



Richard A Burnson

August 25, 1945 - July 5, 2016

Richard Arntzen Burnson, of Shoreview, Minnesota, lost an eleven year battle with carcinoid cancer (aka neuroendocrine tumors) Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. Born in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, August 25, 1945, he was the youngest child of William A Burnson and V. Beatrice (King) Burnson. Dick grew up in Pine River, Minnesota and was educated in the Pine River school system, where he lettered in baseball and basketball, played clarinet in the band, and was active in his church youth group. He then attended the University of Minnesota and followed his older brother's footsteps into pharmacy, graduating in 1968. While at the University, he was a member of the University of Minnesota Marching Band and was active in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Following his graduation from the University, he married Faye Farquharson. They had two children, Christopher and Jennifer. This was during the Vietnam era, so Dick enlisted in the US Air Force, where he reached the rank of captain. His final assignment was as Chief Pharmacy Officer at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in Grand Forks, ND. Following his discharge from the Air Force, he attended graduate school at North Dakota State University and received a Master of Science in Pharmacy in 1975. He then took a pharmacist position with the VA Hospital in Miami, Florida. After working for the VA for several years, he went to work for Walgreens. He retired from Walgreens in January of 2013 after 28 years of service with the company. He moved back to Minnesota in 2001, and in 2002, he married his college sweetheart, Bonita ("Bonnie") Halfmann Schiemann. As a couple, they

enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Cancun, Aruba, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, England, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece and to many parts of the United States. Since Dick's retirement in 2013, they spent their winters in Arizona and summers in Minnesota. Dick was an avid sportsman. In high school, he played basketball and baseball. He "walked on" to the University of Minnesota baseball team, but his career was ended by a shoulder injury. In later life, he became an excellent tennis and golf player. He was also a gifted musician who had played the clarinet, saxophone, piano and guitar since high school. During his time in Florida, he played in a band with his older brother, Bill, which experiences formed some of his fondest memories. He enjoyed spending time with his fraternity brothers, former pharmacy classmates and his family and was known for his repertoire of jokes. During his brief retirement, Dick volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry at the Basilica of St. Mary, served as a contact person for the local and national Carcinoid Cancer support groups, and was honored by the ATO Foundation for his help in raising money for college scholarships. Left to grieve his passing are his wife, Bonnie; daughter, Jennifer (Adam Quagliano); son Christopher; step-daughter, Jennifer Schiemann; sister, Diane (Andy Carter); and two granddaughters, Mia and Shay Quagliano; plus many cousins, nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Monday, July 11, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12 noon, at THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY; 88 N. 17th St., Minneapolis. Interment will follow on Tuesday, July 12, at 11:00 a.m., at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery (meet in assembly lane #3). Memorials to The Carcinoid Cancer Foundation at www.carcinoid.org

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Our sympathy and prayers to your family.*

Karene (King) and Dave Smith - July 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Happy he got together with his college sweetheart to spend his last days with.*

Richard Arboleda - July 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *I worked with Richard as a staff pharmacist at the Walgreens in North Oaks , MN. He was a leader and a great guy to have as a partner, he will be missed.*

Thomas Kelzenberg - July 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *One of my very best friends from high school. We had endless good times in band and playing basketball. I had supper many times at the Burnson home before basketball games.*

Dean Peterson - July 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dick's passing. We moved to Pine River in 1950 and initially lived near the Burnsons. Our parents almost immediately became best friends. My brother Jack and Dick (both around five years old then) became best buddies and were known for their mischievous behavior which included occasionally starting a fire. I always enjoyed running into Dick at the all-school reunions in Pine River. He was very engaging and always interested in what was going on in the Sullivan family and always updated me on what the Burnsons had been up to. Our condolences to Dick's sister, Diane, and his family,

jerry sullivan - July 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

HN

“ Dear Bonnie, Jennifer, Christopher, Diane and all, Condolences on loss of husband-father-brother. We were lucky to know Dick as a Burnson cousin and admired his spirit as he battled disease and enjoyed life these past several years. We will come to the funeral and see you there.

Helene Nelson - July 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ My sympathy to Dick's family from an old Pine River boy scout...

gale morganroth - July 09, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Richard made the world a better place just by being in it.

Judith Thornton - July 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Bonnie and family, so very sorry for your loss. Dick was a very good friend. When he came to visit his mother I often saw him at a restaurant or at the Good Sam as my mom was also there. We used to battle over first chair in the clarinet section of band. I admit he was better than I was. I think the director just made me feel good once in awhile. Your families are in my prayers. Barb Brezinsky*

Barbara (Carlson) Brezinsky - July 08, 2016 at 12:00 AM