Richard L. Farley

March 9, 1951 - March 14, 2017

"Sometimes we live no particular way but our own" - Grateful Dead, Eyes of the World

Richard Lewis Farley, born March 9, 1951 in Portland, Oregon, lived his life doing his own thing each and every day. He was passionate about justice and standing up for what he believed in, something that manifested in his youthful political protests and his outrage about the wrongs in the world, even until his very last days. He taught that same lesson to his daughter when she was just a child, giving her a button emblazoned with the words "Silence is approval" when she was only in elementary school.

After leaving Portland in the 70s, he spent time in California building swimming pools and following the Grateful Dead before settling down in Corvallis a few years later. It was there that he met his wife Debbie, who he married on November 23, 1979. They spent almost every single day together over the next 37 years: raising their daughter, Amy, taking trips to the coast, frequenting garage and estate sales, doing hours of yard work and feeding the birds and hummingbirds that made their backyard home, and snuggling up in front of the TV. After he retired and Debbie started working from home, he made her lunch every day, and they could still be spotted holding hands, even after 40 years.

Throughout his life, he went by many important names that captured how much he was loved: Ricky to his parents, Ben and Lou Farley, and his three little sisters, Janyce, Jackie, and Kristi; Mr. Farley to the hundreds of students that loved him for the 20+ years that he worked at Jefferson Elementary; Rick to his friends and colleagues, who shared many afternoons chatting with him about politics and music; and Uncle Rick to his extended family, including lots of nieces and nephews both small and grown. He was husband and best friend to Debbie; Daddums to Amy, who he challenged to stand up for what is right and always, always allowed to be herself; and father-in-law to Peter, who shared his love of music and playful antics (usually aimed at Amy and Debbie). Most recently, in 2015 he became Grandpa and Grandpere to Michael, the newest little person to make his eyes sparkle and smile.

Rick passed away on March 14, 2017, in his home with his family. While cancer snatched him away too soon, he remained himself until the end - watching the Daily Show and complaining about Trump, laughing about some new video on YouTube, and doing exactly what he wanted to do, spending time at home with the people he loved. His family is holding an informal open house to celebrate his life at Fire Station #5's Walnut Room (4950 NW Fair Oaks Dr., Corvallis) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18; they ask guests to wear Hawaiian or tie-dyed shirts in Rick's honor (fedora hats optional), and urge people to donate to Samaritan Evergreen Hospice or a charity of their choice instead of bringing flowers. As the Grateful Dead sang, "What a long, strange trip it's been..."
Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossdurdan.com

Previous Events

Open house

MAR **18**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (PT)

Fire Station #5 Walnut Room
4950 NW Fair Oaks Drive
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

GG

You couldn't walk through the doors at Jefferson Elementary during the 80's and 90's and not know Mr. Farley. He was "the go-to man" that students, parents, teachers, receptionists, school nurse, principals and visitors sought out for help. What made Rick memorable was his relaxed demeanor and his ready smile.
Jefferson had an annual, indoor Carnival, fundraising event. As one of the throng of parent volunteers, I remember Mr. Farley calmly bailing out dozens of harried, needy volunteers, myself included by knowing the location, operation, and troubleshooting of lighting, seating, tables, electrical supplies, kitchen supplies, trash bins, and clean up items. He was barraged, and yet, he didn't change his easy going manner, not one bit. Beyond impressive!
During those years, our younger son, Eric, became best-est friends with Amy. He also found his home away from home at Amy's. Together, the love Rick, Debbie and Amy had as family fostered an environment of acceptance, fun, friendship and caring that Eric was drawn to mightily. The door, or window, was always open at their place.
Loving gratitude to you, Rick, for all that you gave to others by being YOU. You are missed.

Genevieve Gorski - March 31, 2017 at 04:41 PM

AF

Thanks for this kind message and for sharing your memory with us, Jennie! These posts have been such a gift for us in the past few weeks and mean so much. Lots of love...

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:46 PM

LG

To me, I knew Rick, as my Uncle Rick. I knew Rick my entire life and he was family. I remember many summer days as a child riding my bike along Harrison while uncle Rick and my father sat on the front porch drinking beverages. Many summer days as a kid, swimming in his backyard pool! Many of my childhood memories I have with my dad, uncle Rick was also a part of! And if it weren't for uncle Rick and my dad, I would never know good music, or what the "garage" mahal is! What a wonderful man, and lovely family! I am so glad to have known him! I will make sure to introduce my two boys to good music for you! Rest In Peace.

Lindsey George - March 18, 2017 at 06:59 PM

AF

Thanks Lindsey. I know my dad always held you in a special place in his heart. Big love to you and the next generation of music lovers you are raising. xoxo...

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:44 PM

SW

Terry & I are neighbors of Rick & Debra. We always got a chuckle out of watching Rick in his bathrobe practicing his golf shots on his front lawn. Rick was a "kick in the pants" & a very sweet man. He will be missed!

Suzi Wilson - March 18, 2017 at 09:55 AM

AF

Thanks Suzi (and thanks for being such good neighbors all these years)!

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:43 PM

DG

Rick was such a kind man, and I felt fortunate to work with him at Jefferson Elementary. He had a ready smile and listening ear, and children shared their concerns and dreams with him. I enjoyed chatting with him about his musical choices, and he had such pride in his daughter Amy. Thank you, Rick, for your kindness and quick smile. Your gifts will continue to shine through your family.

Denise Gorthy

Denise Gorthy - March 16, 2017 at 11:49 AM

AF

Thank you for sharing your memory of dad, Denise. I know my dad felt fortunate to work at Jefferson all those years as well. Theese posts have been a real source of comfort for me and my mom this past month.

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:43 PM

JD

I can remember the first time I met Rick. It was sometime in 1972 in Tigard Oregon. he knocked on my door wearing striped pants and a swade vest with tassles, wow I thought. from that day on we were like always together. Soon after meeting Rick, I met a woman that was a student at OSU, and I moved here. soon after Rick joined me here.
Rick was the BROTHER I never had. forty years later we were the best of friends. He raised Amy just like she was his whole life, and I loved her dearly. So many good times it's so hard to remember all of them. many trips to Sliding Rock back in the 70 's Grateful Dead shows and I must not forget, We also went to many Santana shows as well. We both grew up together I miss him more than anything.He is now up were all the musicans we have lost. Look them up Rick. I'll always be in your heart as well as mine. Rick, What a long strange trip it's been.

Jeff Durrell - March 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM

AF

Thanks for sharing this memory and picture, Jeff! It's such a perfect dad pic. <3

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:42 PM

RG

Rick was, and will remain, one of my all-time favorite people in the world. He was always cheerful and so fun to be around. I remember sleepovers growing up with Amy where we would spend half our time hanging out with Rick, watching Beavis and Butthead or Ren and Stimpy cartoons. I remember being in awe of his enormous collection of recorded Dead shows, on cassette with hand tie-dyed paper for the set lists. I will keep his memory with me always, and try to channel his incredible energy when I need to RELAX and just enjoy what I have around me. Thank you, Rick, for your love and beautiful spirit. Truly an example to live by.

Rachel Aronson Garvin - March 15, 2017 at 07:51 PM

AF

You were one of his favorite people, too, my dear. Thanks for all your love and support.

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:42 PM

AG

I remember him saving and enjoying perfectly good bananas that had made their way from my classmates' lunches to the trash can (no nonsense, no waste, and all with a huge smile). I remember him biking around town everywhere, his Grateful Dead gear and music, his not taking life too seriously, and his love and support for his daughter and wife. What an awesome man.

Amanda Glenn - March 15, 2017 at 06:06 PM

AF

Thank you for sharing your memory of dad, Amanda! These posts have been a real source of comfort for me and my mom this past month.

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:41 PM

SS

I never knew you, but I see you everyday at work when your daughter stands up for justice. Sarah Stitzlein

Sarah Stitzlein - March 15, 2017 at 05:30 PM

AF

Thanks Debbie!

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:40 PM

AF

Whoops... user error. Thanks for your support Sarah!

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:41 PM

Debbie Jess Gee

Debbie Jess Gee lit a candle in memory of Richard L. Farley

Debbie Jess Gee - March 15, 2017 at 05:20 PM

AF

Thanks Debbie!

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:40 PM

DR

Rick was always such a welcome sight when I'd come across him in the halls of Jefferson Elementary. He always had a smile and something nice to say. I loved bumping into him at estate and garage sales. His pride and joy was Amy and it showed every time I got a chance to ask about her. Thank you Rick for all you kindness, love and generosity you brought to this world. It will live on.

Donna Rinaldi - March 15, 2017 at 04:59 PM

AF

Thank you for sharing your memory of dad, Donna! These posts have been a real source of comfort for me and my mom this past month.

Amy Farley - April 11, 2017 at 01:39 PM