



RICHARD PAUL DITTMAN

May 5, 1944 - May 1, 2019

Richard Paul Dittman, 74, of Caledonia, passed to eternal life on May 1, 2019

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 9 am, Saturday, May 18, 2019, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Caledonia. Father Stephen Abaukaka will officiate and burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery, Caledonia.

Richard was born May 5, 1944 in La Crosse, WI to Charles and Rose (Murray) Dittman. Richard farmed all his life with his brothers, Ralph and John. He was recently retired from farming and went on many adventures with his nephew, Mark. Richard loved his giant family and his dog Marley.

He is survived by his sister, Dorothy (Lonnie) Lindberg of DePere, WI; 2 sisters in law, Sally Dittman of White Bear Lake, MN and Shirley Dittman of Milwaukee, WI; and numerous neices and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 5 brothers, Donald, Thomas, Ralph, John, and Leo; 4 sisters, Kathleen, Patricia, Loretta, and Mary Carol.

A Celebration of Richard's Life will be held at 10 am on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at McCormick Funeral Home, 205 E. Main St., Caledonia. Visitation will follow the celebration until noon at the funeral home.

Tribute Wall

MK

“ Dear Uncle Richard! I have a vivid memory from a farm visit in 2014 (if not mistaken) when i pulled into driveway and parked. Richard was outside walking about when he noticed me. Many years had passed since i made farm visit, so i was little reluctant to get out of the car. Before i barely opened the door, Richard, was gleaming with gladness to see me. "Mary Ellen, how the heck are you"? i wasnt quit sure he would know me, let alone, show such enthusiasm! He jumped right in the passenger side and we spent quality time together as we rode to Hokah together to visit cemetery where Patricia (my Mother) and other relatives are laid to rest. It was a day that brought many fond memories! Thanks, Uncle Rich...you, Ralph, and John, will always be remembered for your years of service, dedication and commitment to farming, agriculture, love of animals, nature, and so much more!!!

Mary Koenig - May 09, 2019 at 08:24 PM

JF

“ *My great Uncle Richard! I became a city girl many years ago after I spent much time every summer and during the years on the farm to be with my uncles and Grandma Rose. The boys, especially Richard, was full of positive energy and smiles. Richard and his brothers John and Ralph worked the farm from sun up to sun down and never complained. I enjoyed being out in the field with them, driving the tractor, haying and bringing the bales of hay to the barn. It was the highlight of my young years being with the boys calling the cows out in the pastures for milking, cleaning out the barn, and especially witnessing the birthing of the calves and pigs. It was a great education for me. Grandma Rose, of course, was never without a helping hand. She and I spent a lot of time doing the dishes, cleaning out her pantry and learning how to bake bread! Of course, she was an excellent baker of breads and pies and I could never match her skills! She was so efficient in her tiny kitchen with the space she had. I have many fond memories of my growing up years on the farm and will always cherish what I learned from my uncles and Grandma Rose.*

God bless you Uncle Richard and may you rest in peace. We will all miss you! It was wonderful being at your Celebration of Life and reconnecting with all the cousins!

Jane (Koenig) Ferguson

Jane Koenig Ferguson - May 06, 2019 at 08:28 AM

MM

“ Richard made everyone feel welcome and special. What a gift he had to see the good in people and appreciate them. My grandfather was an older brother to Richard's father, Charles. I didn't know the brothers well until I moved back to Caledonia and took care of their livestock as their veterinarian. My older children would come out to hold pigs for castration and then enjoy seeing Ralph's collection of antiques. John, Ralph and Richard didn't have internet or cable, but they could talk current events on any level. Richard found a way to relate to everyone. His smile and sense of humor bring warm memories. A good life of gratitude well lived! God Bless the neighbors that did so much for him.

Michael McCormick - May 05, 2019 at 05:50 PM

JM

“ Julie Merzenich lit a candle in memory of
RICHARD PAUL DITTMAN



Julie Merzenich - May 04, 2019 at 08:40 AM

MR

“ All these posts are great! I'm a distant cousin but I recently had the luck to run into and officially meet Richard on two occasions in the past year or so when he was visting my Grandma Margaret in Winona. He was no doubt a very sweet and welcoming person. I fealt so comfortable conversing with him even though I had just met him. It was only a few weeks ago that he last visted and I was hoping he'd get better. I would be at the funeral tomorrow but I just cant make it. I will be thinking of him during my Brahms German Requiem concert tomorrow. I'll play all the notes for this guy! All my best.

Michael Van Ryn - May 04, 2019 at 12:53 AM

JL

“ Great Uncle Richard, you will be missed! Your bright blue eyes and big smile win't be forgotten. I have wonderful memories of Richard coming to the fair to watch Olive show her chickens. Jim, my husband, really enjoyed working on getting the old ice cream maker, he got from you, working and hooked up to a hit and miss engine. We will continue to make homemade ice cream and think of you as we enjoy it. God Bless you Richard. We love you!

Jessica (Koenig) Laatsch - May 03, 2019 at 11:15 AM

MR

“ Uncle Richard was not a college educated man but he taught an invaluable lesson to all who knew him: how to make a person feel special and welcomed.

Even when he was not feeling well he expressed gladness at your phone call or visit.

He was a gem who will be dearly missed.

Marcia (Koenig) Rottino

Marcia Rottino - May 03, 2019 at 09:58 AM

D(

“ Uncle Richard was always smiling and laughing. I have many wonderful childhood memories of visiting grandma and the boys (the 3 uncles) on the farm. Yes uncle Richard had an huge soft spot for kids and his dogs. When I brought my kids to the farm they ended up sitting on his lap out under the shade trees in the yard while the boys would tell their stories of all the days on the farm. He also took us on quite a few hay rides with him pulling the hay wagon with his tractor and taking us through the fields again sharing his memories of farming and walking to the country school. Uncle Richard, we will certainly miss you. Love you!

Debbie DeGreeff (Dittman) - May 03, 2019 at 07:22 AM

MD

“ 2 files added to the album Uncle Richard



Mark Dittman - May 03, 2019 at 05:46 AM

MD

Uncle Richard on his tractor--that is how I remember him from the summers I worked with him on the farm in 1982 and 1983. I was blessed to be able to spend the better part of those summers with my uncles and Grandma Rose. I did a lot of dishes and housework with Grandma, and I did a lot of milking (washing udders was my job) and haying with Uncles Richard and John. Uncle Ralph had asthma so he didn't do much work with hay. I could tell stories--I do tell stories to my kids--about my time working with Grandma and "the boys" on the farm!

Mark Dittman - May 03, 2019 at 12:16 PM

MK

“ Richard was always quick with a kind and welcoming word. He especially loved little kids and dogs. He always appreciated his neighbors, especially the Goetzingers. Susie looked in on him often, kept track of his doctor appointments and his daily medications, got his mail for him and had him over for family celebrations. He appreciated being part of their family so much! They always made sure Rich had enough firewood cut and split for the winter, and plowed out his driveway each snow fall! They showed him so much love and care! People like that are too rare these days. He enjoyed visiting with his cousin Pete and neighbors like Mike Carpenter. Richard loved to go out an eat, especially after his brother Ralph died. Not one to cook for himself much, he loved little road trips to small towns in Iowa and Minnesota and Wisconsin. We had a lot of laughs and enjoyed each others company. He said he never been too far east, the furthest was Black River falls. So I took him last fall to see his sister(Dorothy) and brother in law Lonnie Linberg. He enjoyed the Trip to Depere immensely, looking at the cranberry farms and all the lakes and rivers. We had a lot of fun. He enjoyed it so much he looked forward to making that trip again this spring. But the good Lord had other plans. What I will miss the most is the wide smile Richard had, and a sense of humor he had about the world. He was a wise and caring soul, quick with the compliments and a thank you! He lived and died a farmer, cared greatly for the earth and his livestock. He wasn't in it for the money so much, but to love all the people farming and family would bring into his life. He cherished them all!

mark koenig - May 02, 2019 at 08:55 PM

SD

“ *Steven Dittman lit a candle in memory of
RICHARD PAUL DITTMAN*



Steven Dittman - May 02, 2019 at 06:54 PM