you forever.

In addition to his wife, Linda, he is survived by his mother, Frances Johnson of Las Vegas, Nevada; sisters, Ann Umphenour and husband Ron of Bridgewater, New Jersey and Nancy O'Connor and husband Terry of Henderson, Nevada; nieces and nephews, Erica Taylor and husband Jason, Erin Umphenour, Ronnie Umphenour, Marty Long, Cara Long and fiancé A.J. Smith, Megan Cannady, Jake Cannady, Jared Sejkora and Jason Sejkora; sister-in-law, Janet Long of Independence, Missouri; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert M. Stewart and his sister, Dana Sejkora.

A visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 22nd, at the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 23rd, at the Carson-Speaks Chapel in Independence with a visitation held at 1:00 p.m. Graveside services and interment with full military honors will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project or to Patriot Paws.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel
417 Silvey Rd.
Laurie, MO 65038
(573) 374-7688

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Linda, please know that Kevin and I are thinking of you and grateful we got to know this wonderful, kind, funny man. Richard will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate to be included in his life adventure.

*Thoughts and Prayers are with you,
Kevin and Connie Kelsey*

Connie Kelsey - May 22, 2014 at 11:18 PM

BM

“ I am grateful for the life of Mr. Stewart. Thanks to his service and to the service of others in our armed forces, my family and I have been able to lead our lives in freedom and peace.

Bob in Grandview, Missouri - May 22, 2014 at 11:49 AM

FS

“ Linda-Please accept our condolences.Rich was a great friend to all of us in Las Vegas.He will be greatly missed! RIP. BIG RICH!! LOVE and PRAYERS to you and your family. LOVE FRANK and JULIE SICILIANO.

Frank Siciliano - May 22, 2014 at 10:47 AM

JK

“ Linda - Please accept our condolences. Richard was truly a great man Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you navigate down this road.

Love, thoughts and prayers,

Jen and Kyle Rudolph

Jim Howard - May 21, 2014 at 12:01 PM

JH

“ When we were little, Rich was the cousin we all looked up to because he was the oldest (and tallest). As we got older, we looked up to him because he was the funniest. As most of both families moved away, Rich included, I'd still see him now and then and be reminded that he really was one of the funniest people alive. The last time I saw him, he was in pain of several kinds, delivering a eulogy for his father-in-law. The humor was there, too, but the eulogy wasn't so much an expression of Rich as it was an expression of the kind of guy Linda's father was. After that service, I saw Rich walking slowly down a sidewalk outside the funeral home, and I told him that his remarks were very moving to me. He said, "I don't know about you, but the older I get, the easier it is to break my heart and make me cry." And he thanked me for coming. He was such a sweet guy, so much tenderness under all the laughter. We haven't connected much in recent years, but I will miss him terribly. Love to Aunt Frankie, Linda, and the rest of the family.

-Jim Howard

Jim Howard - May 21, 2014 at 12:01 PM

SB

“ I loved Rich's smile and his laugh. He was very entertaining. I especially loved the way he loved my friend, Linda. She was blessed with a great partner in life.

Take care, Linda, and know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time. i wish we were closer and could "do lunch" like we used to.

Sue Baumgartner

Sue Baumgartner - May 21, 2014 at 11:59 AM