



## Richard Allen Plahna

September 6, 1947 - March 20, 2021

Richard Allen Plahna, 73, suddenly passed away in his Interlochen home on March 20, 2021.

His wife of 24 years saw him as “The most honest and kind person I knew, the love of my life, my best friend and a true gentleman.”

He was born on Sept. 6, 1947 in Burlington, WI to the late Eric and Eleanore Plahna and grew up in the town of Cudahy, WI. After graduating high school, he volunteered to serve in the US Marine Corps for 4 years during the Vietnam War era. He reached the rank of Sergeant E-5 and was honorably discharged in 1971.

He attended Metropolitan College of Business & Technology in Milwaukee and completed the program of Advanced Systems in computer programming in 1971. He then attended the University of Wisconsin Whitewater and graduated Cum Laude, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in English in 1976. He later worked as computer programmer and operator at Tampa General Hospital, FL and also for the Raymond James home office in St. Petersburg, FL. After marrying Kim Angel in FL, they moved to the Traverse City area to help family members with health issues in 1997. During that time he worked for the US Post Office in the Traverse City processing plant until he retired in 2012.

He loved baseball and had a secret wish to be able to play in the major leagues. “They throw it – I hit it” was his favorite quote from Willie Mays. He often challenged events in his life with this phrase.

He was an avid cruciverbalist and also enjoyed yoga exercises, baking bread, family get-togethers, and dining out with Kim. Writing was one of his favorite hobbies and he completed daily installments of his thoughts and stories. He also collected and read many books, especially loved Shakespeare and diligently studied the Bible in his later years. He was a truth-seeker who ultimately found its reality and beauty in simplicity, love and the person of Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his loving wife Kim; his brother Eric J. Plahna of WI; sister in-law Pamela Tober of CA, her daughters Juliana Ekong (of NJ) and Eno Smith (of CA) and their families; step children Mike Steffes, Melonie Steffes (Shaun Anchak) and Grandson Seamus Callaghan all of MI; and nieces and nephews: Kurt (Emily), Natalie, and Paige Plahna of WI and E. Joseph (Leigh) Aiden, and Daniel Plahna of MA.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Please direct any contributions to the Father Fred Foundation or a local charity of your choice.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Richard's family at his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Tribute Wall

KP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kurt Plahna - April 15, 2021 at 05:53 PM

KP

Three generations of Plahna boys, left to right: Eric Anton Plahna, Eric Joseph Plahna, Richard Plahna, Kurt Plahna, Eric James Plahna

Kurt Plahna - April 15, 2021 at 05:56 PM

KP

“ My Uncle Richard (Rickey to us) was the most gentle, kind, and intelligent man - that special kind of human being that is extremely rare and much needed in this world. Though we didn't keep closely in touch, I still always felt close to him in spirit. His reserved, meditative nature still inspires me today. Growing up, I have many great memories of him, both in WI and while visiting my grandparents (his parents) in FL. I was so happy for him when he met and married his wonderful wife Kim. Rest in peace my favorite uncle - I look forward to seeing you again!

Kurt Plahna - April 15, 2021 at 04:30 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mike Steffes - March 31, 2021 at 05:08 PM

MS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Mike Steffes - March 31, 2021 at 05:03 PM

MS

“ The first time I met the "R", I was working on the engine of an old Chevy truck. From that day forward, he could never get over the fact that an entire human could actually fit inside an engine compartment with the engine still in there! I don't believe that he knew what to do when I crawled out of there covered in grease to shake his hand, but he was a good sport and did it anyway. Man I love that guy! He is the best thing that ever happened to my mom. He brought a much needed balance to her world and was a good friend to me. I will always be grateful for being able to know him, and until we meet again, I will miss him dearly.

Mike Steffes - March 31, 2021 at 04:57 PM

SC

“ Richard - Grampy to me, ever since I was young - was the best grandfather a man could ask for. He had that very human intelligence that goes beyond mere cleverness (though he certainly was clever) to include honest wisdom and compassion as well. He was an avid reader and a writer, and always knew how to make us laugh with his wit. He was full of love for us, and we are full of love for him. We will dearly miss him.

Seamus Callaghan - March 28, 2021 at 12:47 PM

RS

Richard will be missed. A solid human being. All the qualities that you need to be a son, soldier, student, husband, father and friend. He will be missed.

Robert Scheele - March 28, 2021 at 03:46 PM

SA

“ Richard was a wonderful man, honest as they come. He will always be with us as we continue enjoy his favorite things. Classical literature, green tea, jazz, classical music, yoga. I know he will be there guiding us in the next generation of the old man joke.

Shaun Anchak - March 28, 2021 at 11:10 AM

MS

“ *Richard was one of the kindest and sweetest men I've ever known. My son's "Grampy". His intelligence and humor were a pleasure to be around. From the moment we met I knew he was "one of us". We miss you dear one.*

*Love Melonie*



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**Melonie Steffes** - March 28, 2021 at 12:06 AM

TM

“ *I'm going to miss Richard... I love how he loved my friend Kim in so many special ways—he was a unique soul and her perfect life partner. I appreciated his wry sense of humor and his insatiable quest for knowledge—we enjoyed bantering with each other! Richard, you lived a good life, and you enriched ours. May God bless you and keep you!*

*Your friend, Tricia*

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**Tricia Morrow** - March 26, 2021 at 08:49 PM

PT

“ *“To me, Richard was, first of all, the beloved husband of my sister. He was one created for her just as she was one created for him. He was her person and I loved him dearly for that. When I visited them and got to know him, I grew to love him more as I saw how much he loved my sister and how kind and gentle he was. He retired from his job before she retired from hers. I “remember him getting up early, making coffee for her, preparing the lunch she took to her workplace and talking with her by phone during the day discussing what they would have for dinner. He enjoyed cooking and prepared meals for them both during the afternoon. He had a peace about him and a desire for the simple life of love that always touched me.*

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**Pam Tober** - March 26, 2021 at 12:25 PM

PT

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Pam Tober** - March 26, 2021 at 11:56 AM

ES

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Eno Smith** - March 26, 2021 at 11:56 AM

PT

*This is my husband, Chris, with Richard on one of our visits. They were alike in many ways, had a similar sense of humor and enjoyed each other's company.*

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**Pam Tober** - March 26, 2021 at 01:09 PM

BM

“ *I met Richard Through Kim in Florida. They worked at Raymond James. I always knew he was a Brainiack. But so kind and polite. Reminded me of kims Dad. We called Grand Dad. I couldnt had picked out such a wonderful husband to kim and such a delightful Man. Its been a pleasure to ser two eccentric minds like Richard & Kim hand & hand. Richard you will be missed . Im very lucky to have been in your company. Hugs Bev. See you on the other side..*

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**Beverly G Morse** - March 24, 2021 at 05:19 PM