



Richard "Dick" Hugh Worthen

August 21, 1942 - May 16, 2020

Richard "Dick" Hugh Worthen passed away in the morning of May 16, 2020 at San Gabriel Memory Care in Godfrey, IL in the arms of his wife. Aged 77 years old, he was born August 21, 1942, the first child of the late Hugh O. and Dorothy (Raines) Worthen. A lifelong resident of Wood River and Alton, IL, he married Mary Sherrill Anderson in a blizzard on January 28, 1967 in Helmar, IL.

He dearly loved his wife, children, grandsons, siblings and his many cousins. He is survived by his wife, Sherrill; son Gregory (JulieAnn); his daughter, Julie Van Voorhis (Matthew); two grandchildren; Jonathan Hugh Worthen, and Garrison Hugh Worthen; his siblings, Marcia Harmon (Dan), Gary Worthen (Leslie), and Diana Worthen; brother-in-law, James Anderson (Vicki); nieces, Jennifer Battiste (Bill), and Amanda Hintergardt; and nephews, Eric Anderson (Brittany), Matthew Harmon (Jane), and Geoffrey Worthen (Jeanne).

He attended Wood River High School, graduated from Illinois State University with a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science.

Out of School, he taught History and Government courses at the high school and community college level. He was employed as a salesman by Sears at the Alton store for many years. He led a productive and inspiring life of public service by being active in local and state politics. Dick served as a legislative intern with the Illinois State Legislature in Springfield, served as Alton Precinct Committeeman, and served on the Madison County Board for over 20 years. He retired from the Board and served as the Madison County Storm Water Coordinator.

Dick never met a stranger. In fact, it was not uncommon on a family vacation for him to run into an old friend or have a friend in common with new friends he had made. He loved church, music, the outdoors, and volunteering to make a difference. Dick grew up in the Wood River First United Methodist Church and later became an active member at Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton. He served as a certified UMC lay leader and

speaker, filling in small pulpits as needed, and sang in the choir. He played in many bands throughout high school and college. He carried that love of music throughout his entire life, playing the trombone and baritone with the Dixie Dudes Dixieland Band and the New Horizons Band and even singing Sinatra one evening for a USO performance. He also had a grand time playing FDR in the Alton Little Theatre production of "Annie."

He loved the outdoors, and spending time camping and hiking. He was an environmental advocate. He was instrumental in bringing the recycling program to Madison County. He was a founding member of The Nature Institute in Godfrey, IL. He and friends struggled to secure ownership and permanent protection of the land located in Godfrey, IL on Levis Lane, which has grown to offer summer camps to community children and enjoyed by so many. He was also an active member in the Sierra Club, locally, statewide and nationally.

He volunteered on many local Habitat for Humanity Homes, and went on several volunteer mission trips with the Wisconsin VIM group, building and rehabbing churches and other projects. He served as a SCORE mentor to young people going into the business world.

A carcade visitation will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Godfrey. A private family graveside service will follow at Woodland Hill Cemetery in Wood River, IL with Pastor Tim Pate of Main Street United Methodist Church in Alton officiating.

Memorials can be made to the Main Street United Methodist Church, or to The Nature Institute for camper scholarships.

Cemetery

Woodland Hill Cemetery

501 Woodland Ave

Wood River, IL, 62095

Events

MAY 20 **Carcade Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home - Godfrey
1313 W. Delmar, Godfrey, IL, US, 62035

Comments



“ In one of early political forays, I met Dick through the group V.O.I.C.E. (Voters Organized for Independant Community Effort). I was a young 20 something hanging out with those old thirty somethings back in the late 70's. His was often a VOICE in the wilderness, but with no hidden agenda. The community is in a better place for his contributions. May he rest in peace.

Kerry Miller - May 21 at 11:00 AM



“ I knew Dick through our music and will remember him with as a kind and talented musician, always ready to give advice and to make a joke. He will be missed by all who knew him. My heartfelt sympathy to the family

Terri Abert - May 20 at 12:10 PM



“ Dick was a great guy and very good musician. I and the New Horizons Band will truly miss him.
Stanley Chytil

Stanley Chytil - May 20 at 09:17 AM



“ Sherrill and family, I am so sorry to hear of Dick's passing. I know you have a sad time ahead and you will be in my prayers. Dit and I always like seeing the two of you at Little Theater. I will be glad to talk with you at any time. Sincerely, Barb Panfile

Barb Panfile - May 19 at 09:33 PM



“ We knew Dick in the old days when we all worked so hard in politics to assure good candidates were elected and righteous principles were adhered to in government. He was tireless in service to his communities. The old VOICE days are long gone but never forgotten. Bless and comfort you and your family at this time of loss.
Jane and P.J. O'Neill

Jane O'Neill - May 19 at 02:32 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Worden family. We know Dick will be greatly missed by his family and the Main St. Methodist family.
Allen and Lynn Welling

Lynn Welling - May 19 at 10:17 AM



“ Richard is missed dearly already. So sorry for all of your loss. He was such a sweetheart. I had the honor of taking care of him at San Gabriel for a while. You are all in my prayers.



Natasha Jones - May 19 at 03:07 AM



“ My condolences to the family. Not only did I enjoy seeing Dick each week as a fellow choir member, I enjoyed talking with him when he visited Clea's. I heard several interesting stories of his a Sherrill's travels while checking each of the 50 states off of their list. He was a great man and will be missed.

Jennifer Rulo - May 18 at 05:03 PM



“ Went through grades one to twelve with Richard. His dad coached our baseball team in the summers. We were called the Hornets. A lot of good memories. Always look forward to our class reunions so Richard and I would visit and talk about our families and old memories. He did many nice contributions for other people. Your family and his sisters and brother are in my prayers John Wright.

john wright - May 18 at 04:00 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Hugh Worthen.



May 18 at 02:34 PM



“ Dear Worthen family, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Richard. He came into my store, Alton McDonalds, many times for breakfast. He was always very friendly, and loved to share stories of his growing up. He was such an interesting, knowledgeable man. We are all gonna be missing him. You all are in our prayers sincerely, Laurie Springer

Laurie Springer - May 18 at 12:09 PM



“ Dick was a wonderful fellow and will be missed by many, including Barbara and myself. It was always a pleasure to chat with him at NHB concerts and to listen to him perform. He did so much for so many and his contributions will be appreciated by those who had the pleasure of knowing him, even appreciated by the many who did not know him but whose lives are enriched by his work and dedication to meaningful causes.

Michael R Montgomery - May 18 at 11:31 AM



“ I worked with Dick on the county board and later found he just lived down the block from my mother in law in Alton. He was a good person and he will be missed.

Kent Scheibel

Kent Scheibel - May 18 at 11:30 AM



“ Your relatives in the Quad-Cities send condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bob and Mona Martin

Mona Martin - May 18 at 11:15 AM



“ Diana,
You have our deepest sympathy for the loss of your brother.
Rev Ray and Kay (Smith) Robinson

Rev Ray and Kay (Smith) Robinson - May 17 at 04:29 PM