



Richard Cavagnaro

May 1, 1939 - July 5, 2013

Napa lost one of its classics, Richard (Dick) Cavagnaro on July 5, 2013. His sudden death came as a shock to his family and friends as he was recovering from a recent heart condition. Dick was born in Napa on May 1, 1939 and attended St. John's Catholic School, Lincoln Elementary School and then graduated from Napa High in 1957. He graduated from the University of San Francisco in 1961. Dick went on to become President of Ray Cavagnaro Inc/El Ray Distributing founded by his father Raymond, the first beverage company in Napa to sell beer, wine and spirits after prohibition. Under his leadership the family business grew to 120 employees and serviced an area from the south bay to the Oregon border.

Dick will always be remembered for his easy style and good humor, he loved the Napa Valley and the Valley loved him. He was a good guy that always made those around him feel comfortable and loved. He knew how to celebrate life and was truly a man who lived in the moment; he maintained many friendships and was always open to exploring new places and people. Along with his wife Carol, they explored many States and countries. He loved to travel with friends and family, making every trip a special occasion.

Dick was a founding member of the Napa Valley Education Foundation, Exalted Ruler of Napa Elks Lodge No. 832 and the Justin Siena Sports Association. He was on the Board of Trustees for the Queen of the Valley Hospital, and an Honorary Trustee of the Foundation. Dick was also on the Napa Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors and a lifetime member of the Native Sons of the Gold West. Dick was a member of Ducks Unlimited, and the California Water Fowl Association. He will always be remembered for hosting the Ray Cavagnaro Invitational in Graeagle, and his beloved Kitty Poker Club. He is a proud member of the Jock's reunion, which meets every year to celebrate their enduring friendships.

Dick loved life, and never let any of it slip by. He passed on to his kids, and grandkids, his passion for sports, dominoes, gardening, camping, and cooking. He was an avid golfer at Napa Valley Country Club and played courses all over the Bay Area. His first hole in one

at the OD invitational (just last year) was a fitting testament to his love of the game. He was a loyal fan of the Oakland Raiders and the Oakland Athletics. Proud of his Italian heritage, his pesto will surely be missed. Dick was a fair man, loved political discussions and was always up to date on current affairs.

He is survived by his loving wife Carol, his sister Joy Tamburelli, his son Ted Cavagnaro (Terri) his three daughters Jill Sickler (Jeff), Jean O'Donnell (Kevin), and Sarah Rodriguez (Carlos). His grandchildren Larissa Fulford(Chad), Jessica Cavagnaro(Stephen), Joshua Cavagnaro, Allie Cavagnaro, Craig , Trevor and Jenny Sickler, Katie and Jack O'Donnell. His great grandchildren: Tyson and Weston Fulford, as well as his first wife Marge Griffin and many nieces and nephews.

Dick's presence and energy will be sorely missed, he leaves his family in grief and in great sorrow. Napa has lost one of its finer boys.

Final visitation is available at Claffey and Rota Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 9th, between 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. A service to celebrate Dick's life will be held on Wednesday, July 10th, 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church. There will be a reception to follow at Napa Valley Country Club. Memorial donations can be made to the Queen of the Valley Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Claffey and Rota Funeral Home
1975 Main Street
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 224-5210
services@claffeyandrota.com
<http://www.claffeyandrota.com>

Mass

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (PT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
981 Napa St.
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 226-9379
<http://www.stjb1858.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Cavagnaro*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Richard Cavagnaro*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM

SM

“ *Carol, I've thought of you guys so many times. The years I spent at Cavagnaro's were the best of my life. It was such a glamorous time. Great trips Christmas parties at Mark Hopkins and the Fairmont. Wine tasting every other Friday. Those were great years. I now live in a little town in So.Cal. named Redlands. We're about 40 miles from Palm Springs and a have a little company that does decorative concrete overlays. A far cry from the glamor. You can look up what I do at Sundek.com. I'm so sorry for your loss. You were the absolute love of Dicks life. My email address sandisunkek@yahoo.com. If you ever come down south I'd love to see you again. 909-841-0022 Sandi Miller*

Sandi Miller - August 21, 2013 at 01:02 PM

SG

“ *My deepest sympathy to the wonderful Cavagnaro Family. I was so shocked and sadden to hear of Dick's passing. I only was told of the sad news today and I am sorry to miss his funeral, as I would have liked to express my sympathy to his family in person. I have fond memories of the Cavagnaro Family. I was an employee for many years and was treated with mutual love and respect, and the older I get the more I realize how fortunate I really was. My prayers and thoughts are with you and may God Bless you all. Silvia Garaventa-McMillian*



Silvia Garaventa/McMillian - July 31, 2013 at 11:59 PM

PG

“ Dear Carol,
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband Richard, I remember seeing you at one of Kerri's parties and exclaiming "Carol Lawler!" and he gently correcting me "It's Cavagnaro..." with an amused grin.
I am thinking about you Carol and sending my love.

Pamela Gregory

Pamela Gregory - July 11, 2013 at 01:27 PM



“ What a lovely ceremony for Dick today. While my heart hurts for your family, Dick, I was smiling as I drove to your service. GUSTO. That is the word that comes to mind when I think of you. Living life with gusto was a great example that you taught everyone you met. Throw a tri-tip or a pork butt on that heavenly BBQ for us all, and cheers to a life-well lived and loved. Kerri, Kennedy and Marc

Kerri Greene - July 10, 2013 at 04:01 PM

JG

“ Ted and Family, we are so sorry for your loss our thoughts and prayers are with you all. John & Connie Gore

John & Connie Gore - July 10, 2013 at 10:59 AM

BK

“ Cavagnaro Family I was shocked and sad to hear about Dick `s passing We go back a few years when our kids were in St A`s and i had the good fortune to be able to coach them in Basketball and we were able to win it all in the 8th grade Ted was a very special part of the team and is a great friend still today Dick was a great supporter and friend also His golf outing to Greyeagle were a barrel of fun and he was always fun to be around he will be missed by all that knew him My condolences to Ted and the rest of the Family my prayers are with you all Ben Kuduk

Ben Kuduk - July 09, 2013 at 10:11 PM

LF

“ To Our Dear Friend Carol, and Family,
We carry a piece of your grief with us, and we hope by sharing your mourning you know how dear a friend you are, and how tenderly Dick is remembered by many, many people.
Love, Lynn & Staci Freeman

Lynn & Staci Freeman - July 09, 2013 at 07:39 PM

JS

“ Dear Carol,
I wanted to express my deepest sympathy to you & your family. I was so very sorry to hear of Dick's sudden death. I know he will be in your heart forever. He was a great guy.
Love, Jean Sawday

Jean Sawday - July 09, 2013 at 04:17 PM

JF

“ Dick was one of my favorite golf students. His golf swing was just like him...very unique and very reliable. He was sneaky good. What made him so much fun to teach was his smile and his attitude. I am positive that he is already starting to organize a tournament in heaven. I will sure miss him.
Jim Fleming

Jim Fleming - July 09, 2013 at 10:49 AM

RN

“ To the family of Dick Cavagnaro. I have know Dick all my life and know him to be a gentleman. Sorry for your loss, he was to young to pass away.
Ray Nasuti

Ray Nasuti - July 08, 2013 at 07:51 PM

GT

“ I am shocked and saddened by Dick's unexpected passing. I cannot think of a warmer, more engaging, or more friendly person than Dick. We will all miss him dearly and send our deepest sympathies to his family.

Glen Terry - July 08, 2013 at 11:49 AM

DB

“ My thoughts are with you Carol. I'm so sorry to learn Dick has passed. God bless.

Dodi Broker - July 08, 2013 at 08:29 AM

CJ

“ Dick was a great neighbor of mine for many years and was always there when you needed a helping hand. His big smile and his big heart will be missed. Even though I left the neighborhood I still went back and he and his wife Carol always welcomed me to their home and their parties and their annual chilli walk - New Years day will not be the same. Dick, I am sure, is now crossing the rainbow bridge to be with all his wonderful dogs that he has lost over the years. Everyone will be well and happy. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his loving family. I know he will be missed terribly but while he was here on earth he made a big impact on the lives of many and will never be forgotten. Look forward to meeting you again my friend when my time comes. Christine Jameson.

Christine Jameson - July 07, 2013 at 08:43 PM