



Richard "Dick" David Nierengarten

April 2, 1942 - March 7, 2025

Richard "Dick" David Nierengarten, 82 passed, away on March 7, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN. He was born on April 2, 1942 in Aberdeen, South Dakota to Rich and Ruby (Bauermeister) Nierengarten. Dick grew up in Cologne, Minnesota and graduated from Aurora Hoyt Lakes (A-HL) high school. After graduation, he attended St. Cloud State University to become a teacher. He spent most of his career teaching at John Glenn Middle School in Maplewood, MN. Dick lived an active life and was an avid golfer, skier, biker, runner, and even ran in many marathons. He loved to travel, tend to his yard and attend sporting events with his nephews. He had an uncanny ability to come up with facts, dates and people's names from years ago that no one else could remember. We will dearly miss Dick and his sense of humor, but he remains in our hearts and our memories.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Rich and Ruby Nierengarten; and brother-in-law, Jerry Orth. He is survived by his sister, Carol (Jerry) Orth, and their children, Mike (Karen Kerrick) Orth, Tom (Domonique) Orth, Patti (Steve) Smith; and sister, Lynn Nierengarten, and her daughter, Amanda (DJ) Preiner, as well as many grand-nieces-and-nephews.

A family graveside service at the Hoyt Lake Memorial Cemetery this spring.

Tribute Wall

GT

“ Dear family of Dick: Always sad to hear of the loss of a loved one. Dick and I were roommates at SCSU. We had many great times together and of course a few that were questionable. I had the opportunity to visit Dick's parent's place in Hoyt Lakes back in the summer of '62 or '63. Carol had graduated and moved on at that time but I remember Lynn being at home yet, probably in late elementary school. We visited the bowling alley that his dad operated and his dad took us fishing. I used to brag about my fishing where I grew up in Sauk Centre and of course Dick out fished me which he never let me forget. It was quite an experience to visit an iron range community where every house on the block looked the same. We had sporadic contacts with each other over the following years after SCSU only seeing each other once at an evening eating place in Roseville when I was there for a meeting. It's interesting how we never forget the last time we see a friend. And Dick was a great friend and college roommate plus, I will pass on to our other remaining roommate that Dick has left us for a bit. With great respect and love; Jerry Tank

gerald tank - April 14, 2025 at 09:23 PM

SM

“ I am so sorry to hear about Dicks passing. I first met Dick back in the early eighties and became life long friends. Dick was a very proud person but was always humble when a friend needed help.

I know Dick had heart problems and I was involved in the later stages of his life in getting him to the health facilities. He didn't fear death and was looking forward to biking this summer.

We usually met for coffee once a week and just had a good laugh over our times together over the years. Dick could not stand sitting around the house in the 4 walls and hated being confined in a hospital. You could not find him home much by phone and I relied on finding him by cell on the road.

Dick was an unusual man in that his house was a vision of something you would see in a home magazine. Everything was meticulous and organized. He claimed he never used a house cleaner and after years I finally did believe him

Dick really loved his former students and always spoke fond of him.

Steve Morrill - April 04, 2025 at 05:12 PM

“ Dick was a dear friend. I first met him when he hung out with some of us on the National Car Rental running team. That would have been back in the early 1980's. He was a great runner even though it seemed like he trained less than the rest of us. More on running later.

Dick loved having a connection with the “Range”. He was extremely proud of being a “Ranger”. He enjoyed talking about his days as an alter boy and he always teased that because of that, had a more direct route to heaven. I hope so Dick. Of course, we also heard about how he sampled the wine a few times too.

He often talked about youth baseball where he learned how to switch hit. It sounded like he was a pretty good player. After baseball, there was golf. One time out on Highland National, he was frustrated with his score on the first 9. We got to hole 10 and he grabbed the cart and said I'll be right back. We saw him go to his car and switch clubs. It turns out, he swapped out his right hand set for his left hand set. None of us in the foursome had ever seen him golf left handed before. He threatened to golf left handed in prior outings but we all thought it was a little BS. Turns out he shot 3 strokes better that day left handed. Truly amazing.

Dick and I ran the Sunburst marathon together in South Bend. A conflict prevented me from running Grandma's marathon that year so Dick and I quickly regrouped and signed up for Sunburst. We drove to South Bend and that is where I learned Dick could name any 50's or 60's song in 3 notes or less. As I said earlier, Dick was a great runner. His job at the Sunburst was to pace me in order for me to qualify for Boston. He did it. Thank you Dick. After the marathon, we found a dance hall where there was country line dancing. Neither of us had seen this before. We did not partake but he was fascinated with it. Does anyone know if Dick ever did line dancing?

Jim H mentioned that Dick loved to talk. I second that. Well, my wife, Nettie and I ran Boston with Dick the same year Dick and I ran

Sunburst. When we were leaving town and on the plane, it had to be delayed slightly due to a medical emergency. It turns out the guy next to Dick passed out and spilled his orange juice on Dick. We enjoyed telling folks that Dick talked the guy to death. The guy had run the marathon too, ended up being ok and must have just gotten a little light headed.

We have a Fourth of July party yearly. Dick always greeted my wife with "Hello Gorgeous". It always made her day. Dick helped people feel good.

Another one of Dick's favorite lines was when someone greeted him with good morning or good day etc., he would respond with what's so good about it. He said it with the slightest smile and a twinkle in his eye. You knew he was just kidding. He liked acting the curmudgeon part but he was far from that. He always was up for a good time.

Another bit of fun he liked to have is related to outings with friends. I bought tickets for us for a Gopher Women's softball game. When I picked him up, he asked how much the tickets were, He'd acknowledged the cost. Then he said, I'll pay you back if I have fun. He always paid me back....eventually. I bet he moved on debt free. He did love anything related to the Gophers.

Another fun related Dick story is how he warmed up before running. It cannot be described easily but it was a bunch of moves that looked like he was imitating a crashing helicopter. Well, they became known as his "Dick" exercises. You can only imagine the laughs we had throughout time with that one.

Dick loved a good story and as you can see, he created a bunch of his own stories. We love you Dick and as we running friends gather in the future, will always talk fondly about you. Leon Z

JH

“ So sorry to hear about Dick. Dick sat with us at the 50th class reunion. Then, in August of 2019, we ran into him at Delano where Cologne was playing in the State baseball tournament. We had orange team shirts on as our grandson was on the team. So Dick bought one too and sat and cheered along with us. He was always friendly, loved to talk and always had a big smile. Jim H

Jim Heckmann - March 11, 2025 at 05:19 PM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear about ‘Tricky Dick’. My husband Tom was a housemate with Dick, before I knew Tom. Dick Sat next to me in a Psych class at SCSU, unbeknownst to me , until attendance was called. I knew Dick was at SCSU but had not seen him in many years. After that I saw him a lot more, particularly after I started dating Tom. We always called him Tricky Dick. He was at our wedding back in 1968. He has been to the house with his little sports car. I was working a Ragnar race in Mpls a few years back and Dick came running by, stopped and we talked and worked until the end of the race. He was always a laugh and so enjoyable. I am sure he, Charles and Tom are sharing many memories and laughing in heaven. Your memories will always bring a smile to your face. Thinking of all of you.
Sue Nierengarten Williams

susan Williams - March 11, 2025 at 04:12 PM

JM

“ Dick was such a wonderful friend to my brother, Dave and sister-in-law, Mary. And after Dave’s death, Dick continued his friendship with Mary and I was included in a few of their outings! Dick has been part of our family Christmas Eve for so many years, and he will be missed. Jane Charles Mitchell

Jane Mitchell - March 10, 2025 at 09:56 PM

MC

“*Dick was best man at our wedding and the best friend anyone could have. I am sure you and Dave are trading stories in that better place! You will be greatly missed. Mary Charles*

Mary Charles - March 10, 2025 at 03:34 PM