



## Mark A. Richert

September 29, 1964 - August 16, 2020

Mark Anthony Richert, 55, of Decatur, IL, passed away on August 16, 2020, at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Decatur, IL, on September 29, 1964, to the late Walter Richert and Mary Whitaker. Mark graduated from Lakeview High School and continued his education at Eastern Illinois University earning a Master's Degree in Education Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education. He married Cathy Scranton on June 30, 1990. Over the past 32 years, he has been employed by Decatur Public Schools serving as a physical education teacher, health teacher, coach and athletic director. Outside of work, Mark loved spending quality time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed following sports, especially the St. Louis Blues and St. Louis Cardinals.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy Richert; son, Keagan (Destinee) Richert; grandchildren, Brylee, Klay and Elsie; siblings, Terry Richert (Anne), Wanda Rokosh (Fred), Connie Vording (Rusty), and Donald Richert (Lyndi), and many nieces and nephews.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in law, Lois Chervinko.

Visitation will be on Thursday, August 20, 2020, from 6-8 PM at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home. A private family memorial service will be held on Friday, August 21, 2020. It will be streamed live at [www.funeralvue.com/login/event # 35221](http://www.funeralvue.com/login/event#35221). CDC guidelines will be followed. Masks are required. Temperatures and screening will be conducted at the door.

Entombment will be at Graceland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorial gifts to be made to the Richert Family for Mark's grandson, Klay, to support his fight with leukemia.

Condolences may be left to Mark's family at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).



# Cemetery

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**Graceland Cemetery**  
2091 N. Oakland Avenue  
Decatur, IL, 62526

# Events

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**AUG 20**   **Visitation**   06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home  
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur, IL, US, 62526

# Comments

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“ My condolences to the Richert family. I enjoyed working with Mark as a fellow A.D. for many years. He and I swapped stories often when we had the opportunity to chat. He was always put the kids first and did as much for them as he could.

**Craig Olson** - August 24, 2020 at 09:11 PM

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“ I wish to express my sympathy to Mark's, children, grandchildren, and all of my cousins on the Richert side. Mark was my youngest cousin, and probably the one I saw the least. I remember him as a young boy who loved skateboarding. I told him that was the next best thing to surfing. When he was in college I was already teaching. I was on summer break and he told me he wanted to teach. I told him there was a lot more to it than summer vacation, but during our discussion I could tell he had what it takes and I encouraged him to go for it. As I was reading the memories, I realized that he not only went for it, but he aced it. The true worth of a man is found through his impact on others, and based on what I have heard and what I have read his impact was enormous. No longer physically present, his memory will last forever. Via con Dios "cuz", and Cowabunga!

**Tom Richert** - August 21, 2020 at 03:44 PM

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“ My condolences to the Richert family. My dad and Walt were best friends when I was a child, and I remember pushing Mark around on a big wheel when he was probably 3 or 4, on Nickey Avenue. Some memories last a lifetime. I never knew Mark as an adult, but I know he touched the lives of many. Glenn Easterling

**Glenn C Easterling** - August 21, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ My deepest condolence to the Richert family. Mark was a good friend and a great colleague, who will be noticeably missed.

Jon Moore

**Jon Moore** - August 20, 2020 at 08:33 PM

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“ Terry and Donnie,

We want you to know that we are so sorry for the loss of your brother. We are praying for you and all of your family at this most difficult time. May God's comfort and peace cover all of you.

Brad and Lynne Kickle

Brad and Lynne Kickle - August 20, 2020 at 07:55 PM

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“ Cathy, Keagan, and Family,

I'm sorry that I was unable to attend the visitation this evening. I'm truly saddened by Mark's passing and you are in my prayers. Mark's life to me is a celebration of a good man and the positive impacts he made on his family, students, and friends. As one of my best friends throughout middle school and high school, he will always have a special place in my memories and my heart. He got me into playing soccer on the YMCA traveling team in high school. We spent many hours hanging out listening to music at each other's house and cruising in his car. We spent a lot of time skateboarding on a ramp he helped me build and getting chased out of Nelson park. I remember him challenging the girl's softball pitcher in high school and ending up getting injured by a wild pitch! Soccer pick up games on the Lakeview High School football field. Many fond memories. I'll miss the facebook chats about music and memories.

Mark, In the words of Mellow Cat from the old Skateboarder magazine we used to read, your life was "RAD-E-KAL, MON!. Cowabunga!"

Rest in Piece my friend. (I uploaded one old picture I found from skateboarding days.)



Greg Coberly - August 20, 2020 at 07:09 PM

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“ Cathy and family — We are saddened to hear of Mark's death; please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. Your wedding was one of our favorites and we remember you both fondly — a beautiful bride and a handsome groom inside and out.

Beth & Steve Pyle (Landmark Studios)

Beth Pyle - August 20, 2020 at 06:42 PM



“ To the Richert family so sorry for the loss of your loved one. Mark was a very loving person to all that knew him. Mark will be missed. To the family look to the hills where your strength cometh. God Bless you all. Scott Hood

**scott hood** - August 20, 2020 at 03:29 PM

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“ From: The Deters Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mark A. Richert.



**Tim Deters** - August 19, 2020 at 02:00 PM

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“ I am so sorry to to learn on the passing of Mark Richert...

Mr. Richert was my first "real coach" when I went to Roosevelt middle school in 1992, and my freshman coach at MHS as well. He taught me persistence, tough love, and working hard for things that you want. I can hear him telling me now "Jones, sports are 1% physical and 99% mental. How bad do you want it?"

As I mourn his loss, I am thankful for the impact that he has made on so many young people in Decatur. He was truly one of a kind. Thank you for leaving an incredible mark on my life.

Kendra Jones-Lee

**Kendra Lee** - August 19, 2020 at 12:17 PM

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“ Our prayers are with you,as celebrate the life,and passing, of Mark.I remember Mark,as a loving father,husband,and grandfather.There are no words,to express,our sorrow.I always recognized Mark,by the license plates on his vehicle "VB ACE". May your journey,be one of fullfillment,and peace.

Richard Bobbitt

Richard Bobbitt - August 19, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ Cathy and family, Bo and I were so shocked and saddened to learn of Marks passing. We are praying for you all and will have you in our thoughts. With deepest sympathy,  
Gail Dingerson and Bo Smith

Gail Dingerson - August 19, 2020 at 06:55 PM



“ Cinda Armstrong-Williams lit a candle in memory of Mark A. Richert



Cinda Armstrong-Williams - August 19, 2020 at 08:54 AM



“ Deborah Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Mark A. Richert



Deborah Hawkins - August 19, 2020 at 12:40 AM



“ Our Deepest Sympathy to the family!



**Miriam O'Bryan** - August 18, 2020 at 07:25 PM

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“ So many memories from volleyball at Roosevelt to softball at MacArthur!! He was a great man and will truly be missed!

**Devon (Sloan) Logue** - August 18, 2020 at 04:58 PM

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“ Carol Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Mark A. Richert



**Carol blackwell** - August 18, 2020 at 03:27 PM

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“ Coach Mark Richert

Yesterday one very good man who was of high quality who cared deeply, was enthusiastic about how he lived each day and had deep concern for his family, friends, and teams was taken from this world. He was my Coach. He coached me from middle school until high school both volleyball & softball. He taught me the meaning of words that have stuck with me throughout life, one being mediocre and the other apathetic. He explained the meaning of these words as he taped up a sprained ankle so, I could keep playing and as he taped his own fingers so he could keep setting or hitting spikes for us to dig. He taught by example that we must live each day and make it count. I remember the last time I saw Coach it was just after my 20 year class reunion, he was looking forward to his retirement and, with his son all grown, being a grandpa. He looked ahead and he lived everyday. I pray that everyone could live like Mark. Live and love deeply, with passion for the impact you can have on a community, as you move through life whatever your doing, never take one minute for granted.

A couple memories I have are from when he was my coach- in 7th grade I would bring a little troll doll to our volleyball games and if we were behind And I was on the bench, I would pull it out and say silly stuff and make the troll do jumping jacks to turn the tide. Coach looked at me with a smirk trying not to laugh and yells down “Robinson!” Another was when I was a senior, the snow was still melting off the ground, it was about time for softball season. A teammate of mine Wendy Parson found out where Coach lived so, we went over on a Saturday morning, throwing the softball around outside just to let him know we were ready. We couldn’t wait to play another season. He was a great coach!

Praying for you all!

Jennifer (Robinson) Witts

Jennifer Witts - August 18, 2020 at 10:40 AM

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“ Mark was a wonderful person to teach with and he will be sadly missed. He loved volleyball and coached the skills like no one else. The Roosevelt Crew is where it all started and the memories are many. I can still remember the day he brought Keagan to the main office at Roosevelt and held that little guy so lovingly in his arms. Mark was a proud daddy and loved his family very much!

Cathy, our hearts are with you today, your devotion to Mark was immeasurable. Rest In Peace sweet friend.

Theresa Cox Bowser

Theresa Bowser - August 18, 2020 at 10:08 AM

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“ I had the honor of working with Mark at SDMS fro 2003 to 2008. Was a wonderful person. He was simply one of the best. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Scot Reynolds



**Kyle "Scot" Reynolds** - August 18, 2020 at 09:43 AM

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“ Our family is so saddened to hear of Mark’s passing. We have many great memories of volleyball games, teaching, DEA events and golfing with colleagues. What a loss in our Decatur educational family! Our heartfelt condolences to your family. Chuck & Cathy Force

**Cathy & Chuck Force** - August 18, 2020 at 09:18 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Tim Deters** - August 18, 2020 at 07:34 AM

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“ So saddened to hear about Mark. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Such sad to hear this news today. Praying for God’s peace to get you through the following days, weeks and years. Trust Him and ask Him for help. Prayers for Keaga’s family situation also.

**Judy and Gene Worthey** - August 17, 2020 at 08:38 PM

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“ Mark,  
Although it has been too many years since we talked - I have thought of you often, I remember our soccer and softball (Steve Sax at second base) games. Always great memories!

Cathy,  
Please remember that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Will continue to pray for you and the rest of your family.

With deepest sympathy and respect.  
Lorrayne and Tim Deters



**Tim Deters** - August 17, 2020 at 08:36 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss and am sending prayers for healing. God bless you all.  
Vicky Kelsheimer

**Vicky Kelsheimer** - August 17, 2020 at 08:14 PM

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“ Mandy Childress lit a candle in memory of Mark A. Richert



**Mandy Childress** - August 17, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ So sorry! Praying for Cathy and the family.

**Mona Busch** - August 18, 2020 at 04:42 PM



“ So very sad to hear about Mark. Many fond memories of Keagan and your family at Franklin. Sending sincere wishes for strength, comfort and peace for all of you. Special prayers for Keagan and his family. too.

**Judy Alexander** - August 19, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ I always enjoyed working with Mark, whether it was substitute teaching in the Gym or scoring Volleyball games. May the memories of Mark be a blessing to us all. May God's presence surround you in the weeks ahead.

**Tom Busch** - August 19, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. I will miss our meaningful conversations about family, work and retirement. May the Lord bless you and keep you and give you, the Richert's Family, PEACE.

**Melessa E. Tyus** - August 19, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed working with Mark at Stephen Decatur. I always enjoyed our chats through the Galleria. Sending prayers to you and your family.

**Heather England** - August 20, 2020 at 05:43 PM