

**Richard David Kirby Jr.**  
**December 7, 2017**  
**Age 63**  
**Cleveland, Ohio**

Richard David Kirby Jr. died at age 63 on December 7, 2017 at in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and a dear friend to many.

Rick was survived by his wife of 38 years, Melissa Dee Kirby, and his children, Kristen Elizabeth Estes (Douglas A.), Richard Dustin Kirby (Megan M.), as well as twin grandchildren: Emily and Evan Estes. He was also survived by his mother, Isabelle Kirby and his sister, Beverly Carroll. Rick's father, Richard David Kirby, preceded him in death.

Filled with a genuinely kind spirit, Rick was a warm and welcoming man who made people feel happy to be around him. He loved his family, friends, and life on Lake Erie. He was a dedicated professional and worked with great integrity all of his life.

Rick found the love of his life, Melissa, at Bowling Green State University, and they were married for 38 years. Rick and Melissa built a beautiful life together by creating a loving family with daughter Kristen and son Dustin. He was so proud when his family expanded to include his son-in-law Douglas and daughter-in-law Megan. And just one year ago, pure joy entered his life when he became a grandfather to twins Emily and Evan. Rick's favorite moments were the ones spent with his family. Rick's father died young, but Rick always had a special relationship with his mother. He loved to take her to Indians baseball games and spend time with her.

You could often find Rick boating or playing a round of golf, or two or three, anytime and anywhere. Relationships were important to him and he truly enjoyed weekly outings with his best friends.

As a professional, Rick worked as a purchasing manager for 40 years, and for the last 28 he served as vice president of purchasing for Universal Metal Products. To pay his way through college, Rick worked as a deckhand on the Sylvania, a lake freighter on Lake Erie, which, as a bonus, made for some great stories.

One of Rick's friends wrote about him, "Rick was quick with a smile and a witty comment and always went out of his way to make others feel at ease. Clearly, his family was the most important thing in his life."

While at Lakewood High, Rick was on the freshman wrestling, junior varsity wrestling, and varsity wrestling teams