



## Richard Allen Riba

May 22, 1943 - February 21, 2022

Richard Allen Riba, age 78, of Hobart, passed away on February 21, 2022. He was born in Gary, IN on May 22, 1943, to Manuel and Isabel Riba. Richard was the oldest of two children. He graduated from Hobart High School in 1961 and proudly served in the Army from 1965 until 1969. Richard retired in 1999 after teaching 5th grade at Liberty Elementary School for 31 years. He is remembered for his dedication, kindness, humor and generosity.

Richard was a member of Augustana Lutheran Church since 1972, where he served as President of the church council for two years. He was also a member of the Maria Reiner Center since it's opening. He coached three sports while teaching, age group swimming at the Y.M.C.A., girls junior varsity basketball at Hobart High School and softball at Hobart High School. Richard has been a member of the Hobart Kiwanis since retirement in 1999 and has been able to pursue his love for photography. He will be greatly missed.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; two sons-Scott and Jason. He is survived by his wife of 52 years-Judy; sister-Linda Adler of Portage; many nieces and nephews; great nephews and great nieces; two godsons; two goddaughters. Private arrangements entrusted to Burns Funeral Home (Hobart). [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Judy, Linda, and all the family...we send our love and sincere sympathy to all of you. Rich always brightened any room he was in and always spoke only kind words. As an older cousin, he was our leader in Papa's basement escapades.*



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**Keith Martin** - February 24, 2022 at 11:23 PM

RT

“ *Prayers for you Judy, we are so sorry to hear of Rich's passing. He was such a nice man and always had a smile on his face. With his smile and you laugh it was always a pleasure to be around you two. Again, our deepest sympathy.*

*Gene and Reita Torin*

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**Reita Torin** - February 24, 2022 at 07:38 PM

DS

“ *Mr. Riba, my fifth-grade teacher, was one of the most influential teachers I ever had. He was kind, funny, and knew how to teach. Such a good man. Such a loss for anybody who knew him. He's one of the reasons I became a teacher. He was unforgettable. To a job well done, Mr. Riba. Thanks for sharing him with us, Mrs. Riba!*

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**David Shepherd** - February 24, 2022 at 11:18 AM

RY

“ Dear Judy, we have shared so many memories in this long trip through adulthood. From Friday night eating out and the guys throwing peanuts at each other in the parking lot of the restaurants. We will always remember that trip to Florida that was so memorable with the boys. For so many years we were together for the really good times and the really bad times. It has been so long since we were able to be in touch, but we have thought about you and Rich so often. You were our first and closest friends when we first moved to Hobart and began teaching. We had forgotten that our husbands birthdays were only one day apart ( a few years apart). Even though we are no longer living close together and are unable to attend Rich's service you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Rick and Carol Yoder** - February 24, 2022 at 10:59 AM

DL

“ Judy, we are so sorry to hear about Rich's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Dennis and Sidsel Lindborg

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**Dennis and Sidsel Lindborg** - February 23, 2022 at 11:09 PM

TP

“ I had Mr. Riba as a 5th grade teacher. He was a great teacher and such a kind person. So sad to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace. Judy, keeping you in prayer.  
Sincerely, Tory Pavese-Krause

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**Tory Pavese-Krause** - February 23, 2022 at 08:09 PM

KH

“ My deepest condolences to family and friends. Mr. Riba was favorite teacher, best coach and loved by many!! Great man of honorable character!! Rest in Peace Mr. Riba

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**Kellie Heideman** - February 23, 2022 at 11:43 AM

RG

“ To the Family and Friends so sorry for your loss. Rest Easy Hero. Randy Gumkowski  
INPGR



Randy Gumkowski - February 23, 2022 at 06:23 AM

DK

“ I am so very sorry to his family. Mr. Riba was an amazing man and teacher. I have so many great memories of him. Funny story, I would ask if I could go to the restroom, he would say I don't know can you? And laugh . Then I would have to say May I use the restroom, and he would say sure. He also taught me how to raise one eyebrow at a time. Lol. He made learning fun! I enjoyed visiting him at his card store as well. Rest easy Mr. Riba! You will be missed!

Debey Walters Knapp - February 23, 2022 at 06:01 AM

LS


“ I am sorry to hear of the loss of the earthly companionship of this wonderful man. Both of my girls had Mr. Riba as their 5th grade teacher. He was without a doubt the best teacher I have ever seen.

Luann Swain - February 23, 2022 at 02:15 AM

KG

“ I am so sorry to hear this! Mr. Riba was one of my favorite teachers! I learned the football teams from our class football pools (we could win candy). His love of baseball cards. I think about him often. Now he is with Jason. I am so sorry for your loss.

Katie Grant - February 23, 2022 at 01:12 AM



Lindsay  
Murray

“ I was remembering Rich today. It's that smile of his that gets me every time. Even during more challenging moments he was always willing to share his smile and a joke. I loved listening to his stories about school, movies, and of course his family. He will be missed. Love you, Judy Sue <3

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**Lindsay Murray** - February 23, 2022 at 12:04 AM

KW

“ Coach Riba was not my teacher but he always treated me like one of his own. Some of my favorite elementary memories was playing ball at recess with him. He told me I'd play for him one day. His last year of coaching I was a freshman and he pulled me up to varsity. What an honor it was to play for such a kind and caring person. My deepest condolences to his family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Kari Wilkins-Corbin** - February 22, 2022 at 11:25 PM

TF

“ Mrs. RIBA, I am so sorry for your loss! He was a great coach and mentor. Many, many softball memories!! RIP Coach!

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**Tricia (Neely) Fisk** - February 22, 2022 at 11:10 PM

SU

“ Judy,, lam so very sorry to read of your husband passing,

He took the pictures of our wedding.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Shirley & Fred Urbanek

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**shirley urbanek** - February 22, 2022 at 10:55 PM

JB

“ Judy, so sorry to hear about the passing of Rich. It was always so pleasant to see him at church. Since Covid we hadn't seen him in quite a while. May good memories with him sustain you in the times ahead. Peace and comfort from our savior and Lord.  
Jan and Phil Buzolitz

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**Jan Buzolitz** - February 22, 2022 at 10:25 PM

AM

“ I remember him well. He was such nice man. He will be missed. Blessings to the family. 🙏❤️

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**Arthur Miller** - February 22, 2022 at 09:49 PM

KL

“ Dear Judy I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Rich... I hadn't realized how much I had shared friendships with members of Jim's class. Jim and Rich had a fun relationship and we're friends for many years he will be missed rest in peace and blessings for all of you sincerely Kathy Lake

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**Kathy Lake** - February 22, 2022 at 09:39 PM

MS

So very sorry to hear of Rich's passing. Steve and I enjoyed every minute of Joni's years playing softball for Rich. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Marg Salisbury

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**Margaret Salisbury** - February 23, 2022 at 12:09 AM

JA

Judy my deepest condolences to you dear neighbor

Jan and Mike Adams ❤️

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**jan adams** - February 23, 2022 at 06:38 PM

SR

“ My favorite teacher at Liberty and have many memories because of this kind man. Deepest condolences to the family.

Steve Rowley - February 22, 2022 at 09:19 PM

NW

“ I am so sorry Judy. I did not know Rich that long but I and also Dan always enjoyed our conversations & time with him. He was a kind and gentle man and I am very, very sorry for your loss of a sweet man.

Nancy Wellons - February 22, 2022 at 05:37 PM

AR

“ Ray and I are so sorry for your loss. The Riba, Martinez families were a very big part of our lives, and we will always remember the wonderful times that our families shared. I want to believe that he's with his Mom and Dad and his two boys ☐❤

Anita Rodriguez - February 22, 2022 at 05:12 PM

AL

“ Mr. Reba was such an amazing teacher. I wasn't in his class but he always treated me like one of his students. My favorite memory of Me. Reba was playing softball at recess, with him.

Allison Luedtke - February 22, 2022 at 05:00 PM