



Richard A. Sullivan

July 3, 1945 - March 24, 2024

Rich Sullivan, a man whose life was a testament to faith, family, and service, peacefully departed this world on March 24, 2024, at the age of 78, following a courageous battle with ALS.

Born on July 3rd, 1945, in Highland Park, Michigan, Rich's journey was marked by unwavering dedication to his beliefs and his loved ones.

Rich was a devoted follower of Christ, sharing the message of hope and truth with all who crossed his path. He leaves behind a legacy of love and faith, exemplified in his actions and words.

For 55 years, Rich shared his life with his beloved wife, Karen, forming a partnership grounded in love, respect, and unwavering support. Together, they raised two daughters, Sara (Paul) Meriweather and Mary (Aaron) Krese.

As a proud grandfather to Rachel, Laura, Cade, Emily, Sam, and Hannah, Rich cherished every moment spent with his grandchildren, imparting wisdom and creating cherished memories.

Rich was a cherished brother to Janet (Willis), Linda (Mark), Sandy (Dale), Mick (Kathy), and Brenda (Jon), a source of strength and support for his family through the years.

Professionally, Rich dedicated over six decades to his custodial business, demonstrating a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence.

Additionally, he shared his passion for faith by leading tours of the Tabernacle at United Memorial Gardens for over 30 years and serving as a Bible Study Fellowship leader for 25 years.

In his leisure time, Rich found solace and joy in vacations with his family in northern Michigan, particularly Ludington or Mackinaw, where they created cherished memories that will be treasured forever. He had a fun sense of humor and couldn't resist a good plaid shirt.

Rich's genuine kindness and willingness to lend a helping hand touched the lives of many. Whether offering a listening ear or providing practical assistance, he was always there for those in need.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects during the Memorial Visitation on Tuesday, April 2nd, from 5-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, located at 46401 Ann Arbor Road West, between Sheldon and Beck in Plymouth.

The memorial service will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd. Visitation will be from 10:30 AM to 11 AM, service at 11 AM and luncheon to follow at Trinity Church, located at 10101 Ann Arbor Road West (At Gotfredson Road) in Plymouth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Church – Deacon's Fund, or to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia MI 48150.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth
46401 Ann Arbor Road West
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 459-2250
plymouth@vermeulenh.com

Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 3. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Church
10101 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Memorial Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Church
10101 W. Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Tribute Wall

RK

“ Rich was a huge part of my life at General Fasteners. My late working nights he was always so kind and full of advice to a young 18 year old just starting out. Always will remember him and cherish his words.

Sending prayers to the family.

Rosie Klotz - April 02, 2024 at 03:32 PM

MO

“ Next to my dad, Rich was one of the kindest and gentlest men I knew. Yet strong, solid, constant and reliable. He gave our son his first job and mentored him like a grandfather. Rich invested so well in those who knew him or worked for him.

I loved his faith in God, his love for his dear Karen and family, and his genuine smile... we will all miss him because he exuded Christ like love to all who knew him... and losing those pillars of faith this side of heaven is just hard. A void- yet it also encourages us to pursue Christ the same way, that He would work through us, as He worked through the willing servant Rich was.

Praise God Rich passed to eternal life- and is now living whole and complete, with Jesus... and we will see him again! I can only imagine my dad was behind Jesus to welcome Rich home ❤️❤️❤️

megan orsini - April 02, 2024 at 12:51 PM

KW

“ I met Rich when we were 17 years old, we both attended CALVERY Baptist church. Rich lived in Hazel Park and I lived in Berkley we got together from time to time and Rich became like another brother to me and our family. Rich would join my family for birthdays, family picnic and at times we double dated and went to VCY gatherings in Detroit from time to time. After high school I was looking for a job and Rich was working for a Janitorial company owned by a church member so Rich told me they were looking for workers and they would train me. I joined the company and worked with Rich for awhile, then Rich left and went to work for another company. I think we were both 19 when a company Rich had work for was closing and told Rich if we wanted to start our own Janitorial business he would sell us all the equipment and give us the name of some of his clients, he would do all this for \$500. Rich and I talked about it but we didn't have \$500, but Rich had an older adult friend named Bill Johnson who agreed to loan us the money. When we tried to come up with a name we thought about RichKen or KenRich, KenRich seemed to flow better so KenRich Maintenance was formed. Rich and I ended up as students at Detroit Bible College, and KenRich Maintenance became our income that helped pay the bills. Eventually I married my dear wife Susan and she would do the billing each month for the company, Rich met Karen along the way and they married after we graduated from DBC. By then my wife and I had moved to Southern California where I attended Seminary. Over the years Rich and Karen continued to be dear friends and even came to visit us in California where we had a joyful time sharing stories about our lives together. Losing Rich is losing a dear friend, brother, and the special history and memories we shared together for so many year. My wife Susan and I hold Karen and family in our prayers during this most difficult time and here in California on Wednesday as you celebrate the life of Rich such as special man we will be there in our hearts and spirit. Love, Ken&Susan Watkins



ken watkins - March 30, 2024 at 05:20 PM

 Mark
Adler

“ I worked for Rich for 5 great years. He was the most caring, intelligent, kind-hearted man you'd ever meet. He was an honorary grand parent to me and even after I moved in I never forgot the skills he taught me or the kindness he showed me. No one deserves heaven more than him.

Mark Adler - March 30, 2024 at 10:24 AM

JS

“ Richard, I met you when you were in Hazel Park High. You started working part time at dad's Texaco gas station. Everyone thought you were my brother and a great brother you would have been. We both were learning how to service cars and pump gas. You always look sharp in the Texaco uniform. I think you took them home and ironed them before showing up. My dad lived you and Micky. Probably more than me. But I was his youngest. Rich, you were always a calming force. A wonderful example of Christian love and an example of what a msn should be. I never said it enough but you were. I am always thankful Ksrdsn didn't have a baby grand to more. Untill we meet again, may the Irish Angels keep watch over you   and Jesus welcome you with open arms

Jimmy Sullivan - March 27, 2024 at 07:32 PM

SS

“ Rich:

How I will greatly miss you and our time together, especially this last year when i would come to visit you. You have had a great impact on me not only as a leader in our BSF group, but outside of the group. You were always so patient and kind with everyone. You were always so humble and this inspired me and showed me how Jesus would want us to be like. I will always cherish your wisdom my friend.

Steve Swanson.



Steve Swanson - March 27, 2024 at 03:11 PM

SR

“ We spent time praying for you and your family Karen, and that Rich will rest in peace and the joy of the Lord, who I’m sure is waiting for him with open arms. He is one man that I know loved the Lord with whole heart for his whole life. Of that I never doubted.

There are very few people who have befriended us as Rich did. Not only were we dear friends out at Salem, but he married Janet and I and trusted us. Here we are 48 years later still madly in love with 20 grandchildren and I am continually grateful to Rich for what he did for us.

He also employed me and I loved working for him. He’s the only boss I ever had since I never worked for anyone else. We spent many years driving in the middle of the night home from Royal Oak at 4:00 AM exhausted to the bone, and he taught me how to clean offices, so that I could build a business to raise our family. He never resented me going off on my own, in fact, he loaned me equipment and helped me get started. For that I am eternally grateful.

You have both been such dear friends for so many decades that our heart aches for your loss of your best friend and covenant partner. You were a very special wife for him, and a constant blessing. This, I am also sure of having watched you over the decades.

But we love the knowledge of the resurrection. What a week to have the funeral — holy week of the death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. If we didn’t have that, what would we have?

Steve Ray - March 27, 2024 at 02:44 PM

JP

“ I was one of Rich employees for over 6 years. He was one of the most kindest hearted humans you would ever meet in your life time. I still remember the 1st time he called me for the job I was so excited to start he was more then a boss in my eyes he was a great mentor person in my life. I called him a family member best friend including his wonderful wife Karen so sweet the 1st time I met her she was so welcoming just like Rich himself. I will always remember Rich there's not a day that goes bye I don't think about him he will be truly miss bye many. God bless his entire family always and forever

Joe Peruski

Joe Peruski - March 27, 2024 at 12:50 AM

ST

“ Rich was the head custodian at Trinity for many years when I was the BSF Class Administrator there. We worked together to provide for the physical needs of the class. Rich was such a Godly, caring man! We could count on him for help whenever we had a problem, even one time when he was on vacation! He even anticipated many of our needs and provided things before we requested them. He showed Christ's love to us with a joyful, servant's heart. I'm so sorry for his passing, but grateful that he is now home with Jesus!

Sue Tranquilla - March 26, 2024 at 09:02 PM

MA

“ I was blessed to have a man like Rich cross my path. Humble, gentle, and faithful. If possible, Heaven became a better place. Our Savior greeted Rich with an open embrace and the words we all long to hear. Well done good and faithful servant.

Matt Adams - March 26, 2024 at 02:33 PM

MA

My husband, Robert Keith Aycock first met Rich at what was then called, Detroit Bible College. "Keith" (the name he went by since his Mom didn't like people calling him Bob or Bobby, entered the college pretty much penniless. Rich was the one who reached out to Keith and gave him rides to work and was there for Keith as a friend and true brother in Christ as Rich's help allowed him to stay in school. At Christmas Rich bought Keith a nice sports jacket, sweater and slacks...although at the time it was a mystery as to who had given him such a fine gift. September 2, 1967 Rich was a groomsman in my and Keith's wedding. Within the next year Rich met and married Karen. They were our dearest friends and autumn found us taking a trip to see the leaves in the north. We spent many occasions playing the card game Rook til the wee hours of the morning. There were many other games we played also. When we moved to Atlanta we'd get together and made some of the best memories. But with families still in Michigan we were drawn back for more adventures than I have room to share here.

Keith my husband made a grand entrance into heaven just a few months ago in October 2023. I know Keith was waiting welcome his dear friend Rich and can see them rough housing laughing and sitting with Jesus having all their deep theological questions answered. Being a Widow stinks as it's hard to go on without these giants if the faith in our lives. But now Jesus has that position in my and Karens lives and who could ask for a better mate than that.

Marla Aycock - March 26, 2024 at 07:55 PM

MS

“ What can one say after more than 50 years of friendship & wonderful friendship in Christ? My wife & I have wonderful memories of vacationing together to National Parks out west & in New England as well as Washington DC. He was a great help to me in starting a business as well as consulting me. Janice & I will never forget the time Rich & Karen snuck onto my property & dropped off a beat up torn down , doomed for the dump trailer. Then leaving laughing their heads off. They have been wonderful friends!

Mick Stevens - March 26, 2024 at 09:45 AM

SR

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Steve Ray - March 27, 2024 at 02:41 PM

ES

“ It was my honor and blessing to serve with Rich at Trinity Church. I most enjoyed gleaning insights from his love of reading and studying God's word. We had the most fun and stimulating conversations that grew and challenged my faith.

Ellie Schupra - March 26, 2024 at 12:34 AM

LA

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Laura - March 25, 2024 at 09:00 PM



“ *I'll miss my dear brother in Christ. Whether it was Becky and I going out to dinner with Rich and Karen in Ann Arbor, being together with our families, or having those deeper and thoughtful conversations with this dear man of God, the privilege of knowing Rich is what I'll cherish the rest of my days until I can be there with Him with our Lord. I am so grateful that I was able to see him for that brief time in the summer of 2023. Surely God has been gracious.*

Rodney Smith - March 25, 2024 at 07:55 PM

LH

What an inspiration Rich was on how to live a godly Christian life of service! I will miss him so much and his practical solutions to any and every problem. He was a man of service to the Lord. I imagine him being welcomed as a good and faithful servant. He's now in the presence of his Lord.

Lorraine Hallinen - March 25, 2024 at 08:18 PM

LH

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Lorraine Hallinen - March 25, 2024 at 08:21 PM

GF

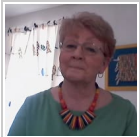
Rich was a godly man and gentle disciple, who's life resonated with Christian values. When Rich spoke at Saturday's BSF leaders meeting ...all listened. We should all have the privilege of knowing a godly man like Rich Sullivan.

Gary Fischer - March 25, 2024 at 11:02 PM

SR

“What a man of God! I was so blessed to sit under his teaching and be called his friend. I am so sorry, Karen and family. But I know he's okay with hugging Jesus!!! Love to you all - Sue Robinson

Susan Robinson - March 25, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“I remember our families going to the Christmas tree farm together. Also, the last time we were in Michigan going to Cracker Barrel together, and always so much laughter! Love to your family, Becky Smith

Becky Pitzer Smith - March 25, 2024 at 07:20 PM

EM

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



emily - March 25, 2024 at 06:59 PM