



Richard L. Russell

February 1, 1965 - March 13, 2025

Richard L. Russell, age 60, passed away suddenly on Thursday, March 13th, 2025 at Carle Hospital in Urbana/Champaign, IL.

Richard was born February 1st, 1965, in Bonfield, IL. to Ellsworth “Bud” and Stella (Butcher) Russell. He graduated from Herscher High School in 1983. After high school Richard took a job with the local Jewel in Bourbonnais, IL and that is where he met his beloved wife, Rhonda, where he was a stocker and she a cashier. They got engaged in April of 85 and married December 21st, 1985, at Kankakee Eastridge Church of the Nazarene where they attended for 18 years. After 10 years of marriage, they started a family, had 2 daughters (Michelle and Melinda). The family then joined Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene in Kankakee, IL. Richard took a job that entailed painting apartments and then he worked at Amoco 1996-1999 as a PC-Network Specialist. In between he took some IT (Information Technology) courses along with teaching himself IT skills. In 1999 he joined Valspar and was IT Systems Engineer, he remained there for 13 years. After Valspar, he joined Reader Link Distribution Services LLC and worked there 10 years starting as Windows Infrastructure Architect and worked his way up to Director of IT Infrastructure. In June of 2023 he became Director of IT Infrastructure at QT9 Software.

Richard truly lived life to the fullest. He loved spending time with his family,

especially his grandchildren. He loved being a papa. In his younger years Rich was on church softball league, bowling team, a bowling coach, and he loved to work on cars. Other hobbies included fishing and gaming. Richard enjoyed watching his daughters play sports and was their number one fan. Richard was a devoted family man and helped anyone in need. He brought fun and joy everywhere he went and when the opportunity presented itself, he would tease/play jokes.

Richard is survived by his wife Rhonda, daughters Michelle (Patrick) Stiles of Bradley IL, Melinda (Jaime) Downs of Limestone IL; grandsons Arlo and Ellis; brothers Donald Russell of FL, Johnny (Cheryl) Russell of Kankakee, IL and sister Lana Russell of Wayne City, IL; sister-in-law Karen Russell of CO and many cousins, nieces, nephews, great nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents Ellsworth "Bud" and Stella (Butcher) Russell and brother David Russell.

A Graveside Service will be held at Kankakee Memorial Gardens on Thursday, March 20th, 2025 at noon with Pastor Cindi Schimmelpfennig officiating. A Celebration Of Life to be held from 4-7pm at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, 1000 N Entrance Ave. Kankakee, IL 60901.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 20. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee Memorial Gardens
15 S 3000 E Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Celebration of Life

MAR 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

DK

“ *Darcy Kane lit a candle in memory of Richard L. Russell*



Darcy Kane - March 22, 2025 at 08:20 PM

DD

“ *Darcy Kane & Kaylee Drummer lit a candle in memory of Richard L. Russell*



Darcy Kane & Kaylee Drummer - March 22, 2025 at 08:12 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard L. Russell.*



March 20, 2025 at 10:18 AM

SN

“ Rich was a big reason why my career has worked out as well as it had. He got me an interview with QT9 Software. I got the job and it has been a great place to work. Six years later, comes over to QT9 as the new Director of IT. During his time, he helped me move my career in the right direction. He was also a great boss and cool under stress. An extremely giving person, as well as knowledgeable in IT, I will miss him dearly, as will all of QT9. May he rest in peace.

Sean Nonn - March 20, 2025 at 09:19 AM

PS

“ Penny Stiles purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard L. Russell.



Penny Stiles - March 19, 2025 at 07:04 PM

PS

“ Penny Stiles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard L. Russell.

Penny Stiles - March 19, 2025 at 07:04 PM

LC

“ Rich was always kind and accommodating when I worked with him. When my husband lost his IT job due to a RIF, he very graciously offered to help him find a new job and ultimately became his boss. I offered to thank him with a lunch for his help, but he was satisfied with just a word of thanks. I understand he often talked about his grandchildren, and I am hopeful they can carry fond memories of him through their lives. I won't be able to make the funeral, but I am sending sincere wishes of sympathy for the family of such a kind, generous and thoughtful man.



Linda Clark - March 19, 2025 at 06:58 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Richard L. Russell.



March 19, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard L. Russell.

March 19, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard L. Russell.*



March 19, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard L. Russell.

March 19, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *My prayers for his family. I worked with Rich, mostly remotely since I am in Virginia. Always made time for me and always with a smile. We always had a good time working together when he visited the Salem DC. He taught me alot. He will be greatly missed*

Dixie Berube - March 18, 2025 at 08:12 PM

JH

“ This story is just one tiny example of how Richard was a man who was always ready to do something to help people in need: The first year we had our pontoon boat we were still figuring things out. While trying to dock the boat to pull up the tow trailer, my husband threw me the rope to hold it in place. The current was too strong for me and I was forced to knock his daughters into the water or let go of the rope.....so I let go. The pontoon headed toward going over the dam. Richard jumped in the water, swam after the boat and anchored it before ever thinking of his own safety. He had a heart of a giver and will always remember the great times! Jeannine



Jeannine A Hedges - March 18, 2025 at 07:00 PM