



Richard Lee Copner

February 18, 1940 - December 26, 2013

Richard Lee Copner, beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend passed away on Thursday, December 26, at Central Washington Hospital. He was surrounded by his loving family--wife, Susan; children, Carolyn, David, and Bruce; and grand-daughter, Tawnee ("Gizzo").

Rich was born to William L. & Maude E. (Pritchard) Copner on February 18, 1940 in Mount Vernon, Washington. He often shared the happy childhood memories of growing up on South 10th Street with his brother and sister and many friends. He graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1958. While attending Skagit Valley College, he met his future wife, Susan Herrell, and they were married at Salem Lutheran Church on November 17th, 1962.

Rich and his family lived in Mt. Vernon, Oak Harbor, and Marysville as he began his career with West Coast Telephone Company. He went to work in the engineering dept. of G.T.E. in Everett and transferred to Wenatchee in 1976. He was manager of inside plant operations before becoming a regional manager of three N.W. regions. He retired after 30 years and he and Susan moved to make their home in Wenatchee Heights in 1999.

Rich loved life and had many interests, including trail riding on his motorbike or 4-wheeler, often accompanied by his sons. He enjoyed camping, boating, and horseback riding with Susan. He loved music and was a great dancer, especially to the rock 'n roll tunes of the 50's. Rich was a craftsman, and created many beautiful projects using wood and metal, including a gazebo, decks, shop, horse barns, and much more. He seemed to know how to repair

or build anything. He also enjoyed using the flight simulator on his computer, 'flying' to airports all over the world!

Rich especially loved his family, providing security and instilling valuable life lessons. He fully supported their dreams and ambitions.

Rich loved to laugh and make others laugh, and readily helped anyone in need. He was passionate in his beliefs, including his faith in Jesus Christ and His teachings. A life well lived, Rich. Thank you for sharing yours with us. We will miss you dearly.

Rich is survived by his wife, Susan, and his children, Carolyn Copner of Manson; David Copner (Cari) of Sammamish; and Bruce Copner (Heather) of Boise; and grandchildren, Tawnee Agnew, Brenden and Sierra Copner. He is also survived by his brother, James Copner (Annie) of Fresno, and sister, Mary Ellen Copner of Mount Vernon as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Washington and Miller streets in Wenatchee. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 1 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Heritage Memorial Chapel, 19 Rock Island Rd. in East Wenatchee. Memorials may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation or the First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund. You are invited to visit his tribute online at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com .

Tribute Wall



“ *lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee Copner*



January 07, 2014 at 11:34 AM



“ *Susan & Family,
I have known Rich almost his entire working career with GTE and our time spent together was always memorable. We had such fun and laughter together and enjoyed our work while solving the major problem of the day. Rich will always be remembered in my mind as a kind, caring and hardworking person. He will be missed but is now in a much better place. My prayers to you and the family during this sad time and May God lift the burden of sorrow from you and lighten your heart.
Rest in peace Rich.*

Jay Kinzel - January 03, 2014 at 03:08 PM

KH

“ *Susan and Family,*

I worked with Rich at GTE many years ago, and I am so sorry to hear of his passing. Rich was a highly respected professional who demonstrated integrity and trust with all of those he came in contact with.

May God bless you and the family during this very difficult time of sorrow,

Kayo Hancock

Kayo Hancock - January 01, 2014 at 07:25 PM

KL

“ I count myself fortunate to have known Rich Copner. His smile and friendly demeanor radiate goodness. Those of us that love him have a huge void in our hearts as we grapple with life without him. As I reflect on Rich and his kind nature I'm reminded of his dedication to Susan. It was without bounds. Several of my personal reflections/memories of Rich are of his participation with the BackCountry Horsemen equestrian drill team. Rich was an avid supporter of Susan and our team. Patiently he'd read his paper in the cab of their truck at our practices over the years, dutifully on hand for Susan. Parade days he was dutifully on hand as well but busy as a bee snapping pictures of pre-parade preparations at Appleatchee and during the long hours waiting in cold or occasional hot temperatures at Wenatchee HS parking lot, and then once we were on our way Rich would pop up at various points along the parade route capturing for himself and posterity his smiling Susan perched on Romey waving to him and the cheering crowd. The various special moments shared with Rich and Susan over the years I shall always treasure. The true gift from Rich was his love of life and love for his wife. What a beautiful man, what a beautiful couple. The world was blessed and so was I to know such a wonderful human being. I am "Rich"er for knowing Rich Copner.

Kathy Lambert - January 01, 2014 at 05:34 PM

CD

“ Our condolences to the Copner family. I didn't get to visit with Rich much after high school, but when I did I considered it "prime time". Rich was a sociable, intelligent, funny, positive and upbeat person. He was the kind of person that you would want to be a role model for your own children or any children for that matter. You just felt touched by his presence and always had a good feeling after talking with Rich. I will always cherish the memory of those few rare visits with Rich.

Clyde Duranceau - December 31, 2013 at 02:30 PM

LC

“ Dear Carrie, I remember how excited I was to finally meet your dad and the guy who came up with such funny occupations for his dog. And even though I only saw him that one time, I've never forgotten the laughter. During this very sad time, I hope you and the rest of your family can find a moment to remember the laughter too. It really does help. Prayers for you all.

Much Love, Linda

Linda Channel - December 31, 2013 at 02:23 PM

DR

“ To my Aunt Susan, Carolyn, David and Bruce & my dad too! This is one of my favorite bible verses and I pray you will find it comforting. In Matthew 11:25-30 it says:
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

One thing I will most remember about Uncle Rich is his contagious smile. He always had a smile on his face and a cheerful heart. He even had a smile on his face when all us cousins were caught being naughty in Wenatchee!! Good memories...never forgotten! Hugs to all my Washington family. Heaven has gained an angel! Until we meet again my sweet Uncle Rich.

Debra Copner Reynolds - December 31, 2013 at 03:18 AM

NB

“ *My Dearest Cousin Sue: Thank you for all the very great times you and Rich shared with my family. There was always such joy when you both were together--and that will always carry on--Sue you and Rich are one of a kind-love unconditional and raised such a beautiful family--Rich's contagious smile and great laughter will live on in everyone who was lucky enough to have enjoyed time with Rich--Love rockin' and rollin' with "Me and Bobby McGee"--thank you to you, my beautiful cousie and also to your wonderful children for letting us be a part of your wonderful life. Rich is with our eternal Father and peace be with your family*
Love,
Nancy

Nancy Burton - December 31, 2013 at 01:37 AM



“ *lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee Copner*



December 29, 2013 at 01:53 AM

JW

“ *Dear Susan and family.
My sincerest sympathy in your loss of Rich. I know he is safe now with our Lord and Savior and with those who have gone before. I'll always remember his cheerful smile. Judy*

Judy Copner Wallace - December 28, 2013 at 09:03 PM



“ *lit a candle in memory of Richard Lee Copner* ”



December 28, 2013 at 08:27 PM