



John "Steve" Richards

April 30, 1953 - November 4, 2020

“Let the winds of change blow over my head.
I'd rather die while I'm living than live while I'm dead.”

A parrothead until the end, the smell of the sand and the blue sky breeze of Florida was where he was meant to be.

Born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1953, to John "JB" and Dorothy "Dot" Richards, Steve was always drawn to the intrigue of Florida life. From the promise of paradise in Jimmy Buffet's lyrics, to the suspense of his John D McDonald books, no matter how many times he left, he always came back. Searching for his own little bit of paradise.

After he graduated from Durrett High School in 1971, in Louisville, he spent some time at the University of Kentucky before enlisting in the Navy. The Navy sparked his love of Florida, stationing him in Orlando, not once, but twice. Prior to his second trip, he met his wife Rita in 1976 in San Diego, CA. Their son Jason was born there in 1978. They moved to Orlando a year later, where Julia was born.

The Navy is where Steve's love of education began. He taught at the Naval Training Center in Orlando until he left in 1984, shortly after becoming a Chief. His career in education spanned four decades both teaching and in

administration, as Dean at ITT, Corinthian, Brown-Mackey, and more, until he retired in 2013.

A die-hard University of Kentucky fan, Steve bled blue. He was a Kentucky Colonel. A self-proclaimed wizard. A hot sauce aficionado. He loved to eat seafood and drink a cold pilsner. To know him was to love him.

Steve is survived by his wife Rita; daughter and son-in-law Julia and Daryl Presgraves and grandchildren Riley and Christopher; daughter-in-law Melissa and grandsons John and Liam. He is preceded in death by his son Jason.

The family of Steve Richards invites you to upload your memories as photos and messages on the tribute wall.

A celebration of life will be scheduled in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, Steve's family request that you donate to Save the Manatee Club <https://www.savethemanatee.org/> or the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation <https://guyharvey.com/pages/ocean-foundation> instead.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ So sorry to learn that Steve passed on. He was a good friend and a great guy. We were in the same classes during high school and we hung around together many mornings and evenings. He will be missed.

Jim Hermann - November 13, 2020 at 06:20 PM

EH

“ It was an honor to know Steve and to serve as the Associate Dean under Steve at Everest and Brown Mackey Colleges. Steve was an inspiration and always encouraged me to do my best. I couldn't ask for a better example to follow. You will be missed but your memory will live on.

Elizabeth Henisse - November 12, 2020 at 06:07 AM

LD

“ I am Melissa's Richards dad, my daughter was married to Steve's son, Jason. I've known Steve for 20 plus years. Steve was always trying to put a special twist on that fish and loved to cook. I'm not sure at what point I became acquainted with the listening to Alice's Restaurant tradition on Thanksgiving but we had done it for many years. Last year my ex-wife's husband, Jack gave me a turntable and receiver that he didn't want anymore right before Thanksgiving. I then found out that Steve still had the album. Well of course you know what happened. I was so thrilled to see how excited Steve was to play that album again. We spent a while hooking up the receiver, turntable and speakers but it was definitely worth it. I don't remember the last time I saw Steve so spellbound. I was really happy to help make that moment happen. God bless you Steve and you can bet wherever I end up for Thanksgiving Alice's Restaurant will be a part of the day.

Leo Desmond - November 11, 2020 at 09:49 PM

SB

“ Steve...thank you your service to students, staff and the educational community....you were a super star and made a positive difference to the many you helped graduate and then go into the community to make it a better place, the many you helped be better instructors and for being a terrific role model for all.....you will be missed but not forgotten...

Steven Bjornstad - November 10, 2020 at 09:42 PM

EG

“ Edith Gendron lit a candle in memory of John "Steve" Richards



Edith Gendron - November 06, 2020 at 04:44 PM

EG

“ Rita, my heart is with you. My sincere condolences for the shocking loss of your beloved husband.

Edith Gendron - November 06, 2020 at 11:08 AM