



Richard "Rick" Sullivan

April 25, 1950 - December 12, 2025

Richard Sullivan, 75, Beloved Family Man and “The Glove Guy”

Richard Sullivan, 75, of Northwest Indiana, passed away surrounded by family and love. Known for his generosity, humor, and zest for life, Richard left an unforgettable mark on all who knew him.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Rick moved to Northwest Indiana at the age of two. He grew up in Calumet City, Illinois, where his childhood revolved around baseball—baseball, baseball, and more baseball. He graduated from T.F. North High School in 1968 and attended Southern Illinois University for one year.

A dedicated and versatile professional, Rick worked for many years at LaSalle Steel in various positions before traveling local and cross country as a truck driver. He concluded his career as a labor foreman for Chicago Local 76.

Retirement, however, did not slow him down; it simply opened the door to his favorite role—full-time “Papaw Dude,” providing loving care to his grandchildren until they started kindergarten.

Rick was a man of many talents and passions. He was a Microsoft-certified computer technician, an avid fisherman, hunter, and golfer, and a handyman who could fix or build just about anything—earning the well-deserved title of his wife’s favorite handyman. Most recently, he was known as “The Glove Guy” for his dedication to repairing and re-lacing softball and baseball gloves. He also devoted time to coaching, helping with women’s basketball at Purdue Calumet University for three years and coaching girls’ travel softball for

several seasons. A lifelong Green Bay Packers fan—and proud shareholder—Rick never missed a game.

Above all, Rick “Papaw Dude” was a devoted family man. He loved hosting gatherings at “Club Sullivan,” cheering on his grandchildren at sports and school events, and celebrating holidays and birthdays with loved ones. His life was defined by putting others first, a principle he carried to the very end. His lifelong wish to be an organ donor was fulfilled, as he was able to donate tissue and corneas through the Gift of Hope Foundation.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Edward “Durb” Sullivan and Wanda (Watson) Sullivan, and his sister, Donna Sullivan.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Patricia Sullivan nee Kohn; his sister, Gwen (Ray) Herringer; his brother-in-law, William “Bill” (Judy) Kohn; his daughters, Jamie (Jerry) Noel, Jennifer (Joshua) Reno, and Beth (Chris) Provett; and his cherished grandchildren, Allie Snider; Maya, Zachary, and Harper Reno; Brittany, Caleb, and Robert Provett. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and lifelong friends. Though Rick is no longer with us, his love, humor, and generosity will continue to inspire all who were fortunate to know him. He will be deeply missed, but fondly remembered as a man who lived life fully, loved fiercely, and gave selflessly.

He will leave everyone with his favorite quote: “Go Pack Go” until we meet again.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hobart High Girls Softball Booster Club or Hobart Soccer Club.

In celebration of Rick’s life and his love of sports, we invite you to wear your favorite team’s apparel.

Visitation will be held on Monday, December 22, 2025, from 3 p.m. until the time of the Funeral service at 6 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. www.burnsfuneral.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
(219) 769-0044
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point
10101 Broadway
Crown Point, IN 46307
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<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Dan and Holly Griffin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Rick" Sullivan.



Dan and Holly Griffin - December 22, 2025 at 09:14 AM

DG

“ Dan and Holly Griffin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" Sullivan.

Dan and Holly Griffin - December 22, 2025 at 09:14 AM

GA

“ Rick was a true gentleman. He brought Allie to pitching lessons and I have memories of him sitting on the bench watching us. His love for Allie was so obvious. When I mentioned collecting equipment for kids who could not afford it, he showed up with gloves, bats the next week. A good man. So sorry for your loss. The world will miss him.....Gil Arzola

Gilbert Arzola - December 21, 2025 at 07:59 PM

TK

“ I have so many childhood memories with my uncle Ricky. Just today the song *In the still of the night* came on the radio and I got so emotional because I remembered how that was the theme at my prom and he brought his big old camcorder over to video as my date and me were pulling out in our limo and when I watched it back I could hear him singing that song as we pulled away. 💕 Also I will never forget he took me to my very first Cubs game! I was visiting them from Florida and him and Aunt Pat said that they were trying to get Cubs tickets but could only get White Sox tickets and wondered if I wanted to go, (ewww White Sox lol) but of course I said yes! we drove there and as we were getting closer I kept looking around and seeing all of this Cubs memorabilia stands everywhere and I was confused and he was like duh don't you know where you're at yet and realized that they surprised me and was actually taking me to a Cubs game after all! So much fun and such a great memory to have! He was such a wonderful uncle and my heart hurts and he will be missed so much! 😭💙

Tina Kessel - December 21, 2025 at 06:50 PM

CB

“ What a loss for all of us who knew him (and he somehow knew EVERYONE). My sincerest condolences and thoughts and prayers for Pat, Jamie , Jenny and all the family. I'd had the pleasure of knowing Rick for over 40 years. Rick somehow knew somebody everywhere he went. His circle of friends seemed endless. The stories he had were just as endless - his younger life before I knew him, stories about high school, things he did with Durb, stories about Jamie, Jenny and all the grandkids, and on and on. I remember the story about Jenny's birth in the middle of a hellacious rainstorm, driving on sidewalks at times to get to the hospital because the roads were flooded. I remember when we were building the deck in Hobart (Rick, me, Durb and his grandpa "Deke". Rick and Durb would go back and forth about how to build it in hilarious, loving banter - Durb giving Rick enough rope to hang himself - Durb reeling him back in with "I could have told you that wouldn't work". I remember "introducing" him to a college friend of mine (Rich Weber) only to find out that Rick had coached him in the Cal City Civic League in baseball. I remember the "chili bowls" he had at the house during Packers - Bears football games (always the Lambeau field games) with all his old high school friends. Everyone was hollering at each other and no one was listening. And how he went out of his way to make the chili with bear meat one year so he could holler that all the Bears fan were eating bear, just like the Packers were.

God bless you, Rick ! You were one of a kind and will be forever missed. Thank you for letting me share a part of your life.

Chuck Banik

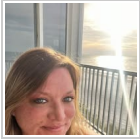
Chuck banik - December 21, 2025 at 01:17 PM

SF

“ SMITH FAMILY purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard "Rick" Sullivan.



SMITH FAMILY - December 19, 2025 at 03:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall

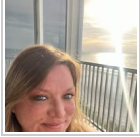


Christin Brough - December 19, 2025 at 09:52 AM



What a great memory with him ❤️

Gwen Herringer - December 22, 2025 at 12:35 AM



“ I have many childhood memories as I was lucky enough to be his niece (he was my uncle Ricky when I was really little.) one of my fondest memories is remembering he taught me how to tie my shoes, I was really impatient and just wanted to give up on the whole thing and keep having people tie them for me and he sat me down at my mamaws house and told me to calm down and take my time and showed me a different way than nobody else had showed me that just clicked and I got it right away! Another funny memory that I've told many times he came to pick me up to spend the weekend with Jamie and Jenny and I remember the night before there was a football game Packers and the Bears... need I say much more. I knew how he felt about the Packers. I thought it would be funny just to simply say to him so how about that game last night? We were already almost at his house. He looked right at me. Didn't say a word put the truck in reverse.. took me all the way back home to my driveway turned and looked at me again and said take it back.. I was puzzled not sure if he was being serious and so I said OK fine I take it back, he turned around and went back to his house and without another word again I always thought that was funny.. He was someone I always looked up to and respected as a male role model in my childhood that set the mold of what kind of man a man should be. I will miss you dearly Unckle Rick rest easy and give mamas and Papaw a hug and kiss for me. We have some amazing guardian angels looking over us.

Christin Brough - December 19, 2025 at 09:50 AM

GZ

“ Well.... Ricks on another adventure.Had many fun escapades through high school and beyond. Always took me flying with him when he got his pilots license.... One time I asked if I could fly the plane... he says. (NO WAY >>IVE SEEN YOU DRIVE A CAR). Always had a great sense of humor! Friends for 59 years. GREAT MEMORIES.. Gary Zack

Gary Zack - December 18, 2025 at 11:55 AM

BF

“ Beth Provett & family. purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Richard "Rick" Sullivan.



Beth Provett & family. - December 16, 2025 at 06:49 PM

BF

“ Beth Provett & family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" Sullivan.

Beth Provett & family. - December 16, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ I love u!! Thankful to have had you in my life . Ill never forget u. Im gonna miss u . Xoxo



Beth Provett - December 16, 2025 at 06:33 PM

TS

“ My favorite mem was him doing Careoci to Charlie Daniel's .he dad the beard and all then. The entire bar kept saying oncore. Amazing

Ton Stephen - December 16, 2025 at 05:01 PM

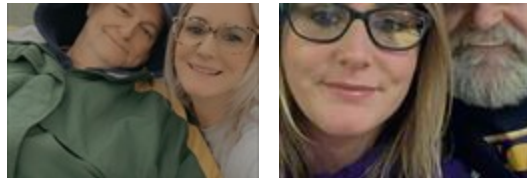
ES

“ My greatest memory is 57 years long ,ive had the honor of Richard Sullivan being my uncle. He has been there threw out my life setting a great examples on how to be a father, brother, uncle, husband, grandfather a awesome friend and above all a great man. My most recent memory is in 2023 i asked uncle rick if he could marry my wife and I, he did and i couldn't have been more honored.The world has lost a beautiful person but we must move on with time i hope we all can heal our sorrowed filled hearts.Uncle rick , i love you and miss you so much Thank you for being you

Edward L Anderson SR. - December 16, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ Coach rick , I will forever love and miss you . You always had my back and loved me and my girls as we were your own. Your door was always open to us .Thank you for being you and being an amazing male role model in mine and the girls lives . I know you loved Alissa as your own . Cheers to whisky Wednesday



Kelly Ann - December 16, 2025 at 12:58 PM

MI

Rick was always smiling and his wise cracks always made people return the smile. We met in high school and celebrated many milestones with families and friends. Condolences to his family and to all who were lucky enough to know him.

Michaelene - December 16, 2025 at 01:08 PM

BP

Rick was a good and true friend, quite possibly the first - but certainly the longest lasting - my brother Bruce and I made when we arrived in Calumet City in April 1961. A good soul, the kind one never forgets. Adios, King, y vaya con dios. Bill Parker

Bill Parker - December 16, 2025 at 02:16 PM

MK

Rick and I became friends when we moved into the same neighborhood as kids. His family moved from Birmingham, Alabama - mine from Gadsden, Alabama. And we moved to 161st St. in the Gold Coast subdivision, 4 houses apart. Our dads were both steel workers. Rick had two sisters, Donna and Gwen, the same ages as my sisters, Myra and Becky. We had a lot in common and became good friends. Such great memories of childhood adventures and Rick's sense of humor and adventure. We rode our bikes, always with our baseball gloves on the handlebars, our bats and balls in tow, to Lansing looking for a pick-up game. We went to Wright's Barnyard. We played in Civic League together. We rode our bikes to Memorial Park and swam. The movie "Sandlot" could have been written about our summer adventures. Denny Smith, Harry Nordgren, Jim Houlihan, Bruce Parker, Bill and Geary DePue were all part of those summer adventures. I am so glad I stayed in touch with Rick through the years. He even sent me a Ron Santo bobble head because he knew what a die-hard Cubs fan I was. That bobble head is still on my shelf. Rest in peace, Rick Sullivan. Memories of you and our friendship will always make me smile. I am praying for God to minister to Pat and your beloved family during this time of grief and sorrow. May the sweet memories of your life be a blessing to all who knew and loved you. Rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord Jesus, my friend.

Mike Knott - December 17, 2025 at 06:17 AM

BR

So many memories of Rick from the good old days in Calumet City. A huge loss for so many people who knew and loved him.

Barbara Riordan - December 17, 2025 at 04:07 PM