



## Richard Joseph Basara

April 11, 1956 - November 1, 2025

Richard Joseph Basara, a devoted husband, loving and endlessly supportive father and later grandfather to his granddaughters passed away peacefully on November 1, 2025, at the age of 69.

Born on April 11, 1956, to I. Joseph and Josephine Basara, Richard grew up in Northeast Minneapolis surrounded by six siblings, a close-knit neighborhood, and a strong sense of family. His brothers called him "Dick," his friends called him "Rick", and later in life his granddaughters proudly called him "Dziadek". When his high school buddies found "Basara" tricky to pronounce, they nicknamed him "Buzz". A name he was fond of using with new friends on his later journey, always bringing a grin when he introduced himself that way.

A proud graduate of St. Anthony High School's Class of 1974, Richard went on to work a number of industrial jobs before finding his place as a machinist at Boker's Stamping and Washers, where he spent much of his career. He was dedicated, hardworking, and deeply committed to being a provider for his family - his greatest pride and purpose.

Together with his wife, he raised three children Josh, Jeanette, and Jared in Columbia Heights, where the family home still stands as a symbol of love, hard work, and togetherness.

Richard was proud of his Polish heritage. He loved the food, the traditions, and especially sharing those customs with his children and grandchildren. His identity was unmistakable. A Harley-Davidson enthusiast in a black leather

vest, boots, bandana, aviator glasses, and handlebar mustache, who thoroughly enjoyed jamming out to KQRS classic rock music. Though he hung up his motorcycle keys after becoming a father, that sense of freedom never faded. He often took late-night drives around Columbia Heights and Northeast Minneapolis. Quiet rides where he could clear his head, follow his own thoughts, and keep hold of his independence. Behind the leather and laughter was a sentimental and caring man who loved deeply. His stubbornness, a Basara hallmark, was never harsh, only heartfelt. He was steady, loyal, and true to who he was, the kind of man whose honesty and generosity left an impression on everyone he met.

Richard gave the best hugs, had a big heart and an even bigger smile. He loved hamming it up for photos, pulling goofy faces just to make his family laugh. And he always had a joke in his pocket - one ready to share at just the right moment. Whether the punchline brought laughter, groans, or a mix of both, those around him appreciated his humor and the joy he brought into every room.

He found happiness in simple things: watching old westerns, being with family, a favorite song on the radio or greeting every dog he met with affection. Dogs seemed to recognize his kind spirit instantly, returning his attention with tails wagging and happy licks.

He took immense pride in his family's accomplishments, always their biggest supporter. Whether it was cheering from the sidelines or offering quiet encouragement, he celebrated every success as if it were his own.

Faith and spirituality were constants in Richard's life. Cardinals held a special meaning for him - signs of something divine, reminders of peace and presence. The family home is filled with cardinal figurines, each one a reflection of that belief and the comfort it brought him.

Inspired by his daughter's military service, Richard proudly volunteered with the Patriot Guard Riders, attending ceremonies and honoring those who served. He deeply valued the freedoms they defended; the same independence he cherished in his own life.

Richard and his wife shared a special way to communicate with sign language. Teaching the simple sign of "I Love You" to their children, a gesture you would always see him displaying as you drove away. Later in life, when words sometimes became difficult, that simple sign for "I Love You" carried a meaning beyond words.

Those who knew Richard will remember his humor, loyalty, strength, and heart. His life was a testament to being genuine, hardworking, and true. A reminder that the greatest measure of a person is found not in words, but in the love they leave behind. Sto Lat.

Survived by wife, Rose and children, Josh (Kati), Jeanette Chaffee (Brian), and Jared (Lauren) and granddaughters, Madison and Allyson Chaffee.

Siblings: Jim (Karla), Mary Jo Walek (Tom), Jeanne Casanova (Tom), Paul (Sheri), Doug (Liz) and Janice Johnson (Jim). Brother in-law Robert Chapman. And several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Preceded in death by father, I. Joseph Basara and mother, Josephine (Bienias), and siblings Anne Marie and John.

Visitation service will be held at Washburn-McReavy Northeast Chapel 2901 Johnson St NE on Friday, November 14th at 9am. The funeral service will follow at 10am.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **14**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Northeast Chapel  
2901 Johnson Street N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
(612) 781-6828  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

## Chapel Service

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northeast Chapel  
2901 Johnson Street N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
(612) 781-6828  
[info@washburn-mcreavy.com](mailto:info@washburn-mcreavy.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Tyler & Emma Westerberg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Joseph Basara.

Tyler & Emma Westerberg - November 13, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Richard Joseph Basara.



November 13, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ Leslie L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Joseph Basara.

Leslie L. - November 10, 2025 at 08:45 PM



“ Murray Families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard Joseph Basara.



Murray Families - November 09, 2025 at 11:49 AM

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“ Cole and Jillian Putnam purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Richard Joseph Basara.



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**Cole and Jillian Putnam** - November 07, 2025 at 07:55 AM