

Richard Eugene Henricks

October 5, 1942 (Rockford, IL) June 3, 2020 (Dubuque, IA)

Yes, it is a surprise: **Richard Eugene Henricks**, age 77 of Dubuque, Iowa, died of natural causes on June 3, 2020 – not a mishap from one of his many adventures. Rich, also known as “Gene,” was born October 5, 1942, in Rockford, IL; his Parents, Francis B. Henricks, and Virginia (Campobello) Henricks were stunned when he didn't emerge with a, but purportedly grinned and declared, "Let the adventure begin!" And it sure did.



Richard graduated from West High School with the Class of 1961. After many audacious and intrepid youthful adventures, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine, 1st Marine Division in a variety of MOS capacities. His favorite station: Puerto Rico! His least favorite station: Viet Nam, where he was a Forward Observer. He was a Charter Member of Rockford's VietNow.

When he returned, he married Joan Florence Aamodt Henricks, and they welcomed Rhonda, Penny, and Meaghan. When his marriage to Joan ended, Rich married Susan Garas Henricks on February 18, 1988, in Maui, Hawaii, and they had two Daughters, Genevieve and Natalie.

Rich worked for Goss Printing in materials management for more than 35 years until the plant closed, and then he got his dream job - working at the Rock Island Arsenal. Although he continued holding true to his adventuresome nature, the Arsenal took adventure to another level when he was deployed to Iraq in 2004, 2006, and 2009. While there in 2009, he called Susan and said, "I'm possibly the only guy out here driving a Humvee in the desert while collecting a Social Security check!"

Rich retired in 2014 and spent every day working with his Dog, Bowser, to restore his cabin along the backwaters of the Mississippi River. The small acreage and peaceful waters renewed his spirit daily: he hunted, fished, bicycled (This year would have been 30 for the RAGBRAI.), sailed, hiked, ran, and rode his Harley. And he was a Harley rider who believed it was taboo to be seen without his Dog.

But, mostly, Gene was a Storyteller.

Those who remain to exchange his stories are Wife Susan Henricks (Dubuque, IA); Daughters, Rhonda (Nick) Henricks Kovanda, Penny Henricks Smith, and Natalie Henricks (all of Rockford), Meaghan Henricks (Rockton, IL), and Genevieve (Jesse) Keyser (Ballwin, MO); Sons, John (Kathy) Henricks and their Children, Kristine and John (all of Boyne City, MI), Robert (Gisela) Henricks and their Daughters Rene Henricks, Steffania Henricks, and Ginger (Ross) Henricks Wehling (all of Caldwell, TX); and Grandchildren, Lola, Stella, Hannah, Louis, Elijah, Theodore, Desmond, Otto, Katja, and Gunnar.

Rich was predeceased by his Parents, Francis and Virginia Henricks; his first Grandson, Jayden; his former Wife, Joan; and his Niece Kelly Hardie.

To celebrate his life, Family and Friends may visit from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, 2020, at Behr Funeral Home, Dubuque, where there will be a Parish Scripture Service at 2:30 p.m. The Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020, at Holy Spirit Parish, Holy Trinity Church, 1701 Rhomberg Avenue, Dubuque, with Reverend Mark Kwenin officiating. In keeping with pandemic guidelines, masks will be required at the Church and 6-foot social distancing practices will be observed. Following Cremation, Burial will be in Rockford's Scandinavian Cemetery.

Memorials can be mailed to Behr Funeral Home, 1491 Main Street, Dubuque, IA 52001, Attention: Richard Henricks Family; those Memorials will be distributed between the Veterans Freedom Center, Dubuque, and the American Legion Post 170 in Blainstown, IA. Online condolences may be left at www.behrfuneralhome.com.



Semper Fi!

Reference:

[Richard Henricks Obituary \(1942 - 2020\) - Dubuque, IA - Rockford Register Star \(legacy.com\)](http://www.legacy.com)