



## Richard Wesley Butts, Jr.

August 28, 1957 - April 20, 2025

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Richard "Rick" Butts passed away on April 20, 2025, at the age of 67, with family at his side. His final days were marked by peace and dignity, surrounded by the love he gave so freely throughout his life.

Born on August 28, 1957, to Richard and Judith (Hempel) Butts, Rick was the third of nine children. He came from humble beginnings and carried with him a strong work ethic, deep faith, and a relentless ability to find connection-even in hardship.

Rick's life wasn't easy. He battled schizophrenia for decades and faced chronic health challenges in his later years, including diabetes and adrenal problems. Yet through it all, his kindness never faltered. His ability to love, to laugh, and to care for others shone through, even during the darkest chapters. He gave what he had-often more than he should have-and treated everyone with patience and empathy, regardless of his own burdens.

He is survived by his son, Christopher (Laura), and grandchildren Westin, Kailee, and Maisy, who brought him immense pride and joy. He is also survived by siblings Steve (Mary), Mike (Linda), Larry (Cindy), Cindy, Pam

(Tom), Roger, Sue (Kevin), and Margie (Kurt), along with many wonderful nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; Theresa Marie, the mother of his son.

Rick worked a wide range of jobs throughout his life- diapers service (Crib Diaper), newspaper delivery (Star Trib). His focus was always on people and connection, doing whatever job he needed in order to get by.

Faith played a central and critical role in Rick's life. Though he never became a formal minister, his heart was always in service. He carried a deep belief in grace, forgiveness, and second chances. And his sense of humor-especially his unapologetically corny "Dad Jokes"-was a trademark that lightened countless moments.

Rick also had a legendary love for the Minnesota State Fair-a love so strong it was contagious. He made it an annual tradition and joyfully roped others into following his passion for it, including his favorite son. The Fair wasn't just an event to him-it was a celebration of life, food, people-watching, and pure joy.

Rick lived simply, but he loved fully. His life was complicated, but his love never was. He leaves behind a legacy of quiet resilience, deep compassion, and a reminder that even when life is hard, it's still possible to lead with kindness.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A memorial will be held in Rick's honor  
Friday, April 25th at Hillside Cemetery.

Viewing and visitation: 10am-11am

Service: 11am (please be prompt)

Burial and luncheon following for family and close friends.

Hillside Funeral Chapel & Cemetery  
2610 19th Ave N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Please send any condolences or correspondences to Chris' family at:  
1401 W. 100th St  
Bloomington, MN 55431

# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)

2600 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

## Chapel Service

APR 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Tribute Wall



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*



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April 24, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..

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April 24, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ *Mishelle from Oregon purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*



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**Mishelle from Oregon** - April 23, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*



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April 22, 2025 at 10:40 PM

BW

“ *Bari and Joan Waalk purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*



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**Bari and Joan Waalk** - April 22, 2025 at 02:35 PM

BW

“ *Bari and Joan Waalk planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*

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**Bari and Joan Waalk** - April 22, 2025 at 02:35 PM

KH

“ *Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. It is so hard to lose a brother even when we know they are in a better place it doesnt make the grief any less, and my heart goes out to you. Praying for your family! Love Kelley Hempel*

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**Kelley Hempel** - April 22, 2025 at 02:21 PM

BR

“ *Brandi purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Richard Wesley Butts, Jr..*



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**Brandi** - April 22, 2025 at 01:28 PM

AA

“ Chris, Laura, and kids. You were such a joy to Rick! It was always so fun to see him enjoying time with your family ❤️ Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. John and Alyson Armstrong

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**Alyson Armstrong** - April 21, 2025 at 06:28 PM