



Richard Waltz Harper

July 21, 1943 - October 2, 2020

Richard Waltz (nee Gill) Harper, age 77, passed away peacefully on October 2, 2020 after a short illness in Rehoboth Beach, DE. He was born in Portland, OR on July 21, 1943 to Dorothy Doris Brown and Richard Waltz Gill, who was killed in action during World War II. He was raised by Doris, his mother, and Ralph Harper, who adopted him, in Portland, OR and predeceased him.

Dick attended James Madison High School, 1961, Willamette College, 1965, Oregon State University, 1968, and received his PhD from MIT in 1973. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Xi fraternities.

Dick spent his entire career as a chemist at Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, retiring after 38 years in 2009 where he held over 25 patents. After retirement, he became an adjunct research professor at IUPUI in Indianapolis. He was a 50-year member of the American Chemical Society, AOPA, and Rotary Club of Big Sky. Among his hobbies were photography, ham radio, flying, skiing, reading, listening to classical music, U2, Pink Floyd, and cooking.

He will be remembered by all who knew him for his kindness, patience, gentleness, smile, generous heart, his dry sense of humor, and “Dad” jokes. Maude is especially grateful for helping her to grow into a better person. His very special companions were his dogs: Teddy Bear, Skippy, Kallie, Zoe, Mittie, and Farley.

He is survived by his wife, Maude E. Glore of Rehoboth Beach, DE and Big Sky, MT. He was a loving and influential father to his six children: Jennifer (Jose), Jill (Blaine), Jonathan; his children by his former wife Susan Harper: Robert (Jennifer), Benjamin (Melissa), and William (Candice); his stepchildren by Maude Glore. He also has 11 amazing grandchildren who called him “Grampy:” Isabel, Lucia, Gunnar, Charles, Emma, Hixon, Logan, Henry, Tyler, Caroline, Charles. He is also survived by his sister, Teri Moore of Portland OR.

A memorial service will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial donations should be made to the ASPCA in his memory at <https://secure.aspca.org/team/RichardWaltzHarper>

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.

Comments



“ Dear Maudie -

I want you to know how much I thought of Dick. He had that quiet intelligence and was always ready to listen. He also had a knack for humor, particularly when it was needed. He will be missed but not forgotten by his Big Sky friends.

Grant Hilton

Grant Hilton - November 07, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Maude - You and Dick have always been a spark in any room you enter. Thank you for the time and humor you've both shared with me. He is loved and will be missed. My heart hurts for you in your loss, but I smile at the thought of both of you in Big Sky.

Suzanne Daugherty - October 13, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ We are so very sorry, Maudie. Dick was a lovely guy; we enjoyed talking with him at church, on the mountain, and at all kinds of events in Big Sky. Take care.

Robin Willink - October 11, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ I remember you and Dick having such a great time skiing, laughing, and teasing each other. The spirit, perspective, and humor that Dick so eagerly shared with us all will be sorely missed. My condolences to you and family.

Bill Janecke - October 10, 2020 at 11:08 PM



“ So sorry to hear the news of Dick's passing. I enjoyed hiking with him and Maude in our hiking group in Big Sky. Condolences to Maude and the family.

Tana Sholly - October 10, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Dear Maudie, My heart goes out to you and your family at this difficult time in so many ways. I only met Dick in passing and by his presence. I know he was tightly held by you in all you saids and did. So very sorry for pain and sadness. Gods speed.

Cynthia Loynd Miller - October 10, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ I remember Dick as Maude's constant companion and loving husband here in Big Sky. I will miss seeing him. Rest In Peace.

K Kern - October 10, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ I knew Dick when he moved to Ag. A very good man and someone I could trust. Goodbye my friend and Godspeed

terry balko - October 09, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Maudie,
I will always remember Dick for his sincerity and kindness and his support for you! I know you will miss him immensely. Please lean on your friends as you navigate the days and weeks ahead. We are here for you!! Love, Deb Thornburgh

Deborah Thornburgh - October 09, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ I don't know why I looked at the Chronicle obituaries today. I almost never do. I was saddened and shocked to see Dick's picture there. He was a sweet, dear man. I remember seeing him walk the dogs every day, hearing you (Maude) praise him for taking on all the cooking which made me really jealous, his humility (there wasn't a boastful bone in his body,) and most importantly a conversation about a year ago when he expressed his thoughts about you. He said that even though we'd all aged, you were still so beautiful and he was lucky to be your husband. Wow, what a guy!!!!

Sarah Peterson - October 09, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Dear Maudie,
I am so sadden by this news. My deepest sympathies. I remember a time he came into my classroom to share his expertise in chemistry with the kids. What a fine man.
Deb Brown, The Orchard School.

Deborah Brown - October 09, 2020 at 09:04 AM



“ I remember our fun times hiking together and especially having margaritas afterward in Big Sky. You are so kind and really fun to be with. I will miss you.

Marjie Jordan - October 09, 2020 at 07:17 AM



“ I loved you so Dick. You were a kind gentle being and I will miss your wit. Love,
Maudie

maude glore - October 08, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ What was Dick's callsign? 73 and God Bless from Bill Levey, WA4FAT, in Birmingham.

Bill - October 08, 2020 at 02:56 PM



“ I worked with Dick at Eli Lilly for almost two decades. Dick was incredibly smart and was a real pleasure to work with. He was also a good teacher in my early days when I really knew nothing about drug discovery. My deepest condolences to his family.

Michael Cohen - October 09, 2020 at 09:52 PM