



Kurt Richard Lightner

April 22, 1954 - August 11, 2017

Kurt's family finds great peace knowing he had many friends who cared about him, and remember him as "a very kind, good and decent man". He will be missed.

Kurt attended Shearer and Snow Elementary, Ridgeview JH, and Napa High ('72) and was a cub scout (pack 102), sea scout (Chaser ship 90), and played sax in the band, but his biggest passion was always sports. Kurt was an outstanding football player at Napa High School and made the All Redwood Empire team ('71/72). He played basketball his senior year, joining players who had played together for years, and they won the league championship and the "Top of the Bay" tournament that year. After graduation he was a "gym rat" and played city league basketball for several more years. Kurt was never one to back down from a challenge, exemplified by the time he won an arm wrestling championship in Sacramento against much larger competitors. He was modest and low key, but if someone challenged him, no matter how big, he'd take them on and usually win.

Unfortunately his life was changed forever by a horrible car crash in June of 1979, when a drunk driver crossed over the line and hit him head-on, on the narrow bridge on the Yountville crossroad. Kurt spent 7 months in the hospital where he survived life-threatening injuries, but he felt their effects the rest of his life

Kurt was an avid fan of bay area pro teams and attended many Giants, 49ers, and Warriors games. He also enjoyed local youth sports, and often went to see his nephews and his friends' kids play baseball and other sports. Kurt coached in the Napa Fly League and he was a great supporter of youth sports scholarship programs. Kurt is remembered by his friends at Stone's for his encyclopedic memory of sports trivia. He was "faster than Google, and often more accurate".

Kurt was also a music fan, played guitar, collected music, and attended many concerts. His friends remember going with him to see the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Kinks, and his favorite band George Thorogood and the Destroyers, just to name a few.

Kurt received an A.S. in accounting from Napa JC, and worked briefly in construction, retail and then in manufacturing and transportation at Napa Paper Box Company before settling into his career at Napa Pipe Company where he worked until 2003. He took pride in his work as an Ultrasonic testing technician, and he took early retirement at the young age of 49 when the company moved out of Napa.

Kurt enjoyed family gatherings and was very proud of his many nieces and nephews. He was very close to his parents, George and Eleanor, and as the only son residing in Napa as they grew older, took on the role of primary care provider to Eleanor when George passed away in January of 2008. He cared for his mother daily until her death in May of 2011. His presence and loving care meant everything to his mom and was greatly appreciated by his brothers. Kurt is survived by brothers Paul (Pat) of Novato, Gary (Maria) of Tacoma, Mark (Deena) of Santa Rosa and half-brother David (Keiko) of Oakland, and by his nieces and nephews Matthew Lightner, Christopher Lightner, Michael P Lightner, Clara Lightner-Ferrer, Ian Lightner, Natalie Lightner, Star Lightner, Rob Lightner, Mike Lightner, Mariko Lightner, Philip Lightner.

Kurt's family hopes his friends find peace knowing he had a happy life surrounded by loving family and friends. A celebration of Kurt's life is being planned for this Fall. Details will be posted on Facebook and through Stone's Sports Bar. Condolences can be emailed to plightners@comcast.net or posted on Facebook on any of his family's or friend's home pages.

Cemetery Details

Tulocay Cemetery

411 Coombsville Rd
Napa, CA 94558

Tribute Wall



“ Kurt Richard Lightner

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ Kurt Richard Lightner

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM