



Richard Kenneth Burkman

November 4, 1947 - March 19, 2014

Richard Kenneth Burkman, age 66 of Albia, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Richard was born November 4, 1947, to Robert and Kathryn (Seibert) Burkman in Albia. He married Catherine Amoss on December 16, 1967, in Albia. They were blessed with two children, Mary and Bob.

A graduate of Albia High School, Richard received his Associate's Degree from Centerville Community College. He worked for Reed Asphalt and Paving before going to John Deere Ottumwa Works; retiring in 2007. While working at John Deere, he also owned and operated Burkman Construction and Painting, and water proofed basements.

In Richard's earlier years, he was very active with the 4-H and Saddle Club. He was a very proud member of Central Iowa Garden Railway Society and liked building garden railway train displays. He enjoyed being outdoors, fishing and spending time with his family; especially his grandchildren. He was also an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan. Go Hawks!

Richard is survived by his wife, Catherine of Albia; two children, Mary (Bob) Saunders of Fargo, N.D. and Bob Burkman of Albia; five grandchildren, Ian, Ryan, and Aidan Saunders, Nathan Burkman and Cloey Burkman; his

parents, Bob and Kathryn of Albia; siblings, Nancy Newcomb, Rita (Bill) Henderson, Roger (Sue) Burkman, and Mark (Kathleen) Burkman; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Matthew Saunders; and his grandparents, George and Teresa Seibert and Richard and Grace Burkman.

Funeral services will be 1 p.m., Saturday, March 22, 2014, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia; with Pastor Neil Montz officiating. Richard's body will be cremated following the service, and a private family burial will be at a later date.

Visitation will be 12-8 p.m., Friday, March 21, 2014, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia; with the family present from 5-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Albia Victorian Stroll.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Kenneth Burkman*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Richard Kenneth Burkman*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Hope all is well and the year was as best as can be. I think of you often. The picture of Richard is great. Hope I see you at another family function other than a funeral. Tough year for the saunders family.*

Terry

Terry saunders - seattle, WA - Family - March 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. It has been a very long time. I am not even sure if you remember me. I rode horses with Bob. I still think of your family. God bless all over you.*

Jill Harsch Skindlov - Coeur d Alene, ID - April 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Catherine,

My deepest sympathies for your loss. Richard was one in a million. Such a kind and generous man. He will be missed greatly.

Love,

Abby Bonwell

Abby Bonwell - Cosby, MO - Friend - April 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ Catherine,

I can't tell you how shocked I was to hear of Richard's passing. I was out of town and just couldn't believe it and felt such heartache for you and your family. I will always think of him with that smile he always had. He always seemed in a great mood and he will be greatly missed not just by his family but by our community. One time I was painting at our house and had mentioned it to him one day at Albia Motor. He said "you know the trick to trimming is to have a good brush and a good amount of paint on one side". I have used that tidbit of information from that day forward and actually thought of him and that very advise just the other day as I helped the kids with a project in their home.

Know that you are in our thoughts and of course our prayers. He was a great guy!

Jack and Kim Scieszinski

Kim Scieszinski - Albia, IA - April 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ Catherine,

I am so deeply sorry for your loss, Richards kindness, generosity, and conversation will be sincerely missed. All of us are grateful to have known and shared time with him.

Mary, Bob, Ian, Ryan, and Aidan, just as in life I am sure he is busy making a picnic table for he and Mathew to sit and watch the sun go down over the lake.

Treasured are the memories

Terry, Charlie, Mac

Terry Saunders, Charlie and Mac - Seattle, WA - in-law - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ Catherine, I am so deeply sorry for your loss, Richards kindness, generosity, and conversation will be sincerely missed. All of us are grateful to have known and shared time with him. Mary, Bob, Ian, Ryan, and Aidan, just as in life I am sure he is busy making a picnic table for he and Mathew to sit and watch the sun go down over the lake. Treasured are the memories Terry, Charlie, Mac

Terry Saunders, Charlie and Mac - Seattle, WA - in-law - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ so sorry for your loss

paul keith gibb - claremore, OK - friend - March 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Catherine and family.....I heard through Georgina of your loss of Richard and want to extend my sincere sympathies to you. I remember well the day we were out at your home following my class reunion last year, and enjoying the wonder cobbler you had made. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Johneta Goodwin

Johneta Goodwin - Fort Lauderdale, FL - Friend of overall family - March 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ My prayers our with you & your family today and the days ahead sorry I couldn't be with you

Penny Dudley - Naples, , FL - Friend - March 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. Know words cannot express how much this great guy will be missed

Don and Mary Carr - Urbandale, IA - friend - March 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Richard Burkman was an Albia icon. Whoever came up with the phrase "jack of all trades" must have had Richard in mind. Hard working...soft hearted...wonderful family man...great friend. The Class of 1966 has lost another outstanding classmate and friend. Memories will last forever and our prayers will continue for Catherine and family.

Al and Merron Hart - Ankeny, IA - Friends - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Dear Catherine and your Burkman Family,

Know our thoughts and prayers go out to you in the sudden loss of Richard.

In time, may you find comfort in so many rich memories of having a true loving husband, best friend, father, and grand-father. Our heartfelt sympathy to you in this most difficult time.

Paul and Sue Johnson - Newark, DE - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ I have to say when I walked into your house last year, which is the last time I saw Richard, I could feel the love and warm atmosphere that occupied that home. It was a feeling that few get to experience and I could tell that it came from a life time of love. I am very sad to hear about Richard moving on to be with the Lord. He will be keeping a place, as he always did, for those he loved.

*Richard was an outstanding man in our lives
I don't know of a more loved and admired soul
Compassionate husband, father and friend
His passing has redefined his life's role.
An untimely departure has left us in sorrow
Reminding us that life's not always fair
Days will go by and we will think of him
Be assured that he will always be there.
Undeniably we'll keep him close to our hearts
Remembering the joy that he brought us each day
Keeping alive all the memories we'll share
Means he'll continue to be with us in some way.
A great man has gone to be with God above
No one can replace how we were touched by his love.*

*Rest in peace, Richard
You will be greatly missed!!*

*Joni Johnson
3/19/2014*

Joni Johnson - Glen Allen, VA - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Catherine & Family,

I found the following message when we lost Mom, (Aunt Franny), I read it often as it now helps me when I think about all of my loved ones who have gone to Heaven. I hope it helps you.

When somebody dies, a cloud turns into an angel and flies up to tell God to put another flower on a pillow. A bird gives the message back to the world and sings a silent prayer that makes the rain cry. People disappear , but they never really go away. The spirits up there put the sun to bed, wake up the grass, and spin the Earth in dizzy circles. Sometimes you can see them dancing in a cloud during the daytime when they're suppose to be sleeping. They paint the rainbows and also the sunsets and make waves splash and tug at the tide. They toss shooting stars and listen to wishes. And when they sing wind-songs, they whisper to us, " Don't miss me too much. The view is nice, and I'm doing just fine."

I know Richard will be painting our sunsets and rainbows brighter, he'll be making the waves more fun for kids to play in off the coast of California--as we know that has always been a favorite trip of his, even as a child with his brothers and sisters in the station wagon--major road trip from Iowa. Oh--I can just imagine how beautiful Christmas will now be in Heaven, the extra lights, the trains and Richard helping everyone with their puzzles, because he just wants to find where that one piece goes!

I have so many memories, I'm so blessed to be Richard' s cousin!

I'm sorry I can't be there, but I love you all!

Janie

Janie (Weeks) Craig - Laveen, AZ - Cousin - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Catherine, My sympathy to you and your family on the unexpected loss of Richard. I wish I could be there for the services. I feel fortunate to have been a friend of his for so many years and always enjoyed working with him on any number of community projects. He not only leaves his mark on your family but on the community as well - he will be missed!

Dave Johnson - Albia, IA - Friend and Classmate - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Richard's passing and can only imagine the grief and pain that the entire Burkman family is going through at this time. I have always admired and respected Richard as one of "the good ol' boys." I have watched him be a wonderful son, grandfather, and friend to all. My heart goes out to Bob, Kay, Catherine, Nathan, and the entire family. Heaven got a good one!

MARY JO FUGATE - Albia, IA - Friend of the family - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ So very sorry and shocked to hear of Richard's passing. He was such a force of nature that it still doesn't seem possible. He was a great man who will be missed by so many. He knew a zillion people and was liked and admired by all of them.
Sorry I'm late getting this submitted but I've been out of town the last few days.
Everybody take care of themselves,
Alan Harrington

Alan Harrington - Albia, IA - Friend - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Experiencing the death of a husband is so personal that very few of us yet can understand the grief you are going through. I am at a loss of words and don't know what to say, but we both know there's nothing I can say or do to take away the pain. I just wish I could do more than give you my sympathy, but I do send my condolences to you and your family, Kathryn.

Betty Miller Lambert - Des Moines, IA - Friend from High School - March 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Catherine, Please know I'm thinking of you and praying for your strength and healing.

Nikki Hunt Pearson - Taylor, TX - high school classmate - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Words can not express the sadness of hearing about the unexpected passing of Richard. He was a hard working man and family man. May God wrap his arm around you and your family thru this difficult time so you can remember all the good times. Also know that you have many friends and family to help you to get thru this.

Marilyn Larson - Albia, IA - friend - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ Catherine and family, I was so sad to hear of Richard's death. Due to distance, we will not be able to attend the celebration of his life. But Please know you will all be in our prayers.

Fran DeMoss Magie

Fran Magie - Polk City, IA - Classmate - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Catherine, I am so sorry to hear of Richard's passing. There are few husbands, fathers, brothers like Richard was. He was the most giving and carrying man I knew with friends, family and acquaintances but yet willing to tell you just what you needed to hear. I can only guess at the depth of your loss. Hopefully, God will bless you with all the fond memories and take away your pain.

Sharon Bell Mason - Albia, IA - Friend - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ I'm so sorry I can't get away to bring Mom and Dad back to see you. I didn't have the opportunity to be around Richard through the years, but he always seemed to be a straight arrow kind of person, the kind of guy you would always want to know and have on your side. Always know that we are here for two reasons, to benefit mankind and to glorify God. I'm sure Richard's name is on both lists. Take care and God bless.

Mike Johnson - lincoln city, OR - cousin - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ *"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

Although there are no words that can heal your sorrow, I hope you find strength in the memories that you and Richard built together over the past 47 years. You are lucky to have spent so many wonderful years with such a remarkable man.

Take comfort in knowing that you have so many friends and family that are sharing in your sorrow.

Laurie Benn - Bealeton, VA - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Tom and I would spend time with Richard, Roger and Mark on summer visits to Albia as children. I can honestly say when thoughts turn to time spent with my dad's family, Richard is always the first person that comes to mind.

A weekend as kids spent in Albia was not complete unless we spent part of our day at the Burkman's. I am unable to remember exactly where your home was located. But, I do remember a park, school yard or play ground nearby. It was there that I have my first recollection of the type of person my cousin Richard was. I was about 3-5 years younger than most of the kids, at about the age of 6. They would gather for pickup games of football, baseball or any kind of competitive game. I know if I were anywhere else, I would have had to sit and watch the older kids play, rib and taunt each other. The stuff kids do on a Saturday afternoon. When Richard was there I would not be sitting on the "bench"! Richard made sure us little guys would be part of a team. If any of the kids there felt differently, well they could be shown the way home. That is just the way Richard was and I have to say that does a lot for a kids self esteem and confidence when they are included and welcomed by the "BIG" kids.

I have probably seen Richard about 8 times since we were kids. He always treated me like an old friend he had not seen in a while. He knew how to put people at ease and feel welcome.

It is difficult to lose someone like this. The world is a better place when people like Richard are in it.

God Bless you all, Ken Seibert

Ken Seibert - Mount Pleasant, IA - cousin - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Catherine, I am so sorry to hear about the death of your husband. We will be praying for you and your family.

Cathy Priest and family - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ I feel like I have known Richard forever, graduated with him, was in my homeroom at school and I considered him one of my friend, talk to him last fall while he was painting the drive in bank on Benton. my best memory is he taught me how to unhook my speedometer from my dad's car so I could ride around all sunday afternoon, then he would hook it back up for me. I will always remember him. Prayer are with you Catherine and your family.

Linda Campbell Teno - Melrose, IA - class mate - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Catherine & Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with. We were so lucky to known Richard.r

Ron & Peggy LePere - Naples, FL - Friend - March 21, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Catherine and the entire Burkman Family.

My heartfelt sympathy to all of you. I have many wonderful memories of Richard as we grew up together in Albia. It was a great shock to learn of his untimely death. Know that my thoughts are with each of you.

Susan McInnes Clark - Normal, IL - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ My heart goes out to you! Losing a loving husband is one of the most difficult times in our life. God's love will help you in the days to come. Reach out to him and know Richard is in a better place. So sorry Catherine. Keeping you and your family in my prayers.

Jackie Morehead - Albia, IA - friend and co-worker - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Mary,

My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. I'm so very sorry for your loss. Please send my prayers to your mom also.

Lynne Huseby - Fargo, ND - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Catherine,

Bruce and I were very saddened to hear of Richard's passing. Please know that we are thinking of you and your family as you begin the process of recovery. My most vivid memories of Richard are from early teenage years--when you first caught Richard's eye (at one of Mary Jo McDonald's parties in her basement, perhaps?), to Richard being the only one of 3 guys from the senior class of '66 on the Albia football team, to cruising up and down the Albia strip and around the square with a "gang" of kids (just like American Graffiti.) The best of times!

Jo Ann Asher Thompson - Spokane, WA - high school friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HI

“ Catherine, so sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Heather Moeller - Albia, IA - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *My Dearest Catherine
You know my heart is broken for you. I am so very sorry for your loss - Richard, your loving husband & friend. I have always referred to you and Richard as high school sweethearts -- those that knew you many years ago -- understand.
You two had been together
All those wonderful years
Then the angels came and took him
Now you're left with just your tears
Oh, I know how much you miss him
And you feel you can't go on
But the Lord has a way of healing
He will help you to be strong
One day you'll remember happy memories
As you look back at the times you had
You'll smile as you recall the times you laughed
And yes, even times that were sad
Take care my friend & know he loved you like no other!!!*

Sharon (Ryan) Cunningham - Albia, IA - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Surprised and sad to hear this news. Will be thinking of you and praying you and your family find comfort in your memories of husband and father.*

Carole Crall Mathes - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *Catherine, I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know we are sending prayers to help you through this trying time.*

Paul and Kathy Slofkosky - Knoxville, IA - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Catherine, I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you and your family. Barb Brunkhorst

Barb (Morehead) Brunkhorst - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Catherine I am so sorry to hear of Richard's passing. Men like Richard are supposed to be with us forever. I haven't lived in Albia since 1972, but I know from visiting Dad that Richard's touch is all over Albia, and he will not soon be forgotten. I will always remember the old white station wagon, and going road hunting at night with Richard & Keith Gibb. I truly believe that you will be with Richard again, and it will wonderful. Bless you Catherine, Richard and your family.....Bill & Deb Yohe

Bill & Deb Yohe - Davenport, IA - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Our deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family on the loss of your husband.

Frank and Nancy Acri - Des Moines, IA - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Richard worked for me in the past at John Deere. I always admired him for his amazing work ethic and attention to ensuring the safety of the other employees through his work. He was a positive example, an inspiration to many of us and always pushed us to do better. My sincere condolences to the family on your loss.

John Lawson - Bartlesville, OK - Former Supervisor - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Catherine, I am so sorry to hear the news of Richard. We never really know God's plan for us. Just trust that he does. My heart aches for you Catherine, you were blessed with a wonderful man to love. Maggie

maggie solinger - altoona, IA - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I would like to extend my condolences to the family

Kevin Navin - Cedar Rapids , IA - Friend of the family - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GI

“ Catherine so sorry to hear of Richards passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May you and your family find comfort in Gods love.

Gerri Archer - Ottumwa, IA - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Catherine, please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. I'm so sorry for your loss. Connie (Williams) and Steve Swanson

Connie and Steve Swanson - Lake Ozark, MO - Friend - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Catherine, Bob, and Mary Kay,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Richard was a man of character who loved his family and worked hard to make this community a better place.
His craftsmanship and artistry are all around us as we look at his work on Albia's Historic Square. He was a positive caring man and a great source of information. He was a resource to us when we had projects to complete.
Catherine, you and Richard worked very hard each year to make the Victorian Stroll a great success. Richard was such a help to others getting ready for the window displays, he always had a smile on his face, and positive words to share.
We feel honoured to have know him and will miss him.

Dan and Diana Walker - Albia, IA - Friends - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Catherine, so very very sorry. Such a shock to hear of Richard's death. Please accept our sympathies and know that you are in our prayers. May the peace of God that passes human understanding hold you during this time and in the days to come.

Diana Newquist Parson - Ottumwa, IA - high school class mates - March 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ My prayers and condolences. The last time I saw Richard was at our 45th high school reunion. I am so sorry to hear of his passing. God bless you, Kathryn and your family.

Helen (Campbell) Quandt - Fort Wayne, IN - Classmate - March 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Words in an email really can't tell all of Richards family how saddened we are to learn of his passing. You have our love and our sympathy as you go through this very difficult loss. We truly regret we are so far away at this time as we would prefer to be there and support you in person. We have many good memories of time shared as classmates as well as parents raising our kids together. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all as you gather to honor a good, hard working man.
Sending hugs until we can deliver them in person...with love, Tom & Patty

Patty & Tom Hannam - Albia, IA - Friends - March 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Dear Burkman Family,

We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Richard.

He will always be remembered as a very kind person and will be greatly missed at family gatherings in DL and Fargo.

We regretfully cannot make it down for his celebration of life on Saturday. Please know that Richard and the Burkman Family are in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,

Brian, Lisa, Joshua and Zach Saunders

Brian and Lisa Saunders - Detroit Lakes, MN - In-laws to Mary Burkman Saunders - March 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM