



Ralph C. Ritchie

July 15, 1951 - March 26, 2023

Ralph C. Ritchie, 71 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Sunday, March 26, 2023 at his home in Little Falls, MN. A memorial golf tournament will be held on June 1, 2023, at the Little Falls Country Club, starting at 1:30 P.M., in Little Falls, MN. For more information about the tournament call the Country Club at 320-616-5520. A time of fellowship will be after the tournament, from 4:00-8:00 P.M., at the Little Falls Country Club on June 1. Caring for Ralph and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Ralph was born on July 15, 1951 in St. Paul, MN to the late Dale and Thecla (Cich) Ritchie. He grew up in Little Falls, MN where he attended school, graduating from Little Falls Community High School with the Class of 1969. After graduation, he attended the University of Minnesota Duluth. Ralph was employed by the United States Postal Service for many years, retiring in 2008. He was also a very well-known butterfly farmer, raising and selling monarch butterflies for special events and occasions. In his free time he enjoyed golfing, fishing, gardening and was a prolific reader. Ralph will be dearly missed by his family and his many friends he has remained close with for many years, especially Gary Josephson, Anne Clune, Jerry Wayne, Steve Braun and numerous others.

Ralph is survived by sister, Patricia (Bruce) Hammerbeck of Little Falls, MN;

niece and nephew, Kelly Bonde of Brainerd, MN and Mark (Jessica) Hammerbeck of Moorhead, MN; great-nieces and nephews, Brendan, Tegan, Quinlee, and Parker; uncle, David Cich of Minneapolis.

He was preceded in death by parents, Dale and Thecla Ritchie.

Tribute Wall

LV

“ Patti- I am and will continue to miss the conversations with your brother.

We covered most subjects sitting across my desk from each other. A majority of the conversations ended with Ralph saying that he didn't remember why he stopped in but when he did remember, he'd be back.

Ralph was a 100% genuine original. He didn't care for pretense. For that reason, I always felt honored that he sought me out on his various real estate ventures. He never missed seeing the potential in the worst of those "handyman specials".

I will think of you Ralph every time I see a Monarch Butterfly.
Godspeed.

Laurie Veillette

Laurie Veillette - April 11, 2023 at 01:44 AM

MS

“ Patti & family .. sending you our condolences from the MHC Denver during this difficult time.

Mark & Pam Savage - April 02, 2023 at 11:29 PM

DJ

“ Patty and Families, I am so sorry to see this sad news. I got to know Ralph during my working yrs at Coborn's. May he RIP.



Debbie M Jelinski-Harakel - April 02, 2023 at 04:34 AM

GT

“ Patti and family I am so sorry for the loss of your brother! You are all in our thoughts and prayers!

Gloria Thornborrow - March 29, 2023 at 08:09 PM

John Qualley

“ Great Guy, Met him 17 years ago he was picking up milkweed at a friend. We connected immediately. His dry wit humor, his common sense, his humble intelligence. Golfing buddy, always let me beat him. just a fun guy to hang out with. My sincere condolences to family and Friends. Miss you buddy.

John Qualley - March 29, 2023 at 08:04 PM

RW

“ I'm so sorry about the recent loss of Ralph. Jim and I met Ralph in the late '90s and hung out with him at Essie's many a night. He was fun, smart, and an all-round good guy to know. I remember when he began the butterfly farm. Such a neat venture. Comfort and peace to his family and many friends. 🦋🍷💙🙏



Rebecca Sue Walter - March 29, 2023 at 06:01 PM

JV

“ Patti and family, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Jana Volbert - March 29, 2023 at 12:03 PM

MM

“ *Patti & family, I am so sorry for your loss. My thought & prayers are with all of you at this time. Take care.*



Mary Lou Marsolek - March 29, 2023 at 07:40 AM

JE

“ *Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed. Hugs and prayers to the Ritchie family.*



Jorge & Judy Espino - March 28, 2023 at 07:51 PM

LB

“ *Patti, I am so sorry for the loss of your brother. Linda*

Linda Burggraft - March 28, 2023 at 07:45 PM

DH

“ *Denise Mausolf Hegna sent a virtual gift in memory of Ralph C. Ritchie*



Denise Mausolf Hegna - March 28, 2023 at 05:22 PM

CL

“ Charlie And Dianne Ledbetter lit a candle in memory of Ralph C. Ritchie



Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter - March 28, 2023 at 01:01 PM

DM

“ Ralph and I have both been butterfly farmers and he has been a close friend and business associate for the past twenty three years. I will sorely miss our sports banter, his Twins and Vikings, my Tampa Bay Rays and Buccaneers, as we were looking forward to baseball opening day as usual this spring. Ralph was also a fan of the MN Lynx women's basketball team which I often kidded him about. They have sponsor space on their uniforms, so I photoshopped an image which is uploaded. We always joked. Ralph had a great sense of humor. My condolences to his friends and family. So long old friend. Rest in peace.



Dale McClung - March 28, 2023 at 11:38 AM

GZ

“ Patti and Family, We were so sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. He was fun to be around and good friend. He will be missed.



Greg and Wendy Zylka - March 28, 2023 at 11:25 AM

AW

“ Anne Wolke lit a candle in memory of Ralph C. Ritchie



Anne Wolke - March 28, 2023 at 10:07 AM

TL

“ Tom Ledbetter lit a candle in memory of Ralph C. Ritchie



Tom Ledbetter - March 28, 2023 at 08:24 AM

JW

“ Ralph has been a good friend for many years and very enjoyable. He seemed to humbly have a very high I.Q. and good common sense (when he wanted to) so I valued his opinions. I will continue forever being grateful for his friendship.

Jim Wright - March 27, 2023 at 11:37 PM

KK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Ralph was always someone that could make me smile. I will miss him but remember him always. Prayers are sent to the entire family. 💔



Kathy Garrison Kloss - March 27, 2023 at 02:02 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelson lit a candle in memory of Ralph C. Ritchie*



Sandy Nelson - March 27, 2023 at 01:37 PM

SN

Patti, I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for your family.

Sandy Nelson - March 27, 2023 at 07:00 PM

DP

“ *Patty and family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*



Deb Pederson - March 27, 2023 at 01:24 PM

WW

“ *Patty and Family I'm so sorry, our Sympathy! Rich and Wendy Waltman*

Wendy Waltman - March 27, 2023 at 01:12 PM