



Richard A LeMargie

December 9, 1947 - June 13, 2018

Richard A. Lemargie, 70, passed away Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at home in Ephrata, Washington, surrounded by loved ones.

Richard was born at Grand Coulee Dam, Washington in 1947, and spent his early years in what was commonly referred to as “engineer’s town” just downstream from the Grand Coulee Dam. He was raised in Ephrata and never missed a day of school. Richard grew up enjoying hunting, fishing, raising homing pigeons, delivering newspapers, and playing baseball. He played trumpet in the marching band, receiving the John Phillips Sousa Band Award. Much of his childhood was also spent helping on the Pixlee Ranch. He was active in leadership from an early age as part of the Ephrata High School student body.

As a young man, Richard

worked during high school and college for the Washington State Fish and Wildlife service. He also worked several summers in a remote fire lookout high up in the mountains of the Olympic Peninsula near Hood Canal. During the Vietnam era, he joined the Army National Guard. Richard's father was the Bureau of Reclamation's regional solicitor during the construction of the Grand Coulee Project. His father's unique position allowed Richard to begin his education on reclamation law as a child around the kitchen table. He went on to complete a B.A. in Political Science at Washington State University (WSU), followed by a J.D. in Law from Gonzaga Law School.

During law school he interned at the law firm of Dellwo, Rudolf, Grant & Schroder in Spokane, Washington. He then moved back to Ephrata and joined the law firm of Milne and Merritt. Richard later established a partnership creating the law practice of Lemargie and Whitaker (LAW) that has served the local area for more than 35 years and is today known as Lemargie, Kenison, Franz and Whitaker.

Following in his father's footsteps, Richard dedicated his life's work to support the vision of the Columbia Basin Project to convert

arid land into a productive irrigated agricultural breadbasket.

He focused on state and federal reclamation, irrigation law and hydropower development and served the greater community by representing individual clients, the Ephrata and Quincy hospital boards, several local municipalities, the Columbia Basin irrigation districts, and the Columbia Basin Hydropower development.

Richard was active in and received several awards from the Columbia Basin Development League, Northwest Irrigation Operators, the Washington State Water Resource Association, and the National Water Resource Association.

His life, just like the many people he represented, are part of the reclamation legacy to provide great value and security to our country through the production of food and hydropower.

Throughout the years, Richard continued to be a skilled outdoorsman, including fly-fishing, bow-hunting, and participation in the Ephrata Sportsmen's Association.

He developed a passion for Pacific Northwest History and local Native American culture. In his free time he loved literature, poetry and listening to classical music.

A believer in the importance of education, Richard was a past President of the WSU Alumni Association

and deeply involved in the WSU Honors College. He was also a supporter of the Columbia Basin Allied Arts.

Dedicated husband and loving father and grandfather, Richard was an anchor for his family and friends, always to be counted on as a trusted advisor. He was married to childhood best friend and lifelong partner, Kathy (Lilly) Lemargie for 46 years. Together they raised two children and played an active role in the community.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Harriett Lemargie and his brother Jim Lemargie.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy and children Kyle (Pippa) Lemargie and Marissa (Rodolfo) Lemargie Lavaque; siblings Paul E. Lemargie and Mary Thomas; and five grandchildren.

At his request there will be no service. A family gathering will be held at a later date.

Comments



“ Kathy and kids,
Mom (Debi Boersma) and I just learned of his passing today 10/9. We are heartbroken to hear of his loss. Please know our hearts and prayers are with you.

Jennifer Henry - October 09, 2018 at 07:15 PM



“ My father, Merrill Spence was a state fish biologist in the area and worked with Richard at times, (and I met him a couple times when I was young). My Dad has always had good things to say about him and was sorry to hear of his passing. Sorry for your loss,
Richard Spence

Richard Spence - July 07, 2018 at 01:56 AM



“ Kathy:
I am so sorry for your loss. My Aunt Wanda live next door until November when she passed away. I met your brother briefly when I was younger. He was very kind. You are in my prayers. Wanda Lee Hadley-Stanbrough.

Lee Stanbrough - June 21, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ Kathy and Family...Sorry to hear of Richards passing. Prayers for peace and comfort for you and the family. Joyce Sumrall LoParco

Joyce LoParco - June 20, 2018 at 09:36 PM



“ Kathy,
Larry and I are so sorry to hear of Richard's passing. We send our condolences and pray you are encouraged by friends and family during this time difficult time. Our prayers are with you.
Love, Larry



