



## Richard Kirke Wheeler

October 1, 1943 - July 8, 2021

### RICHARD KIRKE WHEELER

Oct. 1, 1943 - July 8, 2021

Richard Kirke ("Rick") Wheeler, 77, of Minnetonka, Minn., passed away July 8, 2021. Rick was born Oct. 1, 1943 in Galveston, Texas to Holland Kirke and Maurine (Sebring) Wheeler. He grew up in Huron, S.D., graduated from Huron High School and then earned a bachelor's degree in English Education from the University of South Dakota.

On March 18, 1967, he married Pamela Ellwein. The couple settled in the Twin Cities, where Rick began a successful career in advertising sales. He retired from Meredith Corp. in 2005 as an award-winning sales manager for Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

Rick's service in the U.S. Army began in 1966. He retired 30 years later from the Minnesota National Guard, having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After retiring from Meredith, Rick worked as a food sales rep for Carlin Group. He loved being outdoors and his side gigs included 10 seasons in customer service at Your Boat Club on Lake Minnetonka and one season driving and narrating tours for Paradise Charter Cruises.

Rick is survived by his wife, Pam; children Paula Wheeler (James Arndorfer) and Richard Kirke Wheeler, Jr. (Sara Ammann Wheeler); brothers Ronald, Brian and Kirke Wheeler; 13 nieces and nephews and five grandchildren.

A private interment will take place at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. To honor Rick's life and service, donations may be made to the Minnesotans'

Military Appreciation Fund, P.O. Box 2070, Minneapolis, MN, 55402 or at [thankmntroops.org](http://thankmntroops.org).

# Tribute Wall

MT

“ *Molson Coors Beverage Company Comms Team purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Richard Kirke Wheeler.*



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**Molson Coors Beverage Company Comms Team** - August 27, 2021 at 09:39 AM

PG

“ *Rick will be missed greatly, I am Paul Gauro a friend of Rick from the YMCA, also played guitar for his New Years Party, I still am in shock, I will miss him very much. Pam we are praying for you and your family, may our Lord give you strength in those hard times.*

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**paul gauro** - August 23, 2021 at 01:56 PM

SP

“ *Pam and family.....We send our heartfelt sympathies to you. Rick was such a huge part of growing up years in Huron. And beyond that, we have grown up memories to share. He will be missed. Much love to you all.....peace.....Sally and Don*

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**Sally Powers** - July 17, 2021 at 12:47 PM

JC

“ *We extend our sympathy to you - Pam, Richie, Paula and your extended family. Rick will always be remembered as a wonderful neighbor and friend. How enjoyable it was to see our kids grow up together.*

*Judy and Maury Corrigan*

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**Judy Corrigan** - July 17, 2021 at 11:17 AM

JM

“ I was so sorry to hear of Rick’s death. I remember Rick and Pam as high school sweethearts. We always enjoyed seeing them at the class reunions and missed them this year. Rick’s mother was my cooperating teacher during my student teaching at Huron High School. His sister-in-law, Dorothy Wheeler, was one of my Spanish students and later one of my teacher colleagues in the Sioux Falls school system. My deepest condolences to Pam and the family.

Jeannine Dickson Mills - July 16, 2021 at 06:53 PM

ME

“ Pam and I only remember the good times we spent in Huron at church, school and in our personal lives. This is so shocking and tragic and we are sorry and sending up many prayers to you and your family. I hope that sometime we will be able to see you again and go over all these wonderful memories. love Marsha Hofer

Marsha Engel - July 16, 2021 at 03:25 PM

JZ

Rick and I met in May of 1967 as cadets at the Minnesota Military Academy and had similar duty assignments for 26 years. We also shared career roles in the Twin City advertising business. Rick was a key friend throughout the years. I enjoyed his companionship almost daily with lunches and phone calls. I loved his humor, kidding and his full of life personality. I am honored to have been a good friend for years. I am crushed by his passing and will take heartfelt memories of our hours together to my grave. Rick, I will see you again! John Zavodnick. LT C, Minnesota Army Guard, Retired

John Zavodnick - January 06, 2022 at 10:27 AM

TK

“ Rick provided great service to the Minnesota National Guard during his thirty years. I thoroughly enjoyed serving with him. He knew how to get things done and always displayed a great sense of humor. I will miss him.

*Tim Kennedy*

*Brigadier General (Retired) U.S. Army*

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**Tim Kennedy** - July 15, 2021 at 07:23 PM

SC

*Mr Wheeler. You will be missed. Thank you for the role you played in my life.*

*Sean Corrigan*

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**sean corrigan** - July 15, 2021 at 10:18 PM

JL

*As fellow guard member, I am thankful for his contribution to our great country. I have many good memories of him and Pam , from our years thru Junior and senior HS in Huron. May Pam have God's blessing and comfort at this transition in her life.*

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**jerry loos** - July 16, 2021 at 09:58 PM

LA

*Pam,*

*I offer my deepest, heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in the Passing of Rick. Rick was a guy that everybody loved and respected. He was my best man at my wedding and a favorite personal friend of mine in high school. I know you and your family's hearts are broken with your loss of Rick. Please know that Christ will, in time, give you comfort and peace and also that many friends who are also hurting with the loss of your Rick offer you their Prayers for your healing.*

*I have you, Paula and Ritchie in my daily thoughts and Prayers.*

*Lowell Arwood*

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**Lowell Arwood** - July 18, 2021 at 03:32 PM