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Rick Nickel Jr.

February 21, 1953 - August 4, 2023

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Rick Nickel Jr. Obituary

Frederick "Rick" Ernest Nickel Jr., age 70, of Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 4, 2023. Rick was born on February 21, 1953, in Flint, Michigan, to Frederick Sr. and Marion Nickel (nee Harding). He grew up outside of Cleveland and attended Brecksville High School. After high school, Rick attended the United States Air Force Academy and went on to serve our country as a military pilot for 20 years, flying the C-141 and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and expert marksman. Rick worked for Delta Airlines until retirement in 2018 as a Captain on the Boeing 777. Many may not know that he also earned an MBA which is perhaps why he was such an excellent "advisor" to us all! On January 17, 1976, Rick married his high school sweetheart, Sue. Rick and Sue were blessed with three daughters, Allison, Lauren, and Mallory. Rick was an exceptionally dedicated father, spending

many years at every kind of sporting event and earning the nickname "Stat Man" for carrying his love of numbers and analytics into track times and baskets made. Rick traveled the world during his Air Force and Delta careers and made it a priority to share the experience of travel with his family. Traveling has always been a cornerstone of the family bond, teaching us to be worldly and grateful, but also bonding time that knitted us together tightly in ways we didn't realize until later in life. Some particularly special trips together were the BVI, skiing annually in UT, and (many!) river cruises with Sue. Rick was a renaissance man, universally liked, all around exceptional person. Given all he accomplished and how adored he was, his humility is a quality that stands out. He had a love for music, port wine, hot fries, Twizzlers, routine, exercise, technology, yard work, his dog, platform tennis, and loving and serving his family in a million different ways. He was a teacher to many and a pragmatic debater. Rick will be dearly missed by his loving wife of 47 years, Sue; daughters, Allison (Brennan) Hill, Lauren (Sean) Gruber, and Mallory (Marc) Bain; grandchildren, Grant (8), Leo (6), Macy (3), Beau (4), Carter (2), Sullivan (4 months), Weston (5), and Max (3); sister, Caro (Dave) Pinto, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends. In addition to his parents, Rick was preceded in death by his sister, Chris. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Rick's honor to the ALS Association or to a charity of your choice. An open house celebration of life will be held on August 19th from 3:00-5:00pm at Coldstream Country Club, 400 Asbury Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45255.

Service details

Celebration of Life

Coldstream Country Club, 400 Asbury Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

Saturday, August 19, 2023

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Rick, please visit our [Tree Store](#).

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Events

Guestbook Signing & Memory Sharing

Orders begin printing on April 5

Family and friends are coming together online to create a special keepsake. Every memory left on the online obituary will be automatically included in this book.

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Tribute Wall

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Plant a tree in memory of Rick

An environmentally friendly option

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3 trees planted in memory of Rick Nickel Jr.

A

Anonymous

September 20, 2023

S

Spring Grove Funeral Homes

August 28, 2023

God bless you Nick!

M

Mark sztanyo {Pilot colleague}

August 28, 2023

Dear Sue and Family, So sorry to hear this news about Rick and enjoyed every one of them. Truly a good person. Rick influenced a very many people he came in contact with.

S

Susan Groves {friend}

August 28, 2023

Sue - My heart goes out to you and your entire family. May all of the happy memories you shared with Rick be a comfort to you.

B

Ben Northcutt {Friend from high school.}

August 28, 2023

Dear Sue, I will miss Rick and remember a lot of great extracurricular times from high school. I always thought that Rick was an exceptional bright person but with humility and a sense of humor. He had an infectious laugh. He was very mature for his age in high school. I ... [Continue Reading](#)

C

Charlotte Wong {Friend from High School}

August 28, 2023

Sue, I'm broken hearted to hear this news. Rick was a great person and I will miss him.

R

Roger and Susan Krantz {Neighbor}


August 28, 2023



His eyes just sparkled when looking at you. Please know that we are all thinking of you in our prayers. My most sincere sympathy. Prayers for your family.

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Please accept our deepest sympathies. May you find peace and comfort in the Lord's arms.



Gerard J Pitschmann {Friend}
August 28, 2023

Dearest Sue and Allison, Lauren and Mallory, my heart goes out to you and the rest of your beautiful families during this difficult time. May the Lord wrap His loving arms around you all and lavish you with His comfort, peace and mercy. What a blessing to have the joy of ... [Continue Reading](#)

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