

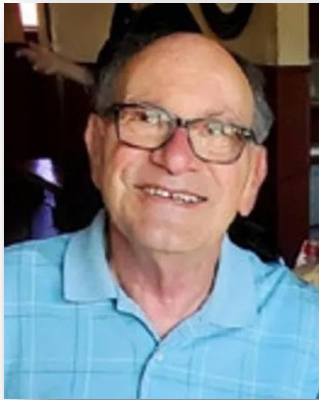
Nicholas David Rotello

July 11, 1943 (Rockford, IL)

February 18, 2024 (Kelso,
WA)



Nicholas David Rotello, 80, of Kelso, Washington passed away unexpectedly on February 18th, 2024. Nick was born to Alice and Nick Rotello. After graduating from West Rockford High School with the Class of 1961, Nick earned a Pharmacy degree from Iowa's Drake University. Nick was drafted into the Army and honorably served as an Army medic in the **Vietnam War**. After, he earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa.



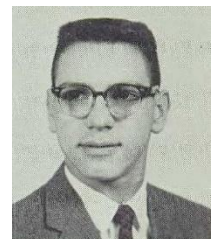
Nick was a pharmacist, an entrepreneur, an outdoorsman and a traveler. His unforgettable smile lit up the room, and his stories brought joy to all occasions – whether a deep discussion about the day's hot topic or a humorous story about one of his many adventures around the globe. His heart was made of character, kindness, and love.

At Nick's May 3, 2024, Memorial, Jerry Scharfenberg, D.D.S., also our classmate, shared these anecdotes about his longtime friendship with Nick.

"So, one day in 1958, I was riding my bike home from school when I ran into this goofy gap-toothed kid with a smile from ear to ear. He invited me to accompany him to the pinball arcade, preceded by a stop at the hardware store to buy some washers that 'happened' to be the same size as a nickel. After ripping off the arcade, we went back to his house for his favorite dinner, pork chops. Little did I know that day was the start of a 65 plus-year friendship that impacted, and in so many ways determined, the courses of both of our lives.

"I could tell stories of driving to Wisconsin for beer and crashing the car on the way home, dancing the night away at sock hops, and dinners at the Rotello home (more pork chops). But Nick was always the best storyteller; in fact, sometimes I did not recognize the stories when HE told them. And yet again ... High School, then rooming at Pharmacy School (Iowa's Drake University) and finding Kent Lachner to complete the triumvirate at the Alpha Tau Omega House. Great times. No money and lots of ketchup. Vietnam, then grad school for Nick and dental school for me.

"Marriage, kids, and careers did not keep us apart. We talked frequently and visited when we could and vacationed together often. We shared family weddings and long weekend trips with our favorite people. We went hiking with our sons in Colorado. We watched Nicky and Danis grow up. We picked blackberries, cooked salmon, and chased elk around Nick's backyard in the State of Washington - okay, we watched NICK chase elk around the yard; the entertainment value was not to be missed! We climbed Mount St. Helens in a white-out at the top of that Volcano that nearly killed us, and salmon fishing in Juneau, Alaska - ditto.



“The last time we spoke we were two guys just out of the hospital, talking about the future, laughing, and planning to eat pork chops for dinner. In my mind, we still are.”

Nick was loved by many and will be dearly missed. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." In lieu of flowers or cards, please consider a donation to Kids Fish-In, a local event Nick was delighted to support. Checks can be made payable to: Longview Rotary, c/o Gerry Bosh, 2609 NW Nichols Blvd, Longview, WA, 98632. A Celebration of Life was held May 3, 2024.

Reference:

[Nick Rotello Obituary - Rockford Register Star \(rrstar.com\)](http://rrstar.com)



TWO BUDDIES IN DIFFERENT HOSPITALS ON FEBURARY 1, 2024