



Richard A. "Rich" Westmaas

May 28, 1933 - April 2, 2016

Richard A. "Rich" Westmaas, man of God, went home to be with Jesus on April 2, 2016 after a brief illness.

Rich was a much-loved husband, father, grand- and great-grandfather, a compassionate clinical psychologist, a dedicated church and community leader, a lover of the outdoors and a faithful friend and trusted mentor to many.

Rich was born in a farmhouse in Highland Township and grew up in a loving Christian family, including father Adam and mother Tena (Vredevoogd) Westmaas, sisters Gert (Henry) Vanderveen, Ev (Hilbert) Benthem and Tess (Sid) Cnossen, all now deceased, and brothers Marv (Char) and Ken (Henrietta) Westmaas, who are still living.

He is survived by his dear wife and sweetheart of 61 years, Evelyn (Kenbeek) Westmaas, and by children and spouses: Joel (Loralee) and Andy (Michele) Westmaas, Heidi (Peter) Eliot and Amy (Dean) Smallegan. Adding to Rich and Evie's joy are grandchildren Katrena (Rob) Froh, Emily Westmaas, Tom and Katie Eliot, April (Brett) Kuiper, Collin (Jenny) Schut, Ben (Christy) Potter, Nolan Potter, and Jacob and Rachel Westmaas, plus step-grandchildren Taylor, Emily and Sarah Voss and 9 great-grandchildren.

Rich served in the US Army, taught at Calvin College, worked at Pine Rest

Christian Hospital, served for three years in Afghanistan with the US State Department, and had a private practice in Cadillac for 21 years.

Rich was a dedicated volunteer, an active member of Rotary and a committed Kids Hope tutor. He was also a founding Board member of Workplace Chaplains, Inc. and was a longtime supporter of Northern Michigan Christian Schools.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at Cadillac Christian Reformed Church with Reverends Jeff Kroondyk, Bert VanAntwerpen and Chic Broersma officiating. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services in Cadillac. Burial will take place at Highland Hillside Cemetery in Osceola County.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to: Workplace Chaplains, Inc. or Northern Michigan Christian Schools. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

NT

“ I just learned of Rich's passing. I grieve his loss and am so thankful to have known him. He was a wonderful and supportive mentor to me and such a godly man.

Nancy Stiehler Thurston - August 06, 2020 at 10:26 PM

TN

“ Thinking of you, Ev...we are all saddened by the passing of a very special man..Rich will be missed.

Tim & Mary Neill - April 12, 2016 at 01:07 PM

MP

“ Just heard of Rich's passing and we send our sincere sympathy. He was a great guy who gave blessings to all who knew him.

Mike and Sue Peterson - April 12, 2016 at 10:29 AM

RH

“ Evie, I was saddened to read of Rich's passing. I'll always remember him as a man of great compassion, uncompromising integrity and a profound love for us all. Wishing you God's Peace and healing. Love, Ron.

Ron Hellenga - April 06, 2016 at 03:09 PM

MA

“ I am so saddened to be so far away at this time. Rich was a true servant of our Lord, he was obedient to God which made him blessing to many. Because of him my knowledge of the Lord is now heart knowledge instead of head knowledge. My life is so much richer because of this dear servant of Jesus. My heart is comforted knowing he is now a part of the crowd of witnesses who is cheering us on to finish the race in Christ Jesus our Lord. I love you, Evie!

Marlene - April 06, 2016 at 02:19 AM

AN

“ I am so saddened to hear of Rich's passing. He is someone I will always remember as having a kind and encouraging word whenever I saw him. He will be deeply missed by all who love and knew him. Evie and the family are in our thoughts and prayers in these difficult days ahead. We rejoice in knowing he is with his Savior and in his heavenly home.

Angela - April 04, 2016 at 05:12 PM