



Richard LaVigne

AUG 29, 1941 - MAY 2, 2024



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 12



Richard LaVigne

AUG 29, 1941 - MAY 2, 2024

Richard LaVigne, 82, of Odessa, FL passed away on May 2, 2024.

Richard was born in Genoa, OH on August 29, 1941 of Leo and Bernadine LaVigne. He attended Central Catholic High School and served in the United States Army.

Richard was a hard worker, loved nature, fishing, gardening, travel and was always fixing things. He was on the chess team in high school and a big brother. As a young adult he had his own business repairing TV's and radios. Richard was an amazing husband and father. Richard and Lucita made many sacrifices to give their children the best possible future and a head start in life. He worked in freight at American Airlines and sent three children through catholic school, college and many extracurricular sports. Even though he worked full time, always had a garden, and often had animals to tend to, he was always there for his children. He went to many soccer games, karate classes, motorcycle races, wrestling matches, dance recitals, gymnastics meets, diving competitions, colorguard shows, and circus shows. He even put in a motorcross track in the backyard. Sometimes Rick would call collect on a pay phone and Richard wouldn't accept the charge, but that's how he knew it was time to pick Rick up. He always dropped whatever he was doing to rescue one of us if we were stranded by the side of the road due to car trouble, even after we moved out.

Richard enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and did many school pickups and looking after the little ones. He looked forward to family gatherings and would go all out to decorate for Christmas.

Richard was preceded by his parents Leo and Bernadine LaVigne and sister-in-law Margaret LaVigne. He is survived by his wife Lucita LaVigne; siblings Robert LaVigne, Bernadette (Richard) Kroetz, Elizabeth (John) Buehrer; children Richard (Lisa) LaVigne, Cynthia (Christopher) Osman, Melissa LaVigne (Nathan Smith); grandchildren Garrett (Shelby) LaVigne, Bryce LaVigne, Blayne



Obituary

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LaVigne, Braxton LaVigne, Marissa Osman, Wyatt Osman and Landen Osman; and great grandchildren Eli, Emmit, Emma Ann and Liam LaVigne

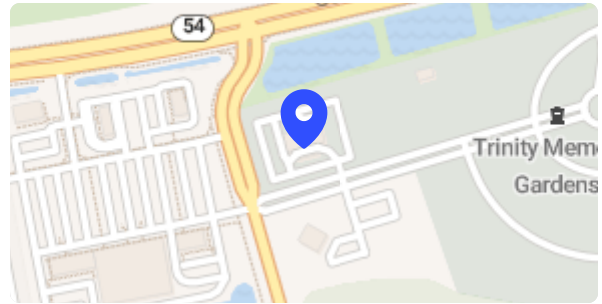


Events

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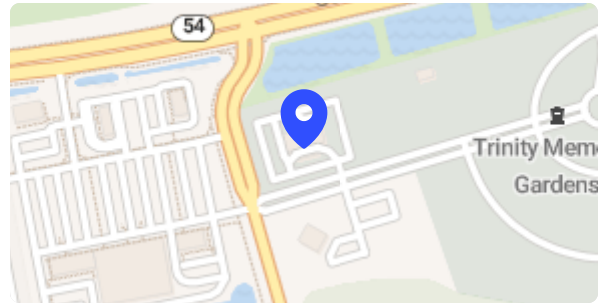
Visitation

- Friday**, May 10, 2024
- 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- Trinity Memorial Funeral Home**
12609 Memorial Dr, Trinity FL 34655



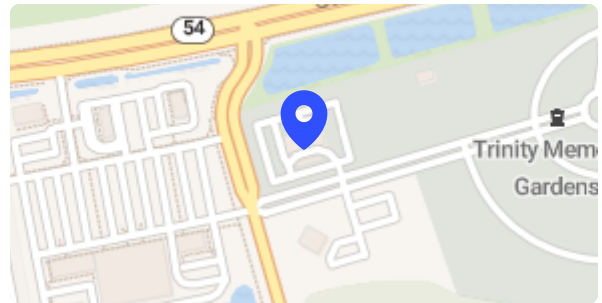
Service

- Saturday**, May 11, 2024
- 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM ET
- Trinity Memorial Funeral Home**
12609 Memorial Dr, Trinity FL 34655



Cemetery Details

- Trinity Memorial Gardens**
12609 Memorial Dr., Trinity FL 34655





Tribute Wall

Richard LaVigne

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BB

Beth Buehrer posted:

(Continued from previous entry) We had the prettiest yard in town. Even if Mom & Dad planned out the original landscaping, Richard maintained it and added to it. He made a large vegetable garden in the back by the garage. He nurtured the Climbing Blaze roses on the gate and garage trellises. He loved those roses, and they made beautiful color to the "pet cemetery" where he and I buried our unsuccessful attempts to save orphaned newborn wildlife. One winter afternoon when Bernie got out of school early, after taking her home, he decided to surprise me & pick me up as I was walking home. He was just in time to catch a bully shoving snow down my jacket. Richard jumped out of the car, grabbed the bully's arm and told him he better never touch his little sister again! My hero... In summers he took me for rides in his brand new electric blue convertible - almost always with the white top down. I felt like a queen! He took all of us out on his boat a lot as well. One trip was to Kelly's Island. A displayed photo shows Richard & me standing on glacial grooves as we were hiking on & around them - something that is no longer allowed since they've excavated more of them & now they're both dangerous & protected. Richard the captain was able to pilot us to mainland safely after a frightful trip home in one of Lake Erie's notorious pop up storms. He always knew just the right thing to give me for my birthday and Christmas. I thought he could read my mind, but as an adult I realize he had a little help from Mom. However; he knew how to follow thru! When I was 16, he invited me to stay with him in San Diego for a week or so. He took me everywhere including his campsite in the Borrego Desert (per the news that night: 117 degrees in the shade). Thank goodness the ONLY tree was AT his campsite! He took me mountain biking, but popped a wheelie on the 1st hill scaring us both - he'd never had a rider on the back before. It put a damper on the rest of the ride! I loved playing with his dog, King, and weeding his garden. I was horrified a few weeks later when my sister had visited him & my nephews brought home a tarantula from that garden! Finally, Richard & Lucy gave me the honor of being Godmother to their 1st born. Now you know the boy, the young man, & my hero.

September 25 at 5:19 PM



Tribute Wall

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BB

Beth Buehrer posted:

I'm still having difficulty typing this, hard to see thru the tears: This is what I wrote in memory of my brother - and read it at the funeral: I had 3 great siblings that helped make my childhood the best, but I want to share a few memories for you to know Richard: the boy, the man, the hero. One of the photos displayed is Richard pushing me in the snow buggy. I actually REMEMBER that happening once - but it probably was more often: I was very excited to find that photo. Together with Robert & Bernie, he lifted me into our cherry tree that I'd always wanted to climb. I was too little, but they all wanted me to have that experience before the sick tree was cut down. He never seemed to mind when he was stuck babysitting me. We liked the same TV shows: sitcoms & cartoons - almost all of them. He really liked Mr. Magoo; I couldn't stand him! Evenings he would always make ice cream sodas for us both. Playing with a little kid didn't seem a chore for him & he even took the blame when we broke a favorite candy dish while wrestling on the living room floor. Sometimes he took playing too far. Sunday mornings when I was left home from Mass & it was his turn to babysit, he'd go to early Mass. Then while everyone else was gone he'd tickle me. It always started fun, but he didn't know to quit when I started crying - then it was torture even though he was still having fun! He did provide great entertainment after supper. He & Bernie washed the dishes. He loved to tease her & she tried to dish it back, but it was her turn to be tortured. I was a captive audience, since I was forced to sit at the table till my plate was clean - thank heavens for the dog! Richard loved nature. He grew plants for his 4-H project when his grow light exploded on the enclosed back porch and almost burned down the house! Silver lining: from that fire we got a new and larger kitchen, and added a half bath & a utility room over the old cellar. Outside he loved fishing with his buddies, but when he was home he'd take me tramping thru the park woods across the street. He was always teaching me about the flora & fauna. Once he had something spectacular to show me - made a BIG DEAL about it, telling me not to be afraid; he wouldn't let it hurt me. Bernie's curiosity was peaked, so she had to see what was going on and followed us out the utility room door where Richard held on to me by the raised garden by the door. She saw it, screamed, and ran back thru the house! There on an intricate web was the most gorgeous spider I've EVER seen. That's coming from someone very afraid of spiders. I've never been able to find it in reference books, or now on-line either. I'm guessing it's body measured 1" diameter and its shiny black legs each had a little white speck almost at the foot. The fantastic part was its body looked like it was covered in royal blue glitter, some of it changed colors as it swayed in the breeze. I trusted Richard so much that I just stood there fascinated rather than running scared. On an extended-family vacation in the Irish Hills of Michigan we found new creatures. At least they were new to me. I found out that not just snapping turtles bite, but I was able to bring Swifty the painted turtle home & Richard taught me how to take care of him. I loved him for years... I'd never seen snails in the wild and Richard convinced me to pick them up so I wouldn't be afraid. There was a shallow section to the right of the boat dock which I only walked in once. Leeches! Black ones with red squiggly lines on them! I might have considered them pretty if one hadn't been attached to my big toe! I was afraid of it on my foot - horrified I might add, but afraid to take it off as well. Richard coached me to pick it off - teaching me both courage and first aid. (To be continued in another one last entry)

May 4 at 3:31 PM



Tribute Wall

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Jerry Fink And Marcia Hartzell sent a Love's Journey to the LaVigne family.

May 10 at 6:14 AM



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the LaVigne family.

May 9 at 6:18 PM



Melissa Suddeth posted:

While I never had the honor of meeting Richard, I feel his spirit is reflected in his daughter Melissa. Those who live in others are never truly gone. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

May 9 at 5:52 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the LaVigne family.

May 9 at 5:45 AM



Reinemeyer Family sent a Fairest of All to the LaVigne family.

May 8 at 4:01 PM





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Bernadette Kroetz posted:

As siblings growing up we had many fun times together. Shortly after graduation from high school Richard bought a ski boat. That summer our parents took the family and some of our friends to a lake vacation in Michigan and Richard brought his boat. What fun we all had as some of us had never been on a ski boat or even tried skiing. After I was married and had two very young boys, we went to San Diego to visit him. He took the four of us fishing in the ocean. The boys really wanted to fish but were too young. We did give them a fish pole and baited it with a baked bean. As soon as the boat left the dock the boys fell asleep. We caught some fish and when it was time to go back to shore Richard suggested we put a fish on the boys' line before waking them. We did that. The boys were so happy when we woke them up and we told them it looked like they caught a fish. Richard's plan made a hit with his nephews. In 1967, Richard came on vacation with us to Lake Cumberland, Kentucky. My husband, Richard and my brother, Richard fished every day and I played with the children and cooked the meals. In the evening we all sat around the campfire and enjoyed each other's company. Just before Covid our siblings and spouses had a vacation together in Arkansas. We had a great time being together and ever since then I wanted another get-together even if we just sat in the home and talked. I am so sorry it didn't work out. I have many childhood memories but these stand out in my mind because they are ones that happened after we matured to who we really became. May God bless your soul and say "hi" to Mom and Dad for me. I know you are at peace!

May 7 at 4:58 PM



Brenda Tupper May 11 at 8:56 AM

So sorry for your loss but he will always be in our heart. Will miss our talks and will miss seeing him outside but will be with me in thoughts and prayers



Larry-Loida Carney May 8 at 6:45 AM

Bernadette, I remember Richard's boat. He took dad & me out on the choppy lake that scared me to death. I think that was the alternative to the boredom at the wedding we were attending. Was that your wedding? But yes, Richard was always there to please the gang...and good at it.



Rose shared 7 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Richard was a very kind and loving husband to our sister, Auntie Lucy. He was also the kindest son-in-law to Nang and Tatang, our late parents. He petitioned Lucy's parents and siblings to come to the U.S. We are forever grateful for what he has done for our family and will surely miss him.



May 4 at 3:31 PM



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Rose, Jon, Roseanne, Ruel, Rod Jr, Norma sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the LaVigne family.

May 7 at 10:35 AM



Vicki And Robyn planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Richard.

May 7 at 10:31 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the LaVigne family.

May 7 at 10:31 AM



The Smith Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Richard.

May 6 at 8:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the LaVigne family.

May 6 at 8:43 AM



Your Family At Demeola Temple sent a Tender Tribute to the LaVigne family.

May 6 at 5:41 AM





Tribute Wall

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Amanda & Kevin Mims & Candace Vreeland planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Richard.



May 6 at 5:14 AM



Amanda & Kevin Mims & Candace Vreeland sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the LaVigne family.



May 6 at 5:14 AM



4Lcarney's - Larry Loida Lashell Lindsey sent an Arrive in Style to the LaVigne family.



May 5 at 4:59 AM



Larry-Loida Carney posted:

Lucy, Rick, Cindy, Melissa, our 4LCarney family sends our condolences and extends hugs to your family. Being the youngest cousin in our large family, Richard, was a father figure to me. He impressed me with his knowledge and love of nature, something I value as well. He valued good morals and was compassionate to others. He came from a family that valued these attributes and he extended them to his children as well. Along with my parents, I truly believe that Richard played an important part in shaping my morals and beliefs when I was a young adult. May you Rest In Peace, Richard. You will be truly missed, but never forgotten.

May 4 at 3:31 PM



Rose shared 7 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 7 at 10:45 AM





Media

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RO





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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