



Richard J. Brehm

July 10, 1946 - January 17, 2020

Richard Joseph Brehm, 73, died Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, in Memphis, Tennessee, following a lengthy illness.

Richard was born in St. Helens, England on July 10, 1946, but grew up in Rahway, New Jersey. After attending Cornell University for a short time, he served in the U.S. Army for two years before receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from University of Memphis. A perpetual student, Richard taught himself computer science, and when he saw an ad in the paper for a job in that field at Baptist Memorial Hospital, he answered it. Thirty-seven years later, he retired with the title of Human Resource Manager.

On November 4, 1991, he married his best friend of 20 years, Carol, and they raised a daughter, Carrie.

Richard had a passion for duplicate bridge, becoming a Life Master in just three years. He loved to travel with his beloved Carol to tournaments, particularly when they emerged victorious. He was also an avid collector of music, amassing a collection of well over a thousand compact discs and vinyl albums covering all genres, from the Beatles to Bach. His quiet, unassuming character belied his quick, dry wit, and though he used few words, he loved with all his heart. This gentle giant (6'7"), who thought Velveeta was a food group, was happiest being Will and Ryan's "Pop," playing hours of games with his grandson, and enjoying family time with the whole Nicholson and Wilson family.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Brehm; his mother, Barbara King Brehm; and his sisters Joanne Santora and Kathleen Sweeney.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Carol Wilson Brehm; his daughter and son-in-law Carrie Elizabeth and Trey Nicholson, his grandsons Ryan and Will Nicholson; his sister Barbara (Joe) Paprocki; his brothers William (Karen) Brehm and Michael (Joanne) Brehm; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Memorial Park Funeral Home (5668 Poplar Avenue) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Events

JAN **Gathering** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

25

Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery - January 24 at 05:11 PM



“ Richard and I worked together for over 30 years. Richard became more than a co-worker to me - he was a dear friend. We worked together, we laughed together and shared so much more. We teased each other that he was my boss and when he retired and came back to work "as needed" I became his boss! Richard loved his wife Carol and their daughter and grandson! Richard was the smartest person I ever met. His knowledge on so many different topics was phenomenal. My heart was broken when he left us but I know that he is at peace. I will forever miss Richard but I thank God for allowing him to be a part of my life for 30 years. Pam Robinson

Pamela Robinson - January 24 at 03:35 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard J. Brehm.



January 24 at 02:18 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Richard J. Brehm.



January 24 at 08:36 AM



“ I will miss my big brother greatly. Although I didn't get to see him as much as I would have liked, I do think about him often. He was a source of pride for me growing up knowing he possessed such high intelligence and was such an outstanding scholar. He was the first to attend college in our family and I know he was the joy of our mother's heart. Between him and my brother Bill, a young boy could not have wished for two better big brothers. I looked up to them both and I still do to this day. Fortunately, thanks to the persistence of my wife Joanne, I've had two opportunities to visit Rich over the last two years. We got a chance to reunite and I saw what a wonderful life he and Carol had made for themselves in Memphis. I had the chance to see Carrie and to meet little Will and to see first hand the joy on my brother's face for the life he had made for himself. I love my brother and I will miss him but I do have the piece of mind knowing he led a happy and fulfilling life. Rest in peace my brother and say Hi from me to the family in heaven !!

Love,
Michael

michael d brehm - January 21 at 05:41 PM