



Richard Michael Lemanski

May 28, 1947 - July 18, 2021

Richard Michael Lemanski, 74, died at home Sunday, July 18, 2021 following a long illness.

Richard was born May 28, 1947, in Waltham, Massachusetts but lived the majority of his life in Tampa and Lakeland. His parents were the late Richard F. Lemanski and Jean Pipkin West Lemanski Cherry Jones.

Richard started his newspaper career at The Ledger where he moved from the backshop to the newsroom and eventually was Sports editor. He ended his journalism career at the Tampa Tribune where he had been a bureau chief, and sports and news copy editor. The title that gave him the most joy was creator, manager, and king of Maddox Ranch in Lakeland. Beginning with a request from a friend in 2006, he grew the idea of outdoor music festivals, camping weekends and enjoying the magic of the outdoors into a popular site for some of the largest outdoor festivals in Central Florida. Richard met hundreds of people over the years and became friends with hundreds of people. With Freckles and Penelope in the golf cart with him, he made sure to greet as many folks possible at each event, taking questions, fixing problems and enjoying the talks.

Richard leaves behind his wife Lynne Maddox; sister Valerie Holley Orihuela; brother Jim Lemanski; sons Rick Lemanski, his wife Dana and 3 daughters, and Luke Lemanski; and daughters Dana Carvalho, Laura Bettencourt and her 2 children and Dare Holtgrewe and her 2 children. His stepsons are Gavin Croft and Houston Croft. "Stung" had 10 other grandchildren that he loved watching grow, especially his special Savanna and Samuel. Memorial services will be announced later.

Comments



“ I am sorry for your loss. Richard was a good man. He helped me get my first sports writing job out of college. He was as unique as they come.

Del Milligan - July 25 at 07:21 AM



“ Richard was the person who taught me everything I know about being a writer. He took a very green 30 something sports lover and turn her (me) into a good sports writer. He was one in a million and though we lost touch when when he left the Tribune, he was always with me, in my head, when I wrote. You will be missed Richard, you touched many lives.
Tiffany Hutto

Tiffany Hutto - July 21 at 10:07 PM



“ Richard is the Father of my Nephews Rick and Luke, and Nieces Laura and Dare. I saw him last at Rick's wedding and that gave me a chance to experience "The Ranch". What a beautiful place and I know it was special to Richard. In our earlier days, Richard took me out on the town in Tampa and that night and many other times are fond memories for me. I send my love and condolences to Lynne and the whole family and to Richard, God's speed and may you rest in peace.



Chuck Crawford - July 19 at 07:09 PM



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Chuck Crawford - July 19 at 07:09 PM