



Richard W. Prather

April 3, 1948 - April 14, 2020

Richard Wright Prather, 72, passed away Tuesday evening, April 14, 2020, at Homewood Health Campus in Lebanon, Indiana. He was born April 3, 1948 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the son of the late Henry R. and Alberta W. (Wright) Prather.

On April 2, 1977, he was married at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, Indiana, to Deborah Ann (Ilgenfritz) Prather; she survives.

Richard was a 1966 graduate of Speedway High School and 1970 graduate of Indiana University. He then attended Indiana University Law School and received his law degree in 1974. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Indiana Bar Association, and the Boone County Bar Association.

He had worked for Chicago Title Insurance Company until 1997 and then several small title companies until 2004. Richard retired in 2017 from Sorenson Video Relay Company, where he served as an American Sign Language Interpreter.

Having been civic-minded, Richard was involved with many community clubs and events; Boone County Leadership, 4th of July Committee, Lebanon Education Foundation Follies, a devoted member of Opus 96, and a

participant in the Boone County Senior Olympics

Richard was the son of two deaf parents and with his sister, Amy, was an avid American Sign Language Interpreter. He served as the ASL interpreter for the Indianapolis Children's Choir, President Obama, Maya Angelou, the Dalai Lama, countless IU Basketball games and graduation ceremonies at IU, Purdue, and Ivy Tech. He enjoyed volunteering at the Indiana State Fair Dairy barn, serving ice cream for an organization in which he had many friends the Children of Deaf Adults. Many in this group were like family to Richard.

A devoted husband and father, he loved his family dearly. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Debi Prather of Lebanon; two children, Abby Prather (Anthony Mullis) of Greencastle and Andrew (Jamie) Prather of Lacrosse, Wisconsin; a sister, Amy L. (Phil) Cornwell of Bloomington; mother-in-law, Mary Ilgenfritz of Valparaiso; sisters-in-law, Jody (Michael) Williams of Plainfield and Dawn Ilgenfritz of Valparaiso; and nieces and nephews, Kristen (Rick) McGuire of Louisville, Jonathon (Nichole) Cornwell of Terre Haute, Molly and Noah Williams of Plainfield, and Joshua Ilgenfritz of Valparaiso.

The family would like to express our appreciation to the nurses and staff at Homewood Health campus. Richard was always treated with kindness and compassion. And to the staff and Friends at Woodland Terrace of Carmel. He considered Woodland Terrace his home and the residents were his family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date at Christ Lutheran Church in Zionsville, Indiana. Myers Mortuary and Boone County Crematory have been entrusted with his care.

In the past few years, you could always find Richard in an Indy Mega Adoption Event t-shirt, an event near and dear to his daughter's heart. The Prather family loves our rescue pets and they visited with Richard at both Homewood

and Woodland Terrace. This organization provides homes for those animals that have lived in shelters throughout Indiana counties by holding a weekend adoption event at the Indiana State

Fairgrounds. Memorials may be made in his memory to the Indy Mega Adoption Event c/o the Indianapolis Humane Society at <https://bit.ly/3cnCEOe>.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard W. Prather*

November 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear that Richard passed away. He was a talented man and a nice guy! We have fond memories of our Super Bowl Parties. Our hearts and prayers are with you at this sad time.*

Linda and Jack Fahrenbach

Linda and Jack Fahrenbach - July 09, 2020 at 03:41 PM



“ *A wonderful man. Known and loved by man. We will miss you here but know that you are laughing with family and smiling where you are.*

Cynthia Floyd - July 09, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ *Rich was one the nicest people we've ever known. We remember fond times at Tena's parent's lake house and many, many great times through the years at Christ Church fellowship outings and projects we would all work on together. Seeing all of our children grown up together and sharing many of those times was very special. He will be missed. Prayers and hugs to all of you. Bill and Tena*

Tena McClanahan - July 09, 2020 at 05:30 AM

JM

*Richard was a dear friend. I've known Richard and his sister Amy, all of my life. His parents and my parents were close friends in the Deaf community. We were members of CODA, Children of Deaf Adults and would attend annual international conferences of CODA. This past year I have moved to Woodland Terrace of Carmel where Richard had lived but he had already moved to Lebanon. Everyone at Woodland Terrace had very loving memories of Richard. He made a very lasting impression among the residents. He is greatly loved and missed by all who knew him. I pray that God is a great comfort for his family. \".
Judy McAleavey.*

Judy McAleavey - July 09, 2020 at 10:12 AM

JU

“ Rich was a good guy. We remember when we came for a visit and the 4 of us went to the movies to see Grease. Also remember when you came in to Pa. and we played cards all evening. So sorry he is gone. Love all of you. Judy and Marlin

Judy - July 08, 2020 at 07:48 PM

CW

“ Rich was the nicest guy! I just learned of his passing and am shocked! I worked with him in the title business. You have my deepest condolences for your loss.

Cindy Warren

Cindy Warren - May 05, 2020 at 11:31 AM

DP

Thank you! You were one of his favorite agents!

debi prather - July 08, 2020 at 12:47 PM

DL

“ Rich and I were in several classes together. We had fun in Lil' Abner, he did a great job as Marryin' Sam. Rich was a great guy; he will be missed by his family and friends and in our fond memories from high school.

Dan Land - April 27, 2020 at 10:42 PM

RR

“ In many classes students were seated alphabetically; therefor Rich & I sat next to or near Rich in several classes... Dan Queener was in between us a lot. I recall only meeting his parents one time but was amazed to see them communicate so rapidly. Rich always seemed to have a quiet confidence & a nice smile. Ron Ray

Ron Ray - April 27, 2020 at 02:44 PM

TC

“ Rich and Amy lived around the corner on Fisher when we were growing up. We lived on Auburn. While in elementary school, I used to go to Rich's house once in a while and was so enamored with the sign language he and Amy used to communicate with those beautiful parents of his. Abby, what a beautiful (and, yes, funny!) tribute to your dad. Thank you for that. Please know we will keep all of you in our hearts and prayers.

Twyla (Corson) Cecil (and husband, Steve)

Twyla Cecil - April 27, 2020 at 01:32 PM

BS

“ Though it has been so many years, I still chuckle at the memories with Rich in the high school musicals. Good times we had, made all the better by his quick smile. Now, our prayers for our good friend and his family as he rests in peace.

Bruce Smith - April 21, 2020 at 12:34 AM

MT

“ Amy, I am so sorry to hear this very sad news about Richard. He was such a special person. So kind, caring and funny. Richard was a true gentleman and will be missed by all that knew him. Hugs to you all.

Love, Mary Anne Thacker

Mary Anne Thacker - April 20, 2020 at 09:22 PM

ER

“ I have only the fondest memories of Rich. Recollections of his intelligence, good humor, and friendly attitude persist across the many years. My sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Ed Robards - April 20, 2020 at 01:29 PM

CK

“ Rich was just the nicest guy! He introduced me to the best donuts ever! Always up for a chat with a ready smile and genuine caring! He will be missed.

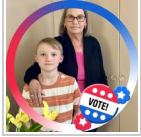
Christine Multra Kraft - April 19, 2020 at 12:01 PM

KB

“ Richard, Amy and their parents taught me so much about the deaf and hearing impaired world. It's why I became a speech pathologist. I share many fond memories from Speedway. My deepest sympathy to the family. May wonderful memories bring you comfort.



Kim Mikkelsen Boden - April 18, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ *Gail Grier lit a candle in memory of Richard W. Prather*



Gail Grier - April 18, 2020 at 09:29 AM



“ *Richard was a long-time friend: grade school through college. He was the lead singer in our band, and a fraternity brother. His outgoing personality and humor will be missed. His parents were wonderful people who enriched my life as a youngster.*

Warren Lind - April 17, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ *Rich was one of my best friends at Speedway High School. A great guy ...always willing to talk and laugh. Best wishes to his family.*
Nelson Nave

Nelson Nave - April 17, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ *Dianna & Chris Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Richard W. Prather*



Dianna & Chris Ferguson - April 17, 2020 at 12:27 PM



Thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.

Dianna Ferguson - April 17, 2020 at 12:28 PM

DQ

“ Dan Q. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Richard W. Prather.



Dan Q. - April 17, 2020 at 10:54 AM

DH

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Dennis Hammer - April 17, 2020 at 04:26 AM

DS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Denny Hammer ~ SHS-66 - April 17, 2020 at 02:05 AM

DS

“ Rich was an old friend and member of the Speedway High School Class of '66. We grew up in Cub and Boy Scouts and share many good times together. As a young teen he taught me the alphabet in sign language and it both kept me out of hot water and got me in some during our school days. Those days with rich and several assorted hooligans we hung with are cherished memories. See you again one day my friend.

Denny Hammer ~ SHS-66 - April 17, 2020 at 01:25 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard W. Prather.



April 16, 2020 at 12:50 PM