



Ritchie M. Harris

March 18, 1958 - April 4, 2024

Ritchie Harris of Cadillac passed away, April 4, 2024 at home. He was 66. He was born March 18, 1958 in Cadillac to Wellington E. and Donna F. (Schnell) Harris and they preceded him in death.

He graduated from Cadillac high School in 1976 and later worked with his brother Rod at Harris Beverage Service. He spent his younger years as an avid skier and ski instructor at Caberfae, and working the sound boards for various bands.

Ritchie spent countless hours volunteering and supporting causes in the community. He was very active with the American Legion serving as commander of the S.A.L. for 19 years. He was well known for his fish fry, helping organize the Memorial Day Parade and was integral in getting the Vietnam Memorial Wall to Cadillac. He took great pride in doing the Veterans Salute at the Fair each year also. He was an avid supporter and helped fundraise for the Special Olympics for many years. He was known as "Papa Ritch" at his apartment complex, making sure all the kids had bikes to ride and were taken care of. Though Ritchie faced many challenges, he never let that stand in the way of helping others as best he could. "To Measure the man, measure his heart" best describes him.

He is survived by his brother, Redgie (Becky) Harris, sister-in-law Connie Harris, sister-in-law Becky Sigafoose Harris, special daughter Brea Smith and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his siblings: Robert

(Emma) Harris, Rodney Harris, Rande Harris, Gwen Sue Cubitt-Whaley, special son George Kuitunen, and a nephew Rodney Harris II.

A celebration of life will take place on May 11, 2024 from 1-4 pm at the American Legion in Cadillac. His final resting place will be Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion post #94 or Special Olympics Area 32 of Cadillac. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 11. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

American Legion

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Milton Family lit a candle in memory of Ritchie M. Harris*



The Milton Family - April 18, 2024 at 09:17 AM

DD

“ *I met Richie when I worked at Samaritas. He cared so much about the other residents. He would often buy ribs and steaks and have cookouts for them. I will miss visiting with him as he would pass my house on his way downtown. My thoughts and prayers for the family.*

Deborah Delosa - April 15, 2024 at 08:19 PM

GC

“ *To the Harris Family,
Please accept my deepest sympathy. I worked with Ritchie a few times during my time at the Cadillac Visitors Bureau.*

Richie had a heart for his community and he will be deeply missed.

Gabby Chapman - April 10, 2024 at 09:38 PM

KS

“ *Wow! Was shocked to hear that he passed. He ran soundboard for a few rock bands that I was in back in the 1980's. So sad to hear that he passed at such a young age. Kevin Smith, percussionist, Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

Kevin Smith - April 10, 2024 at 11:37 AM

KA

“ Hi my name is Katrina Hawkins and I lived on Ayers Street right next door to Richie Harris. I called them rich. Rich was a very kind man and he was so helpful. I'll never forget the first time I met rich and his wonderful smile. And he loved to pick on me. I recently while back a scene Rich at family fare. I will miss seeing him around Cadillac but now he is at peace with no more pain. Many prayers to his family.

Katrina - April 10, 2024 at 11:24 AM



“ Rita L Shankel lit a candle in memory of Ritchie M. Harris



Rita L Shankel - April 09, 2024 at 04:13 PM