



Richard Kent Billger

July 11, 1961 - December 30, 2020

DEDICATED FEDERAL SERVANT DEVOTED HUSBAND

Richard Kent Billger departed this life Wednesday, December 30th, 2020, holding his beloved wife's hand, passing peacefully into the light of the next realm. Having fought a courageous battle with cancer for over 3 years with quiet bravery, strength of spirit, and great will, his caring wife ever at his side, Rich left us after a final Christmas, at the age of 59.

Richard was born on July 11, 1961, in Sellersville, Pennsylvania, to Joseph and Georgia Billger. He grew up, however, in the Rehoboth Beach of the 60's and 70's, a tight-knit community where everyone knew everyone else. Rich was a Rehoboth Jr. High Seahawk and had fond memories of the School Vue crew. He worked summers on the beach for Dick Lynam's beach service, saving assiduously for college. Rich was an avid tennis player and soccer goalie at Cape Henlopen High School, which he later parlayed into scholarships at Blackburn College. While at Blackburn, he held the career record for saves as soccer goalie and graduated Summa Cum Laude, Alpha Chi in 1984. Continuing his education at the University of South Dakota, Richard attained his Juris Doctorate and found his steadfast partner and loving wife, Dianne. Married for 26 years, they lived throughout the United States, moving for Rich's 32-year career with the federal government, most notably NASA in Wallops Island, Virginia and most recently Loma Linda, California. No matter where his and Dianne's careers took them, Rich couldn't quite get 'Rehoboth Beach's sand out of his shoes'; he loved Delaware and returned to the Delaware beaches where he grew up as often as he could, checking in on his beloved parents, Joseph and Georgia and playing in pickle-ball tournaments with his mother.

Richard was a dedicated federal servant and kept working until the very end of his life with great persistence and focus. He was a private man, possessing a gentle spirit and generous heart. Kind and soft-spoken, Rich was humorous, honest, humble, thoughtful, and caring. He loved his family deeply.

Richard is survived by his devoted wife of 26 years, Dianne Billger; his sisters: Corinne Daffner (Ray) of Waterford, Virginia and Lewes, Nancy Nascimento (Marcos) of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania; his brother, Hans Billger (Monica) of Alexandria, Virginia; his nephews: Thadd Wilkinson (Nina) of Milton, Delaware, Brett (Barbara) Wilkinson of Boston, Massachusetts; his nieces: Bailey and Josie Billger; and his grand-nephews: Wyatt and Lincoln Wilkinson.

Rich, we will miss early morning walks on the boardwalk, catch-up phone calls, passionate political discussions and the beautiful gift that you have been to us all. We suspect, though, that with your well-known honesty and new-found freedom, you're now battling alongside the angels, helping to steer us all in a better direction.

Services will be private.

Contributions in Rich's memory are requested to the American Cancer Society, 92 Reads Way, # 205, New Castle, DE 19720.

Comments



“ Al Barthelmess lit a candle in memory of Richard Kent Billger



Al Barthelmess - January 24 at 11:00 AM



“ Dating back to the years when Hans and I played Little League, followed by soccer and tennis, I have fond memories of Rich. While he was competitive, he was always willing to share his advice and encouragement. I also recall Rich having a cool drum set in his room!

Positive embrace to the entire Billger Family and wishes of peace and strength,
John Fifer

John Fifer - January 11 at 12:17 PM



“ Although I did not have the pleasure of knowing Rich, I'd like to express my condolences to the entire Billger family. Hope happy memories make this difficult time a bit easier. Sending love to your family.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kiernan Bastian

Jennifer Bastian - January 11 at 02:51 AM



“ Thanks Jennifer for taking the time to post. All the kind thoughts and words help. Corinne
corinne - January 21 at 08:55 PM



“ Rich was an amazing husband to my sister, brother to me and uncle to my daughter. We have so many fond memories we will never forget. We are so blessed to have had him in our lives. My daughter and I were laughing the other day about a memory we have from staying with Rich and Di in Lewes. We had come to stay with them as I had a contract nearby. We had bought some groceries and left them in the freezer (some ice cream in particular). When we returned the following weekend from Baltimore my daughter went into the refrigerator to get some of her ice cream. When she opened it all that was left was a spoon and one spoonful of the ice cream. Lol! That was just the type of thing Rich would do! But I'd give up all the ice cream in the world to have him back. And I love my ice cream....but we loved this funny, selfless, and generous man more than any ice cream. Our hearts are broken. We are sending love, prayers, and positive thoughts to the Billger family.

Brenda VO - January 05 at 08:43 PM



“ Thank you, Brenda appreciate the post with kind words and prayers. Does sound like Rich. All the memories help us find our smile.... love to you and all of Dianne's family. We all loved him and miss him ...

Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:00 PM



“ You're welcome, Corinne! I just keep thinking of all the amazing memories we have with him. He was always smiling and happy! His laughter was so contagious! We loved spending time with him and Di. Our visits to Rehoboth were some of our favorite memories. Now they really hold a special place in our heart. Thank you as well for being there for Di when we can't be there to physically comfort her. I truly appreciate you all for taking such good care of her during this difficult time when you are struggling as well. It means the world to me.

Brenda - January 06 at 12:05 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Billger family on the loss of such a wonderful man. I remember Richard as a student in Rehoboth Junior High School and hearing about some of the challenges of having a father on the staff of that school. I remember Joe talking about his children with justifiable great pride. RIP
Nick Foery

Nick Foery - January 05 at 11:44 AM



“ Thank you Mr. Foery, Rich had fond memories of RJH. Your kind words and thoughts are helping us during this difficult time, Corinne

Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:03 PM



“ I went to high school with Rich. What I recall most vividly is his smile....always smiling. R.I.P. Rich. My condolences.
Tracey Smith Wessell

Tracey Smith Wessell - January 05 at 05:38 AM



“ Thanks Tracey! He did have a great smile... thanks for the kind words, it all helps! Corinne
Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:04 PM



“ Diane, Hans, Monica, Bailey and Josie, We are deeply sorry to hear of the passing of your husband/brother/uncle/son. He sounds like a wonderful and passionate person. He fought hard for 3 long years and now it is his time to rest peacefully. His memories will live on in all of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Mark, Heather, John and Jenna(friends of Hans and family)

Heather Gaillard - January 05 at 12:08 AM



“ We grew up on the same street and played countless games all over the neighborhood. The Billger family and Coveleski family merged into one and we are so grateful to have been so blessed. Everyone should have been so fortunate to have grown up with someone like Richard on their street. Deepest Sympathy, Karin Coveleski Elentrio

Karin Coveleski Elentrio - January 04 at 08:50 PM



“ Love you my sister, Corinne aka Pinky
Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:05 PM



“ I was sad to hear of Richard's passing. I went to school with him and Corinne. Every memory is a good one.
Mike Mock

Mike Mock - January 04 at 06:57 PM



“ Thanks Mike, all the memories help! He was a terrific uncle to my boys from the time they were born all the way til he departed. Thanks, Corinne

Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:08 PM



“ My condolences to the Billger family on the passing of Richard. I had the privilege of being Rich's JV basketball coach at Cape in 1978. He was such a gifted athlete and a enjoy to coach. I am sure he battled his cancer as hard as he worked on that team. We have lost a good man. Bud Hitchens

Bud Hitchens - January 04 at 06:14 PM



“ Thank you Coach Hitchens, my parents (as we all are) are comforted by comments like yours. Thanks for taking the time. God bless, Corinne

Corinne Daffner - January 05 at 11:09 PM