



Richard 'Dick' Harrison

April 19, 1935 - December 18, 2021

Richard "Dick" Harrison, 86, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa passed away on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids after a short illness. A private inurnment service will take place at New Windsor Cemetery in New Windsor, Illinois at a later date. Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cedar Rapids, assisted the family.

Dick was born in Centralia, Illinois on April 19, 1935, the son of Allan and Dorothy Harrison. He graduated from Peoria Central High School and the University of Illinois with a BS in Economics. He married Kay Streeter on July 2, 1963 and worked for Traveler's Insurance Company and later for Cincinnati Financial Insurance as a regional sales director until he retired in 2000.

Dick was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and was active in Linn County Master Gardeners and the American Hosta Society. He was a civil-war history buff who could not drive by a historical marker or battlefield without stopping to learn more. And he faithfully cheered on the Chicago Bears and his Fighting Illini.

But Dick will also be remembered for his life-long love of gardening and encyclopedic knowledge of the outdoors. He shared this love with Kay as they gardened together for 58 years. Dick had a laugh that could fill the room with warmth and comfort, never failing to put a smile on everyone's faces. You could count on Dick for a good story or to make a funny connection with something from his vast memory banks. All in all, he was a kind, smart, gentle, selfless person, who saw the beauty in things, from plants and birds, to delicious food and a good joke... truly "Mr. Wonderful". He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Kay Streeter-Harrison, of Cedar Rapids; children, Amy (Mark) Butz of Cedar Rapids and Rick (Roxanne) Harrison of Aptos, California; grandchildren, Sam, Tom, Anna and John Butz and Grace and Lily Harrison; great grandchildren, Ada, Raylan, Noah and Maya Butz; siblings, Lynne (Randy) Siron and Stuart (Michaeline)

Harrison; and brother-in-law, Harry Brehm.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Peggy Brehm.

Memorials may be directed to Linn County Master Gardeners, 383 Collins Road SE, Suite 201, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

Comments



“ I just heard, and am saddened by Dick's passing. He was the Life Regional Director with Cincinnati Life for our agency in Shelbyville, IL for many years. We first met Dick in 1984, and we all warmed up to him very quickly. I always enjoyed listening to his stories, especially those involving small towns. The first thing that he would mention was where the best restaurant or bar that served food in town was. You could always count on his opinion as a food critic!
May the Lord be with you Kay, and your family.
Randy Biehler
Shelbyville, IL

Randy Biehler - January 19 at 10:11 AM



“ I never met Dick in person but have heard many great stories. Kay and family I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you all at this time.

tiffani meyers - December 26, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ I remember Dick from Franklin Grade School and Peoria High, class of 1953, he was very good athlete and a pleasure to talk to. My condolences to his family.

Bob Griffith - December 25, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ We welcomed your son into our family 2/29/92.....having 30 years to witness his work ethics, being a father to our grandchildren, loving our daughter and providing a home with love to all, you and Kay did a superb job raising your son, we thank you for that.You Sir may now Rest in Peace. Jim and Gail Miller, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

James Miller - December 24, 2021 at 05:48 PM



“ I remember Dick from years at The Travelers. We worked together in Peoria in the 1970's, then he moved to the Home Office in Hartford. Several years later I moved to the Home Office, and we worked together again in the early 1980's for a few years. He was a truly wonderful, caring gentleman. My sympathy to his family.

Debbie Lewellyn
Peoria, IL

Debbie - December 23, 2021 at 10:39 AM



“ I have known Dick 15 or 20 years, I really can't remember now; I have been his dentist. Dick was more to me than a patient though. He was special; I always looked forward to seeing him and occasionally a longer appointment where we could get into some lengthier discussions on landscape and gardening. (I actually scheduled more time so we could talk!) His knowledge was enviable and we were always laughing. One funny story that I'll never forget (pretty sure I already told Kay this one). At my dental office we always wear big blue jackets that go down almost to our knees (plus all the usual protective masks, etc). I happened to see Dick one day over my lunch hour down at the gas station next to my office. Well we spotted each other and he very innocently says, "Hey, I've never seen you with your clothes on before!" Well, that sounded pretty bad in front of the clerks and other customers. I laughed and laughed and told him he might have just ruined my reputation! I knew exactly what he meant! It was truly my pleasure to know this man, to have had the opportunity to soak in his special spirit in small chunks for many years. I'm not just saying this, I won't forget him. Kay, my deepest sympathies to you and your family. May you all have that blessed assurance from above that Dick is in a garden beyond our wildest imaginations, free of deer, thorns, rot, bad weather and bug bites! May the Lord shower you with peace and comfort!

Shannon Hingst - December 22, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ Dick and Kay were our neighbors in Peoria for many years. Without a doubt, they had the most beautiful yard in our whole subdivision. I never knew so many different hosta existed. And I think Dick had them all. He and Kay had gorgeous landscaping and they truly worked hard at developing it. My husband and I often would smile and feel sorry for them having to live next door to our plain and often rough landscaping efforts. I remember the day, shortly after we had moved in that he was a little upset we had put out a salt block for the deer...much to his dismay b/c it would draw deer who would eat the hosta. Needless to say, out of respect to him and Kay, we never put out a salt block in the rest of the 30 plus years we lived there. I will never forget the day large travel buses came by the house...I couldn't figure it out...then I heard them say that they were from the hosta society of Illinois and I KNEW Dick had made it big. He was a generous, funny, caring man. He and Kay made our little cul-de-sac a showplace, a respite, a yard of beauty. We thank him for sharing part of his life with our family--and even a hosta or two! Our deepest sympathy to Kay and the family. God bless.

Brad and Nancy Dunham

Nancy Dunham - December 22, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ Richard lived down the street from me when we went to Glen Oak grade school. We would often walk to school together and I remember him as a very sweet boy that everyone liked.

Martha Puckett Blunier
Albuquerque, NM

Martha Puckett Blunier - December 21, 2021 at 06:45 PM



“ To the family of Dick Harrison ., our deepest sympathy-
Dick was one of a kind with so many special talents especially in gardening and nature.

I met him in 2008 ISU master gardener event. I was amazed at how much knowledge he had of hosta's. He and Kay had the best gardens in the city in my opinion. He and Kay worked long hours most every day ok the gardens. He knew the Latin names of all their plants which was put on all their plant labels. He was a student of history especially the civil war. We worked together on master gardener projects and most recently on the ISU Extension hortline answering questions on gardening from the public. There was not a question he did not know the answer to.

We enjoyed coffee shop visits to talk about gardening and other things. During my knee replacement recovery and rehab he drove me to my physical therapy visits. This was in the winter so roads weren't the best. He loved the Chicago Bears so we did our fair share of complaining about the team.

We will miss him greatly

Steve & Marlene Bartlett

Steve Bartlett - December 21, 2021 at 01:11 PM



“ To the family of Dick Harrison...I send my deepest condolences at the passing of Dick. The few times I got to visit with him, I certainly enjoyed his kindness and sense of humor...always a very pleasant man. May your memories offer you comfort as you mourn the loss of your loved one.

Vickie Weuve

Vickie Weuve - December 20, 2021 at 12:57 PM