



Richard W. Cobb

February 20, 1947 - July 13, 2020

Richard William Cobb passed away at Munson Hospital after suffering a stroke on July 13, 2020. Rich was born in 1947 in Syracuse, New York to June (Thorn) and Gilbert Cobb. Rich spent his early years with his older sister, Judy and his parents in upstate New York near his mother's family. In the mid-fifties, his family moved to the Detroit area and eventually settled in Ann Arbor where he started third grade at Haisley Elementary School. After graduating from Pioneer High School in 1965, he attended community college, until his draft number came up in 1967, and he was inducted into the Army. His tour of duty included 13 months in Vietnam where he served as a personnel clerk. When he returned, he enrolled at Michigan State University and completed a degree in Communications. Rich moved to Chicago after college and worked in advertising sales for magazines for the rest of his career. He started in the good old days where extensive travel and expense accounts were the norm, and he loved every minute. Over the years, he sold space for the Wall Street Journal, New Yorker, Newsweek, and several trade publications. After getting established, he bought a condo in a six-floor walk up building on the north side of the city where he spent countless hours removing old paint and fixing the place up. His father was a master handy man and Rich followed in his footsteps. All that travel he did for work finally paid off, when he met his future wife, Marilyn, in Vail, Colorado in 1984. He was in town visiting a close friend from Chicago who owned a ski condo. The friend had a cousin who was Marilyn's close friend and so they conspired to introduce the two. Rich charmed Marilyn immediately with his well-known wit and charm. They had a long distance relationship with lots of phone calls and plane trips for a year, before Marilyn left the mountains and moved to Chicago where they were married in September 1985. Making the transition to the big city was tough for Marilyn, but with Rich's guidance and friends, she learned to love it. After a few years, they moved to Lake Forest and bought a home with a fenced in yard for their Westies. They lived there for 20 years with a few more beloved dogs and many good memories. Because Marilyn was from Michigan, too, they always planned to retire up here, and in 2000 built a home near Torch Lake. That process was one of the highlights of Rich's life and moving there in 2007 was a dream come true. When he wasn't busy with a project, he

was in his favorite easy chair reading yet another thriller from the Elk Rapids District Library. Taking road trips all over the country became an annual ritual, as he and Marilyn explored places from the Adirondacks to Santa Fe. Rich was also very active in the Paradise Estates Association, serving as treasurer and general watchdog for several years. Rich's health deteriorated in the last few years so he and Marilyn moved to Traverse City a year ago.

Rich is survived by his wife, Marilyn; sister, Judy (Cobb) Shuck and David of St. George, UT; sister-in-law, Peggy (McMullen) Reeder and Gene of Georgetown, TX; brother-in-law, Donald Ballenger of Gaylord, and many nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place, and there will be no services at this time because of the pandemic. Marilyn would like to thank Rich's doctors, the Munson and Cowell Cancer Center staff and EMTs who kindly cared for Rich through his health struggles over the last nine years. Donations can be sent to: Elk Rapids District Library Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 337, Elk Rapids, MI 49629 or Cherryland Humane Society, 1750 Ahlberg Rd. Traverse City, MI 49696.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Rich's family at his tribute page at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

Rich and his family are in the care of the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ My sincere condolences, Marilyn, on the death of Rich. I'm glad you have landed in a place you have both enjoyed, and I hope friends and family will be there for this transition in your life. It has been such a hard year in so many ways, and it's especially sad when services aren't really possible to provide some closure.
Peace, Marion Huyck

Marion Huyck - July 31, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ Marilyn, I am so sorry to hear of your husband's death. It sounds as if his past many years have been difficult. How lucky he was to have you beside him during his struggles.
You have my deepest sympathy.
Jean Wilson

Jean Wilson - July 30, 2020 at 05:02 PM



“ Oh Marilyn I am so sorry. I so recall your talking about your husband and always getting the great feeling that you so she cherished him. Maybe he Rest In Peace. I am praying for comfort for you. Kaye Boling

Kaye Murphy Boling - July 30, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ Oh Marilyn I'm so sorry. I will add Rich to our church memorial services. Tom and I remember the many times we had good times together. Cheryl Drury

Cheryl Drury - July 30, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ My condolences to you Marilyn. I did not know Rich although I am sure we shared many of the same experiences.. I also attended Haisley Elementary School in Ann Arbor. Rich would have been a year ahead of me. I lived on South Circle Drive next to the school.

Rich probably went to Slauson Junior High. My family moved across town and I attended Tappan. I also graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer, class of 1966. My wife and I moved to Elk Rapids 3 years ago.

Best regards
Rocky Paige

Rockne L. Paige - July 16, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ Richie was a good, buddy. I remember golfing with him, numerous times. One time, we played A-GA-MING, which is located on the west side, of Torch Lake. We made the turn, Mid-Day, and enjoyed a Hot Dog, and a cold Fosters beer. It was the very best Hot Dog, that I have ever had. I believe this was around 2005. We shared this observation, often. I miss you, Richie.

Paul B Crouch - July 16, 2020 at 09:34 AM



“ Marilyn, I am thinking of you and sending my love. When Bob wore his denim shirt he always said he was wearing his "Richie shirt"! The rumbles from heaven will be Rich, Bob and Maureen "discussing" politics. Take care of you. Suzy

Suzy Nipper - July 16, 2020 at 09:23 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Rich's passing. May your many wonderful memories of your life together give you comfort and peace.

Jody Hillger - July 16, 2020 at 02:27 AM



“ My mom and dad thought the world of Rich and were so proud to have a part in your wedding. They enjoyed it so much and talked about it for years afterward. I got to know Rich at some of the family gatherings and found him to be quite an interesting conversationalist. You are blessed to have had so many years together.

Barbara Martin - July 15, 2020 at 11:10 PM



“ A good friend and a good companion is hard to find. You found one. Both of you were fortunate and those memories are worth a lot. We grieve with you.
Jim and Lou Ann

Lou Ann McKimmy - July 15, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ Dear Marilyn, I am so sorry for you and hope that you will find peace and courage from friends and family. May your tears turn to smiles as you remember the wonderful time you shared with a wonderful person. Sally Hannert.

Sally Hannert - July 15, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ Richie was my best friend I will cherish all the many memories that we shared. May God wrap you in his loving arms and bring you peace my dear friend. Anne Rupert Crouch

anne crouch - July 15, 2020 at 04:05 PM