

Richard Anton Sgarlotti

October 3, 1946 - February 5, 2022

Richard A. Sgarlotti, 75, of Quinnesec, passed away Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at Dickinson County Healthcare System. He had been fighting inclusion body myositis for several years.

Richard was born October 3, 1946, in Iron Mountain; the son of Domenic and Eunice Sgarlotti. He was active in Boy Scouts as a youth, earning the Eagle Scout Award.

After graduating from Iron Mountain High School in 1964, Richard attended Michigan State University, where he received bachelors and masters degrees. Later he earned an educational specialist degree from Northern Michigan University.

In 1968 he married Carol Spencer. They have one daughter, Rebecca Susan, and were married for 53 years.

Richard spent most of his working life as a math educator. He began his career at Dwight Rich Jr. High School in Lansing. After he returned to the Upper Peninsula, he took a teaching job in Pembine, WI. Most of his teaching career was spent at Hannahville School in Wilson. Richard appreciated the opportunity to do many types of programs with Indian students including starting a radio program, making maple syrup, hiking Isle Royale, attending

Packer games, and camping out on a Disney World trip. Richard and Hannahville students attended many regional and national conferences, making numerous presentations.

During his years at Hannahville, he received many awards and wrote many successful grants. One of the greatest was the Toyota Time Award, a two-year grant that recognized 35 K-12 teachers across the United States for innovative projects that enhanced mathematics education in their schools.

Richard was employed many summers training reservation teachers in instructional strategies and mathematics. Along with teaching partners, Liz Moya-Herrera and Dr. April Lea Go Forth, he presented trainings for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and the California Department of Education Office of Indian Education.

Summers also included acting as camp director for Indian youth leadership camps held at Lake Nesbit near Covington. Attendees included students from across the country as well as local youth. Camps were dedicated to developing leadership qualities for use in their communities, tribes, and nationally.

Richard was an active, longtime member of First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford. He was a talented cook who directed the church's community Christmas dinner for 20 years.

In younger years Richard enjoyed biking, cross country skiing, and attending Buckskin and Quarter Horse shows with his wife. These days he enjoyed crossword puzzles, watching Jeopardy, helping grandchildren with math problems, and snooze time with the family cats, Daisy and Leonard.

He Leaves his wife Carol, a daughter Rebecca (David) Holtien and two

grandchildren, Henry and Vivienne, all of Appleton, WI. He also leaves his sister, Janet (John) Semler of Wellston, MI.

Visitation and services for Richard A. Sgarlotti will be Friday, Feb. 11 at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford. Visitation is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. with services at 11:00 a.m.

Richard was a supporter of AHOPE for Children, a mission that supports orphaned Ethiopian children who are infected by HIV. The family suggests that memorials be directed to that charity. They can be reached at admin@ahopeforchildren.org or at AHOPE for Children; PO Box 1987; Alexandria, VA 22313

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Richard Sgarlotti online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Quinnesec Cemetery

Menominee Street
Quinnesec, MI 49876

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

DW

“*Richard and I connected via mutual acquaintances in First Nations Education when he graciously agreed to meet a young educator from Australia on a learning tour through North America in 2013. He patiently answered my many questions about the connections between First Nations Mathematics Education in our separate contexts and, after a tour of the school at Hannahville, provided me with a copy of his Maths resource book, as well as connecting me with other educators working in Mathematics Education in the South West. His generosity and care left a lasting impact, and his example has stuck with me throughout my teaching career in First Nations Education back here in Australia.*

Fast forward a dozen years, last October I was privileged to present at the biennial conference for ATSIMA (the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance), highlighting the potential for the Creating Sacred Places Curriculum in an Australian context. Richard's work (and resource) was integral to my presentation, which was well-received, with elements included in the conference's overall findings. I concluded my presentation by stating my hope that any progress in Maths Education for First Nations honours the legacy of those, like Richard, who paved the way. It was my immense privilege to pass on the wisdom I received and to honour his legacy in this way.

My condolences to Richard's family and friends at his loss. May you all continue to find comfort and hope in our Saviour.

-Dave Wierenga

Dave Wierenga - January 26 at 06:46 PM

DJ

“ I got acquainted with Rich in Scouting in the late 90's and early part of this century. There is a saying in Scouting that, "There is no end to the Eagle Scout trail." Rich exemplified that through his caring career as a teacher and his community involvement. May the family find comfort in wonderful memories and loving friends.

Dewey Jones, Retired Scout Executive, Hiawathaland Council

Dewey Jones - February 16, 2022 at 04:47 PM

DL

“ Sending my deepest sympathy to you Carol. Lots of fun horse memories from the store and horse shows.

Diane Luczak - February 13, 2022 at 02:36 PM

JW

“ My twin sister and I (Judy and Joan Carlson) graduated with Richard in 1964 from IMHS. We remember him as a quiet kind and pleasant classmate who was easy to like and appreciate and will remember him fondly as that kind of person "the world needs more of" for so many reasons. Blessings to his family and may peace be with you! Judy Carlson Washburn and Joan Carlson Garvin in Albuquerque, NM

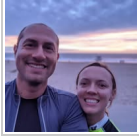


Judy Washburn - February 12, 2022 at 04:50 AM

MR

“ Carol
I'm so very sad to hear of Rich's passing. He was such a good person who lived his life as a follower of Christ and His teachings. He will be missed by all.

Marilyn Mann Reed - February 11, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ Carol and Becky I’m so sorry for your loss, I remember as a kid sitting by him when I would come to iron mountain and he would tell me all these stories and educate me on different topics. The best was the UFO story. Richard will be missed and sending you prayers and hugs.

Mia Spencer - February 11, 2022 at 09:55 AM



“ Marla, Jon & Jack Habert purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Anton Sgarlotti.



Marla, Jon & Jack Habert - February 11, 2022 at 09:06 AM

WC

“ Dear Carol, Becky and Family,

I was privileged to have known Rich since we attended the First Presbyterian Church on Brown Street in Iron Mountain as children...and for all the years since. Rich served and will always continue to serve as an outstanding example of a quiet, genuine man who was kind, generous with his gifts and service, his time, his intelligence and his willingness to help others in so many venues...as a family man, as a teacher, as a church member, as a mentor. The list goes on and on. He used his many God-given talents for the benefit of all with whom he came in contact.

Rich has been in our prayers for some time, as have you, Carol, for your loving care and devotion during his illness. You and your family will remain in our prayers as you grieve his passing, but there is no doubt that he was eagerly greeted at Heaven's gates on Friday and now rests in the loving presence of the Lord. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

*Our love in Christ,
Bill and Jan Cummings*

William J. Cummings - February 11, 2022 at 12:14 AM

KM

“ *Rich always had a ready smile and good word to say. I grew up knowing him in the horse world and as a family friend. We always had a good exchange when I encountered him downtown. Deepest condolences to the family in your loss.*

Kaye Maycroft Mileski - February 10, 2022 at 06:42 PM

AD

“ *Rich was my colleague and a mentor. He had remarkable grace under pressure, was unfailingly cheerful and professional. He sought, constantly, to make the world a better place—for his students, the staff, and countless others. What I remember most, and am most grateful for, was his unfailing sense of humor. His was a quiet strength we needed at the workplace. He was so smart (remember the math wall?) and such a great teller of stories. He spoiled us with coffee drinks and pizza. He spoiled us by just being there.*

His was a reassuring presence. The world was a much, much better place for his having been here.

*Ann Dallman
Menominee, MI*

Ann Dallman - February 10, 2022 at 12:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Anton Sgarlotti.*



February 09, 2022 at 05:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Anton Sgarlotti.*



February 09, 2022 at 04:03 PM

MH

“ My deepest Sympathy to Carol and Becky and family. I have known Rich for over 22 years. He was the Math teacher and I was the Science teacher at the Hannahville School. He often would say, "Math is the language of Science!" He was so knowledgeable in so many subjects. I was fortunate to have been involved with the Toyota and the DTE/GIFT grants he wrote and was able to go to Washington D.C. and Boston with him. And, also to present at state and national conferences. He was a colleague, a mentor, but most of all a good friend. One of my favorite memories was taking students to a Native American gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We took the train. On the way back, the engine broke down and we were stuck on the side of a cliff in the middle of the night waiting for a new engine. We finally made it back, however. Rich was always striving to improve the educational experiences for our students. Not all education occurred in the classroom. Like when we made Maple Syrup. The world is a better place because Rich was in it. He will be missed by all who knew him, and we are all better people because he was our friend. Rest in Peace, Rich.



Mary Harris - February 09, 2022 at 12:48 PM

CL

“ I remember buying many horse related items when Richard had Krans Supply on East Fleshiem and then the Midtown Mall. I worked with his Dad, Dominic at Miller Products and knew his Mother, Eunice as well. I bought his parent's house in August, 1999, which he was very helpful with, and still live there. He had a great sense of humor and very honest in his business dealings. My deepest condolences to all of you. Chris Lind

Chris Lind - February 08, 2022 at 11:20 PM

SH

“ Rich and I taught at Bay College for many years. He was as dedicated to his students as any teacher could be. His love for Native American art and his many years of teaching and commuting to teach at Hannahville was a labor of love. Thanks Rich for your dedication and service. You will be missed.

Stella Hansen - February 08, 2022 at 07:51 PM

CB

“ Rebecca and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I know it is hard to lose a parent. You will always have memories of the good times and laughter you have shared. Please know that you are in my thoughts during this time of sadness. Colleen Bennett



Colleen Bennett - February 08, 2022 at 06:21 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Anton Sgarlotti.



February 08, 2022 at 05:23 PM

GB

“ I remember Richard from my time in Boy Scouts. He was always a leader and would do anything to help the younger kids get ahead. I remember him teaching me at Camp Redbuck to say "thank you" when being handed a sharp object like a knife or an axe to be sure that it was being held and would not drop. I have taught my own children that as well. Rich was a staple in Troop 502 and looked up to by many. He was always there when he was needed. It was my good fortune to have gone on a 200 mile bike hike in Boy Scouts and a 50 mile walk as well. Although it has been many years since I have seen Richard, his memory is with me many times as I think about my time scouting and I am sure that there are many others who have very fond memories of Richard as well. My sympathies to the family and may Richard rest in peace.

Gregg Ball - February 08, 2022 at 04:49 PM

CA

“ I was fortunate to know Rich through Bay College, as a colleague, and through First Presbyterian Church. He was an inspirational man and I enjoyed our conversations about teaching, both in the class and out in the world. He will be missed!

Candace - February 08, 2022 at 04:14 PM

JJ

“ My deepest condolences to Carol and Rebecca. I knew Richard since my IM east side childhood and he was one of the finest persons I've been privileged to know.

Jason Julian - February 08, 2022 at 12:31 PM