



## Richard "Rick" D. Garton

May 15, 1950 - October 16, 2019

Richard "Rick" D. Garton, 69, of Roanoke and a longtime Bluffton resident, passed away on Wednesday evening, October 16, 2019, at his residence. Rick was born in Bluffton, Indiana on May 15, 1950 to Bill & Ramona (Murray) Garton. He graduated from Bluffton High School in 1968, and he earned a bachelor's degree from Taylor University. Rick began his career as a math teacher and football and wrestling coach at Homestead High School. After leaving teaching Rick entered the financial services industry. In 2008, Rick bought Markle Financial and in 2011, Rick and Mike Pate formed Garton Pate Financial Advisors.

Rick's relationship with the Lord was of first importance. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who lived life to the fullest and always had a story to share about everything. Rick was a member at Cornerstone Alliance Church in Roanoke, IN.

Rick and Joyce (Gregg) were married on April 10, 1999 in Fort Wayne. Family members who continue his love of peanut butter and ice cream include his wife Joyce of Roanoke, along with 6 children: Cassidy (Steve) Young, Courtney (Scott) Hernandez, Chelsea "Jo" Garton, Caryn (Greg) Gruss, PJ (Jami) Steffen and Erin (Andy) Hoffman and 11 grandchildren and one on the way.

Rick is now reunited in Heaven with his parents and two brothers, Danny G. Garton and Jack W. Garton.

Funeral services will take place at 11 A.M. on Monday (Oct. 21st) at the

Cornerstone Alliance Church located at 5833 East 900 North, Roanoke, Indiana. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Calling hours will be held from 2 to 7 on Sunday at the church and for one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Memorials may be made to Rick's favorite ministries; Young Life or Covenant Impact Center.

Rick's arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **20**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Alliance Church  
5833 East 900 North  
Roanoke, IN 46783

## Visitation

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Alliance Church  
5833 East 900 North  
Roanoke, IN 46783

## Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cornerstone Alliance Church  
5833 East 900 North  
Roanoke, IN 46783



# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard "Rick" D. Garton*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - October 20, 2019 at 09:57 AM

LM

*Thinking of you, beautiful family, you are missed, we are friends for life and thank for everything you did for me and you are and inspiration to me, love you much!!!*

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**Lavern Miller** - December 01, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ *Richard "Rick" D. Garton*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

MK

“ *I met Rick in the early 90's. He was the best boss I ever had. Rick was funny, bright, funny, charming, funny, compassionate and funny. We had lots of fun together. He was also transparent and humbled by life. I loved him. I am sorry to learn of his passing. I know he is in heaven as I know he loved the Lord. Thank you Jesus for allowing me to know this treasure of a man.*

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**michael kelley** - December 03, 2019 at 06:55 PM

LL

“ our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time of loss

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**lee and wanita lindquist** - October 27, 2019 at 09:24 PM

NG

“ As Rick's college football coach I can say Rick was not only a very good football player but he was a very positive member of our team. He was a coaches's dream because he was always upbeat and happy no matter the circumstances in practice or games. His great smiles is a very accurate description of his personality. Rick will be missed by his coaches and team mates.

*Nelson Gould*

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**Nelson Gould** - October 24, 2019 at 12:46 PM

BD

“ I'm glad to have had the opportunity to work with Rick in our pasted career, and found him to be very personable and always willing to help his team and clients. A great guy who will be greatly missed.

*My condolences to Rick's family.*

*Brian Dillman*

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**Brian Dillman** - October 21, 2019 at 06:22 PM

JH

“ I was so sorry to hear this. He was a great man. I remember singing with him in the church choir with his amazing voice. I had the pleasure of knowing him and his family and I am proud I got to know him and watch his kids grow up into fantastic adults.

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**Jeffrey Humphries** - October 21, 2019 at 04:26 PM

RO

“ I knew Rick through my time at BNI. I always appreciated his quick wit, his genuine and caring heart and his love for his family. As I chatted with him just last Wednesday, he was so looking forward to the weekend and the wedding. My condolences to his family. I will be keeping you all in my prayers. Rose Herschberger Groff

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**rose** - October 21, 2019 at 07:36 AM

KP

“ Ricky will always be in my memory as a little boy, because I don't remember seeing him as an adult. When the Gartons, the HARRISES and the Kleinknights got together, he was just one of those Garton boys running around with my younger brother. I do remember one afternoon--probably Sunday--when we went to their home and then went down the street to play baseball. That was probably sometime in the 50s--so a long time ago. Reading that Rick had passed brought back lots of memories of his mother, dad & brothers. Our families got together so that the men could play cards and the women could talk & provide food; the kids just ran around and had a good time. My sympathy goes out to your family. May God give you peace and bless you with good memories.  
Karen Kleinknight Parrott

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**Karen Parrott** - October 20, 2019 at 11:12 PM

SS

“ *Joyce and the Garton Family*

*Steve Skiles here and I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to all of you over the loss of Rick. I knew him most of my life and felt that we always had a good friendship even though our paths didn't cross much. My fondest memory is that of Rick playing on the Tiger basketball team during his high school years. I would go to all of the home games with my grandmother, Alta Skiles. We sat in the second row and she adored Rick and his style of play. She loved his enthusiasm for basketball and for life in general. He will be missed by us all. I am sorry that I couldn't stop by in person but my son was home from college this weekend and I have a medical appointment Monday morning. My thoughts and prayers will be with all of the Gartons.*

*Steve Skiles  
Bluffton Class of '71*

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**Steven Skiles** - October 20, 2019 at 10:56 PM

LB

“ One of my earliest memories of Rick was during a baseball game with the Bluffton Merchants. Rick was called out trying to steal 2nd base. He immediately hollered out "that sucks!" Needless to say, Rick spent the rest of the game keeping the bench warm.....

*In the last 14 years or so, I became a client of his and appreciated his care and concern over my account.*

*He had quite a sense of humor!*

*My sincere condolences to the family,  
Leon Berning*

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**Leon Berning** - October 20, 2019 at 08:44 PM

ST

“ Dear Joyce, sending you and the family much love and hugs. Sandy Brickley Thoele

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**Sandy Thoele** - October 20, 2019 at 08:32 PM

RT

“ "Coach" Garton was the best way to address him even after his time as an educator. Although short and limited, his time as my wrestling coach played a significant impact on how I approached obstacles in my journey as a high school and college wrestler.

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**Reynol Trevino** - October 20, 2019 at 04:36 PM

KL

“ Dear Joyce, I was shocked to hear about Rick's passing. I just talked to him Tuesday and related to him about my upcoming heart surgery, he offered to mow my grass, he was just that kind of a guy. My wife and I enjoyed our client meetings with him with his financial guidance. Siting beside him at the Wed. morning BNI meetings was educational and fun with his personalized laugh. I will truly miss him, our prayers are with you and your family to help you get thru his passing. He is probably up there laying out some ones financial plan.

*God Bless Ken and Carol Lewis*

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**Kenneth Lewis** - October 20, 2019 at 12:32 PM

RD

“ So sorry to hear of Rick's passing. He was a wonderful man. He will be missed deeply.  
Thoughts and Prayers for your family  
Randy & Sandy Davis



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**Randy & Sandy Davis** - October 20, 2019 at 09:49 AM

SG

“ Dear Joyce. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family as you go through this loss. I remember so many times with Rick going through high school together! What memories as we could share them multiple times as class reunions. We were not aware that Rick had been ill. We are lifting you up in prayer to our Almighty God for strength and comfort through this difficult time.

*In HIM<*

*Stan & Cindy Geisel*

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**Stanley Geisel** - October 20, 2019 at 07:45 AM

RW

“ My memories of Rick are only of joy an happiness for my brother Tim, an outfielder an I, a catcher, from when we met and played baseball for one season with Rick an alot of other really wonderfull teammates on the Bluffton Merchant team in the early 70s. I want to share that blessing with one memory from one game with Rick's family an those who knew, loved and were loved by Rick.

*Rick was an outgoing an outstanding baseball player.*

*We got to know each other pretty well an in one game Rick hit 5 home runs batting 4th - cleanup (only person I ever played with who hit 5 home runs in one game). I batted 3d in front of him and hit 4 home runs. There was never anyone on base when he batted and had 5 rbi, I had 7 rbi an he would good naturedly rib me about about that.*

*A few years later after being in the army then back in college again I ran into a guy who it turns out was the pitcher from the other team who recalled that day and was... WOW, who was that guy. I didn't know Rick before that season an not since, but in my mind he has always has been that WOW I will never forget that guy who I am blessed to have been able to share some of my time on this earth with.*

*Richard an Tim Williams*

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**Richard an Tim Williams** - October 20, 2019 at 07:44 AM

LR

“ We were heartbroken to hear of Rick's passing. He meant the world to me and my family. After my dad passed away, Rick jumped right in to be sure my mom would be taken care of the way dad would have wanted. He always took his time with me explaining things. He was so patient and kind. The way he truly cared for everyone was remarkable. Our relationship grew into one of a wonderful friendship. We will forever remember his awesome laugh, all the stories, the way he would reach out to us, and the over all way he made everyone feel. One thing we talked about alot was his love for his family. He loved you all so much, which is so evident in the pictures. Rick was an amazing person and will never be forgotten. One thing he told told my mom and I recently when we were discussing some of our "life situations" was "we must never question God's timing" I guess this holds true for all of us now. Prayers to you Joyce and all the kids. Rest easy Rick, and thanks, thank you for everything.  
The Spoonamore Family,  
Lori, Jan and David.

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Lori Reuille - October 20, 2019 at 07:41 AM

RM

“ My deepest sympathy and prayers for Rick's loving family. I had the absolute pleasure of knowing Rick through the Fort Wayne BNI group. I could always count on Rick for a smile and the best one liners. His sense of humor was just awesome. I'm so deeply saddened and shocked by his passing. Rick, I don't understand why God needed you now, but I know you're making everyone laugh and smile in heaven. I am honored I got to spend my Wednesday mornings with you for many years. You are greatly missed.

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Raelynn Mattingly - October 20, 2019 at 01:11 AM

KC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I haven't spoken to Rick since probably around 1980. I was one of his students. He was a great teacher, motivator and better friend. When I moved from Fort Wayne to Ct at 13 I was devastated to leave my life and friends. Rick sent me several letters of encouragement. I've thought of him many times through the years. It is comforting to know he had such a wonderful happy and rich life. Again my condolences.

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**Kelley Cummings** - October 19, 2019 at 10:21 PM

SZ

“ Coach Garton was my JV football coach at Homestead High back in the 70's. To say he had an impact on my life would not do justice to the effect Coach had on me. He made me his quarterback and talked through every decision on the field with me, he encouraged me to lead and taught by example. He drilled into me a sense of worth and confidence in my ability that I still carry with me today. Much of the success I've had in my career can be traced back to the football fields of Homestead and the moment I became a player for Coach Garton. I don't know that he understood the impact he had on his players lives but know that he had a major impact on mine. My prayers are with his family. The world is a poorer place with him, but my life, and I'm sure everyone he called friends life is richer for knowing him. Rest in Peach Coach.

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**Sam Zimmerman** - October 19, 2019 at 09:57 PM

KH

Bless his heart. I'm so sorry. Such a good man. What a loss. The impact he had on me at Homestead High math classes was huge.... and his kindness to me as I struggled through junior year in a full body cast helped make the experience bearable. A good, good man.

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**kirsten heath** - October 20, 2019 at 06:38 PM

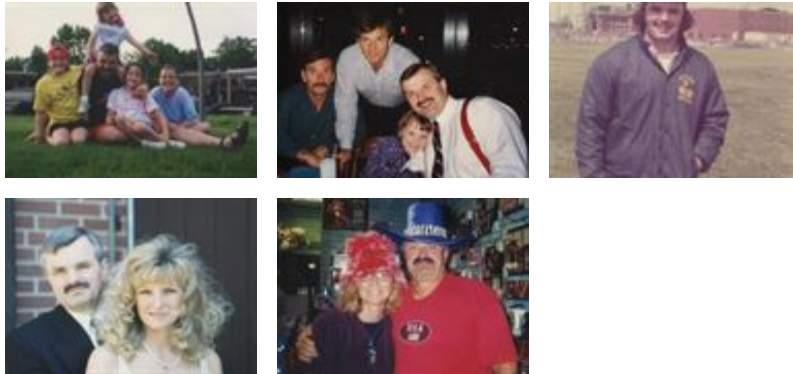
LR

“ The only time I golfed was a Florida Scramble, and Rick was the one who kept us going...he was so funny, and encouraging. Two of us had never played before. I tipped the ball off the tee about a foot, and he said, "that's great! Right down the middle!" We had a great time. He will be missed. You are all in my prayers.

Leslie Remenschneider - October 19, 2019 at 08:42 PM



“ 167 files added to the album LifeTributes



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - October 19, 2019 at 05:09 PM

AS

“ Joyce I am so sorry for your loss. Rick has been so good to me for many years and even though I am 94 I will miss him as I am sure all of his clients will. He was a good man who treated all his clients the same.

Arleen Smith - October 19, 2019 at 04:10 PM

DM

“ Joyce, I am so very sorry for your loss. I will keep you tucked in my prayers. In Christian Love, Diane (Bertsch) Mason.

Diane Mason - October 19, 2019 at 12:55 PM

KB

“ *Kathy, Josh, Shannon, Blake, Brynn and Bryden purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.*



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**Kathy, Josh, Shannon, Blake, Brynn and Bryden** - October 19, 2019 at 12:53 PM

JG

“ *Rick and I met about twenty years ago. He was a good friend with whom I could share my love and praise for our mutual Lord and Savior. May God bless Joyce and the family richly and remind them that they will see Rick again in the presence of our Lord. I will miss his visits to SB and our get togethers.*

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**Joe Gerard** - October 19, 2019 at 10:38 AM

JG

“ *Joe & Lynn Gerard purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.*



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**Joe & Lynn Gerard** - October 19, 2019 at 10:30 AM

LS

“ It was with great shock that i heard of Rick’s passing. Rick was a great man who will be truly missed by all who knew him. He was a great mentor and I had the pleasure of working with him at NatCity. Rick was always ready to discuss any issue with his input and advice which did not fall on deaf ears. Always ready to grab a coffee and catch up on our busy lives, Rick will be missed. My heartfelt condolences to Joyce and family who no doubt have many happy memories to ease their huge loss. Rest In Peace my friend.

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**Lorna and Jeff Secunda** - October 19, 2019 at 10:16 AM

BP

“ Rest in Peace RDG (BIL3).....I'm sure you already have everyone laughing up there.  
My favorite Rick quote: "No use crowding it when you're putting so well"  
I'll always treasure our times together! RKP (BIL2)

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**Bob Petersen** - October 19, 2019 at 09:45 AM



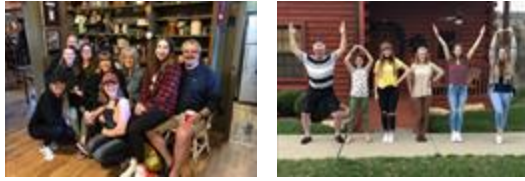
“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.



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October 19, 2019 at 09:27 AM

DH

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Deanna Hoffman - October 19, 2019 at 01:36 AM

JA

“ A photo of Rick and me from June at Callaway Gardens in GA. The smiles on our faces is all I can say now. Other than I will miss him. Rest easy my friend.



Jeffrey Archer - October 18, 2019 at 10:37 PM

MK

You two, and Chip, could entertain a crowd for hours. I never laughed so hard. Thanks for the wonderful memories. I look forward to reuniting in heaven. Michael Kelley

michael kelley - December 03, 2019 at 06:44 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.



October 18, 2019 at 08:10 PM

KH

“ So very sorry to hear of Rick's passing. Our deepest sympathy to Joyce and her family.

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**Kristeen Noonan Hilkert and Lee Hilkert** - October 18, 2019 at 07:42 PM

JF

“ I have had the pleasure of meeting Rick every week now for the last 3 years in a business group. I'm one of the younger members of the group, and Rick always went out of his way to give me advice, take me to lunch/breakfast to just talk about business, and to find out how I was doing. I can't tell you how appreciative I am to have known him. He was truly an awesome person.

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**Jack Flick** - October 18, 2019 at 07:03 PM

DO

“ So many memories...so much laughter and love. Several years at Poffenberger's we gathered to reconnect. It was always a wonderful time. Rick was just a great guy who kept us laughing. Gone but never forgotten. Love you Rick

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**diane oetting** - October 18, 2019 at 06:14 PM

DH

“ I was in a business group with Rick and had just seen him early Wednesday morning. Completely shocked to hear this news. Rick was truly a great guy with the gift of common sense and a fantastic sense of humor. We at BNI will all miss him dearly. I always loved talking with Rick. Praying for your family

*Dale Hubert*

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**Dale Hubert** - October 18, 2019 at 05:37 PM

SP

“ *I am so saddened by the loss of Rick. I will hold on to all the wonderful memories I have of our high school fun. Rick was always the life of the party, and always had a smile. There simply are not sufficient words to express my sadness. My deepest sympathy to Joyce and family.*



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**Susan Palukaitis** - October 18, 2019 at 05:27 PM

SP

“ *3 files added to the album CLASS OF '68*



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**Susan Palukaitis** - October 18, 2019 at 04:31 PM

BC

“ Rick was one of my older Idols when I was in high school especially in sports! He was a Awesome and a very Amazing guy! A Great Christian Man! I can remember when I hurt my knee my Junior year in high school playing Football Rick was Gracious enough to take me to Taylor University to see a Doctor on the Football team to look at my knee to figure out what was wrong with it! He cared about u and other people always thinking of them first! We will miss him Rick very much but we know Heaven gained a Angel that day! God Bless the Garton Family, Prayers for u all! 🙏 Love, Barry and JoEllen Crosbie ❤️



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**Barry Crosbie** - October 18, 2019 at 03:44 PM

SP

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Susan Palukaitis** - October 18, 2019 at 02:34 PM

VK

“ I grew up around the corner from where Rick and his family lived..Morgan and Wiley.  
It was not until much later in life, when he became my financial "guy" did I realize what a genuine caring, good person he was. Rick and Joyce would drive to Indy for my review quarterly...think there might have been a visit with grandchildren or some shopping for Joyce involved,...but truly was appreciated. Rick was such a professional, courteous man and always had my best interest in his plans,, will be missed Sending deep sympathy to Joyce and entire family.... Victoria (Neff) Knowles

Victoria Knowles - October 18, 2019 at 12:53 PM

PJ

“ I have known Rick for several months, since we started attending the same church. He was smiling and friendly...from Day #1! He loved the Lord and his family!

Philip Jones - October 18, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.



October 18, 2019 at 11:07 AM

NT

“ Mr. Garton, as I referred to him in grade school, was my 8th grade math teacher at Woodside back in "78". He's one of the few teachers who gave me encouragement and made me feel like I was good at something during those awkward years in middle school. Because of him I gravitated towards a career in banking where I met up with him again about 8 years ago when he worked as an investment representative for the same bank I still work at today. What a great guy he was. My heart is heavy and yet I feel blessed to have had him be a part of my life. May God bless his family.



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**Neal Toussaint** - October 18, 2019 at 10:45 AM

VJ

“ Rick was the fearless leader of our Baptist BYF (Baptist Youth Fellowship) in the late 60's. There were about 10 of us led by Rick who took over from Ted and Jane Ellis. The 3 of them were just enough older to give us 14-year-olds guidance for life. And man, did we have fun. Rick liked to go to Pizza King after our meetings and he always ordered hamburger and BBQ sauce on his pizza-which surprisingly was good! Great memories of you, Rick. God bless you and your family in their grief. Valerie Wilson Jackson (BHS 1972)

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**Valerie Wilson Jackson** - October 18, 2019 at 09:25 AM

RM

“ Rick was a very close and very good friend - we shared many many days together - in our Baptist Youth Fellowship - in our Church Choirs - thru various sport seasons - and just being around in the same neighborhood in Bluffton - Rick always gave a big smile - a big laugh - a warm feeling - Rick was made of really good stuff - - - -  
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**Rex L. Mahnensmith** - October 17, 2019 at 09:22 PM

BH

“ Rick was a great classmate and athlete, but a far better person and community member. He's been called to Heaven far too early, but will be very well received and cherished. God bless Rick, Joyce, and family.

Bill Haecker - October 17, 2019 at 04:12 PM

TS

“ There are no words to adequately express the sadness I and I'm sure all of Rick's friends have at this time. I have known Rick most of my life and I can't remember a single moment Rick ever brought anything but joy and laughter when he stepped into a room. He never failed to laugh at your joke, no matter how bad it was and never refused a favor.

*My heartfelt condolences to Rick's family. We all lost an incredible person. Charlie Atlas, we will miss you.*

Terry Swartz - October 17, 2019 at 03:41 PM

BP

“ My dear friend since kindergarten...and ping pong buddy when there were tables at Washington Park back in early 60s. One of the nicest and fun persons on the face of this earth! I am broken hearted. My live and prayers to his family. Becky (Gerber) Pfister

Becky (Gerber) Pfister - October 17, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" D. Garton.



October 17, 2019 at 10:51 AM