



Dr. Richard Anthony Krzyzek

August 30, 1946 - January 28, 2026

Dr. Richard A. Krzyzek, 79, a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, and loyal friend, passed away on January 28, 2026, surrounded by family. Richard was raised in Seekonk, Massachusetts, and was a graduate of St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. His accomplishments in the classroom and on the football field earned him a scholarship to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. Richard had an exceptional collegiate football career and was named to the AP All-New England team in 1966. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and received the John C. Lawlor Medal for academic and athletic excellence for his graduating class of 1968. Despite being offered the opportunity to play professionally for the then "Boston" Patriots, Richard chose to pursue graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a Ph.D. in Microbiology and his continued postdoctoral research was supported by a prestigious National Cancer Institute Public Health Service fellowship grant. Richard also served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a medical specialist at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Richard began his professional career as an Assistant Research Professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Microbiology. He later spent 12 years at Molecular Genetics, Inc., where he authored numerous scientific publications and secured two patents related to his pioneering work in genetically modified corn. Of equal importance to him were the lifelong

friendships he formed with colleagues. In 1992, Richard joined R&D Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Bio-Techne, where he served as Vice President of Research for the Biotechnology Division until his retirement in 2013.

Richard had many talents and passions. He found great joy in the outdoors, spending countless hours putzing around the family cabin while listening to his beloved rock music from the 60s, 70s, and 80s on 107.5 The Power Loon, or heading out to fish. Watching (and re-watching) action movies and thrillers was a favorite pastime. In retirement, he became deeply committed to sharing his lifetime of gardening knowledge, serving as a University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteer and as a member of the Minnesota Gladiolus Society. Richard also really loved food-whether it was warm, fresh bread; milk and cereal; grilled kielbasa; any dessert; or late-night chips, it never lasted long. Above all else, Richard's greatest joy came from spending time with his family. From catching fly balls with Charles to shooting hoops with Elizabeth, he was his children's number one fan. Richard and Judith recently celebrated their 57th anniversary, and despite the unfair burdens of chronic illness, one constant remained throughout their marriage: they did everything together. Richard's quiet support, genuine love, and wise guidance left a lasting mark on all who knew him-one that will never fade.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Gabriella Krzyzek. He is survived by his wife, Judith (Pryce) Krzyzek; daughter Elizabeth Neil (Roderick) and granddaughters Vesper and Tessa; son Charles Krzyzek (Kelly) and granddaughters Leah and Paige; along with many friends and extended family members who will miss him dearly.

A remembrance celebration will be held on February 26 at the Church of St. Patrick of Edina, with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m., a funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m., and a luncheon reception to follow. Please park in the parish's west parking lot for entrance into the Mahon Center. Urn interment is planned

for August 14 at Notre Dame Cemetery in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of St. Patrick of Edina
6820 St. Patrick's Lane
Edina, MN 55439

Memorial Service

FEB **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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6820 St. Patrick's Lane
Edina, MN 55439

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I got to know Richard through the U of MN Master Gardening program. I was his mentor when he first joined the program. In fact, he was the first intern I ever mentored and he was such a great intern that I thought, for awhile at least, that I must be a great mentor! But I think the more accurate situation was that Richard was simply a great candidate and great addition to the master gardening program and he would have made any mentor look good. Following the one year internship, Richard and I worked together on several master gardener projects. I loved working with him. I knew that he came to the program with an impressive background and lots of knowledge but he was also humble and always eager to learn more. When we weren't discussing specific projects, he was telling me about the seedlings he was growing indoors or his challenges with growing early peas. I was grateful to be his colleague in this program. I wish he could have been with us longer.

Sharon Decker - May 06 at 05:13 PM

EB

“ I knew Richard from the first grade through high school we separated at college and other than a few times I never heard from Richard again I think I called him once or twice. His gardening days are over. We were about 10 years old and we all worked for grandpa Coyle , he had a huge farm of about an acre in Seekonk. There was Michael Malkowski, Stephen, Chabot, myself and Richard who would play bridge downstairs at my house in the cellar of my house on a rainy day or whenever we felt like it we learned how to cheat at bridge by kicking each other picking our noses or other stupid things. I'm sorry I never met his family, but I hope maybe this will give them some insight as to why he like to garden.

E. Alan Brookes - March 09 at 08:20 PM

EB

My name was Alan Brookes

E. Alan Brookes - March 09 at 08:23 PM

MD

“ *Dick was the anchor of St. Raphael's offensive and defensive lines. Quiet and unassuming, he was the Class of 64's most talented student-athlete.*

Michael Danesi - March 09 at 03:31 PM

HG

“ *Richard was my first (and best) boss when I joined MGI. Though I though I was being hired as a protein chemist, Richard taught me the in and outs of early biotechnology and molecular biology. As a habit from his Army days, he came in early and set up experiments where I came in later and stayed later to finish them up. We were a great team and he was a great leader. Our paper on the cloning and expression of bGH was one of the first in the industry. I can still hear him singing to some rock song (not his forte' though).....and we were able to laugh at many a dumb joke. Though I hadn't spoke to him in years, I'll miss him very much.*

Henry George - February 12 at 01:07 PM

FM

“ *Richard was a talented coworker who genuinely cared about the company and the people around him. His positive disposition always helped lift those around him. He will be missed. May his memory be eternal.*

Frank Mortari - February 08 at 03:38 PM