



Brent Levi Rickenbach

April 4, 1963 - February 3, 2023

BRENT RICKENBACH

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Brent Levi Rickenbach was born on April 4, 1963 to Richard (Rick) and Marilynne (Redfern) Rickenbach. He was born at Saint Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Brent joined his older brother, Brad, and three years later, Brian would complete their family. The family moved periodically for Rick's job which resulted in many friendships in many states.

In high school, Brent spent summers working for his Uncle Bob on a ranch in Wyoming. This sparked a love for ranching that stuck with Brent throughout his life. Brent graduated from Tomball High School in Tomball, TX in 1981. He then attended the University of Minnesota where he met his future wife, Cathy.

After graduation, Brent started working at Control Data as a software engineer. He married Cathy on October 21, 1989 and they became partners for life. Into this union three children were born: Emily, Levi, and Sarah. All three children were born in Minnesota - Levi was even born in the same hospital as Brent. Brent frequently stated his children were his greatest accomplishment.

Brent and Cathy primarily raised their children in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities. Brent received his Master's Degree in Computer Science from the University of Saint Thomas in 1996. After developing his skills in computer science, Brent started working at General Dynamics in 2000. He worked there for over 20 years, most recently as a Chief Engineer and Technical Fellow. Throughout his career, Brent developed a passion for mentoring younger engineers.

As a part of his Christian faith and as a member of Westwood Community Church, Brent valued giving back to his community. He was an active member of the Eden Prairie Lions and the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund. In his spare time, Brent also enjoyed hiking, ranching with his uncle, handball, and all things problem solving.

Brent was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma in October 2018. For four years, Brent was on various chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments with limited side effects until December 2022. At that time, the cancer spread and was no longer responsive to treatment. Brent died peacefully in his home at the age of 59 on February 3, 2023.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy; children, Emily, Levi, and Sarah Rickenbach; parents, Rick and Marilynne Rickenbach; brothers, Brad (Meg) Rickenbach and Brian (Jennifer) Rickenbach; parents-in-law, Walter and Ardis Rafteseth; siblings-in-law, Diann Johnson, Karin (Dean) Peterson, David (Catherine) Rafteseth; many nieces and nephews; and other loving relatives and friends that he considered family.

Brent's wit, humor, and avid storytelling will be greatly missed.

Visitation: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home (7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN

55344)

Visitation: Thursday, February 9, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM @
Westwood Community Church (3121 Westwood Drive, Excelsior, MN 55331)

Memorial: Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 11:00 AM at Westwood Community
Church (3121 Westwood Drive, Excelsior, MN 55331)

The following memorials have been established.

Westwood Community Church (3121 Westwood Drive, Excelsior, MN 55331)
Eden Prairie Lions Foundation (PO Box 44364, Eden Prairie, MN 55344)

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Chapel
7625 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Visitation

FEB 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Westwood Community Church (Chanhassen Campus)
3121 Westwood Drive
Excelsior, MN 55331

Memorial Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Westwood Community Church (Chanhassen Campus)
3121 Westwood Drive
Excelsior, MN 55331

Tribute Wall

SK

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. I went to high school with Brent in Tomball, TX - he was such a kind person. Over the years he always remembered to send me a note on my birthday or occasionally check in to see how I was doing. It was great to see him and Cathy at a couple of our reunions. We always wanted to have a separate one with "the fun people", lol. I'm devastated at this loss of a beautiful life cut short. Blessings to the family and may your heart be softened over time and the memories be what are embraced.*

Susan Apman Kicey - April 06, 2023 at 11:22 AM

CE

I am so very sorry to hear about Brent. I went to high school with Brent and he was so much fun to be around & just a great guy! Prayers for his family and many friends.

Cheryl Early - November 11, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ *My heart is broken for you all. He was such a loving, kind man, and wonderful friend. I loved him, and will miss him. Wishing you all a lifetime of happy memories of him. God's peace be with you all.*

Susan Cline - April 05, 2023 at 10:43 PM

DW

“ Rick, Marilynne and family,
Let me express my condolences for your loss of Brent last month. Please excuse the lateness of this note, as I read about Brent’s passing in the Chadron Record—a publication I receive at irregular intervals from Joanne Maika Grantham, a 1955 Prep classmate of mine.
Between my attending Prep and being a member of the Methodist Church and having Jean Rickenbach as my Sunday school teacher for several years, I am very familiar with the many Chadron area Rickenbach and Redfern families. I remember you both quite well even though you were a few years behind me class-wise at Prep. Again, my sincere thoughts of sympathy to you all.
Doug Wilson, Lincoln NE

DOUGLAS WILSON - March 14, 2023 at 10:26 PM

JF

“ Jill and Rob Stack, and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.



Jill and Rob Stack, and family - February 09, 2023 at 09:32 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.



February 08, 2023 at 01:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 07, 2023 at 09:48 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to Brent's family. I had the privilege of working with him at General Dynamics and will forever treasure the knowledge I gained from him as well as his friendship.*

Samantha G. Lindsey - February 07, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 07, 2023 at 10:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 07, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 06, 2023 at 09:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 06, 2023 at 09:09 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 06, 2023 at 08:42 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 06, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Brent Levi Rickenbach.*



February 06, 2023 at 06:46 PM



“ *Shoot - our condolences to the Rickenbach family. We really enjoyed Brent and thought he was a great father and husband. Our prayers are with you.*

Bob Isaacson - February 06, 2023 at 06:22 PM



“ *Sending my condolences to Brent's family here. I just wanted to say there was never a kinder, gentler soul than Brent. I was always welcomed as part of the family by him and Cathy. Thank you Brent for your love and kindness over the years. You will be greatly missed.*



Shawn Banzhaf - February 06, 2023 at 12:42 PM