



## Richard Mark Balunda

March 8, 1952 - November 27, 2025

Richard Mark Balunda of Ogden Dunes, Indiana (73) passed away peacefully at home in his sleep on the morning of November 27, 2025 after having spent a wonderful evening with his daughter's families. Richard was born on March 8, 1952 in Gary, Indiana. He worked the entirety of his career at Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Mill (formerly Bethlehem Steel, Burns Harbor Plant) as the manager of operations in the wastewater treatment plant. He has probably watched every Cubs game of the past two decades, if not more (Go Cubbies!), loved living near the beach, watching with a careful eye his stock and other investments, and then talking about them to his family ad nauseum. His favorite past times were going to the Casinos and spending endless hours with his daughters, whom he loved very much. He taught his daughters everything, from how to drive a stick shift, swing a tennis racket, and fix up most anything in the house or on a car. He was a source of endless good advice. He was preceded in death by his parents Mary Margaret Knapp and Michael Joseph Balunda Sr.; His sister Joanne Margaret Balunda and his brother Paul Adam Balunda. He is survived by his daughters Stephanie Alexis Balunda (Andrew Sims) and Estelle Christine Balunda (Carlos Javier); His brothers Michael Balunda (Janice Kankowski) and David Balunda; sister Margaret Baumgardner; and his beautiful grandbabies Alex Sims, Charlotte Sims and Celestine Balunda-Javier. A memorial service will be held in his honor on Friday, December 5th from 4-8pm at Wild Wood's a Gathering Place: 619 E. 3rd St. Hobart, Indiana 46342. Burns Funeral Home & Crematory

entrusted with arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wild Wood's A Gathering Place:  
619 E. 3rd Street  
Hobart, IN 46342

# Tribute Wall

WA

“ I met Rick in 1986 when he was a young engineer working in the wastewater treatment group at Bethlehem Steel and I was a young engineer supervising a workover on SPL No. 1 well at the mill for Texas World Operations. At that point, I didn't realize our working relationship would span nearly 39 years. Rick was one of the few client representatives/project managers that understood injection wells and actively worked to maintain their injection wells. It was a pleasure and a privilege over the years to work with Rick on numerous well projects at the mill. He was a wonderful project manager, and even a better friend. I will greatly miss Rick for the rest of my life. On a few occasions over the years, I had the opportunity to meet Rick's daughters Stepahanie and Estelle. I'm so sorry for your loss, my deepest sympathies to Stephanie, Estelle, and the rest of the family.

*Bill Armstrong*

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**William H Armstrong** - December 05, 2025 at 05:45 PM

DF

*So sorry for his loss ... worked for Rick for some 25 years ... hw was very fair to me ... may he rest in Peace ...*

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**Daniel Fernandez** - December 05, 2025 at 08:40 PM

SB

*Bill, thank you for your message. Estelle and I often heard your name in the house, but didn't know the full story of your relationship with dad. Your name was always mentioned with respect and admiration. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, for this message, and for being his friend. I'm also sorry for your loss.*

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**Stephanie Balunda** - December 07, 2025 at 07:22 PM

BL

“ *Bill Armstrong & Geostock Sandia, LLC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Mark Balunda.*

Bill Armstrong & Geostock Sandia, LLC - December 04, 2025 at 12:40 PM

BL

“ *Bill Armstrong & Geostock Sandia, LLC purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Richard Mark Balunda.*



Bill Armstrong & Geostock Sandia, LLC - December 04, 2025 at 12:40 PM

ML

“ *There are good Men, and then there are great Men! This was and will always be a great Man! There is not enough words to say about Rick. He will be greatly missed!*

Mike Lyon - December 04, 2025 at 10:56 AM

SB

*Thank you Mike. He appreciated you more than I can express in words!*

stephanie balunda - December 05, 2025 at 02:58 PM

JD

“ *I owe my entire career to Ricko for taking a chance in providing me the opportunity to work for him and learn the business under his guidance and tutelage. He was a great boss and mentor that always supported me in my various endeavors and challenged me to succeed. He will be missed.*

Josh Davich - December 03, 2025 at 04:16 PM

SB

*He thought the world of you. Always appreciated your hard work and intelligence! ❤️*

stephanie balunda - December 03, 2025 at 07:04 PM

SB

*Thank you Josh!*

stephanie balunda - December 03, 2025 at 07:04 PM

BH

*My condolences to Rick's Family. I had the pleasure to work with Rick over 30 years. He was always about solving problems willing to try a new approach. Always data driven to prove the result. It was an honor to have known Rick.*

*Bill Hensen Retired Nalco.*

Bill Hensen - December 04, 2025 at 09:11 AM

DB

*Worked under Rick for years, he had as tuff surface, but once he knew you he would go out of his way to help . great man, always amazed me with his knowledge of the entire department...he will be missed...rest in peace..*

David bobrowski - December 05, 2025 at 12:22 PM

JD

“ Josh Davich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Mark Balunda.

Josh Davich - December 03, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Richard Mark Balunda.



December 03, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ Sending love, all of the Texas Balundas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Mark Balunda.

**Sending love, all of the Texas Balundas** - December 03, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ Sending love, all of the Texas Balundas purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Richard Mark Balunda.



**Sending love, all of the Texas Balundas** - December 03, 2025 at 02:42 PM