



Richard Norman Spivack

August 20, 1949 - September 22, 2024

Due to the inclement weather, graveside services for Richard Spivack have been rescheduled for 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

Richard N. Spivack, a dedicated professor and passionate economist, passed away at his home in Asheville, NC. Born in Providence, RI, Richard's early years were marked by achievement and leadership, earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts. The Eagle Scout rank is a lifelong achievement respected by colleges and businesses. He took immense pride in this accomplishment, achieved by only 6% of Scouts.

Richard graduated from Cranston East High School and pursued his passion for economics, earning his B.A. from American University in Washington, DC. He went on to complete his Master's in Economics at the University of Rhode Island and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Connecticut.

For 17 years, Richard was a well-respected Economics Professor at Bryant College in Smithfield, RI, where he shared his love for learning and shaped the lives of countless students. Later, he moved to Gaithersburg, MD with his wife, Dianne, where he served as an Economist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for 22 years before retiring in Asheville in 2017.

Richard had a deep love for the outdoors and stayed active throughout his life. He was an avid skier, tennis player, runner, and hiker. He had a curious and adventurous spirit, and his travels reflected his lifelong passion for learning. Known for his love of teaching, Richard was always ready to share knowledge with anyone who would listen. He was also a history enthusiast and a civic-minded individual who believed in giving back to his community.

Richard is survived by his wife, Dianne Spivack; his niece, Stephanie Vinacco; and great nieces, Marissa and Krysta. He also leaves behind his cousins, Harvey Bronstein, Andy Bronstein, and Cindy Davis, along with their children, and numerous friends in Rhode Island, Washington, DC, and Asheville, NC. He was predeceased by his sister, Harriet Spivack.

Services will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at Lou Pollock Memorial Park Cemetery, N. Louisiana Avenue, Asheville, NC, with Rabbi Wolff Alterman officiating. Arrangements are being handled by Morris Funeral Home and Cremation Care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in his honor. Richard will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Cemetery Details

Lou Pollock Cemetery

North Louisiana Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **29**. 10:00 AM (est)

Lou Pollock Cemetery
North Louisiana Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Rabbi Wolff Alterman

Tribute Wall

JP

“ My name is John Palmer, Spiv, as we called him, was my fraternity advisor as well as my economics teacher. We shared some great times together. One of the most memorable was a trip to Fenway . The other is when he pitched (not well) for our frat softball team. He always wanted us to think about everything around us and never accept anything without scrutiny!! He was a great guy and will be sadly missed!!! -Ogre

john palmer - April 22, 2025 at 03:10 PM

HE

“ I am deeply saddened to of Richard's passing. We met as underclassmen in 1968 at American University and lived together off campus during our time at AU. Our friendship has been special to me throughout all these years. I visited with Richie (he hated that name) in Asheville last fall and he was so proud to show us his new home and city. He was a good soul and will be missed.

Howard M Edelstein - October 16, 2024 at 06:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Graveside Funeral Service



Morris Funeral Home - October 03, 2024 at 01:41 PM

SE

Thanks to those who arranged to post this video. Richard and I were a couple for most of the past 17 years.

Sandy Eisen - October 03, 2024 at 11:46 PM

SE

The sounds of a helicopter overhead and constant sirens during this video remind us of the devastation Asheville endured in the wake of Richard's passing. Yet the sounds of sawing (?), cell phone rings (glad to know at least some of the outages had been resolved), and birds chirping remind us that life for the survivors goes on. I'm grateful Richard was spared knowing of the trauma and tragic loss of life suffered by the Asheville and Buncombe County community in the days and weeks following his death.

Sandy Eisen - October 05, 2024 at 10:01 AM

MM

I'm grateful for the opportunity to view Richard's funeral from the safety of my home in Rhode Island. He and I have known each other since elementary school in Providence, RI. We were Boy Scouts together, both of our families moving to Cranston, RI and going to the same junior and senior high schools. We went to Boy Scout camp, both of our fathers helped lead our troop, and achieved Eagle at the same time. In the months prior to his passing, I reminded him of these and the following memories, which made him smile and remember his good times. When we were deciding what sport to participate in, I talked him out of football (get your head bashed in?) and explained what track and field was. Shot put, discus, and javelin outdoor and shot put indoor for 3 years, everyday after school! We both played clarinet in the school band and were side by side at football games and road trips. He talked me into taking Ski lessons in New Hampshire and we went on many adventures. When I returned from medical school to train in Rhode Island, he brought me to a car dealership and recommended that I buy a Volvo. We had a great laugh reading the Swedish labels under the hood. Eventually we went our separate ways, but we always stayed in touch, seeing each other at high school class reunions. Finally, about 15-20 years ago he called out of the blue and said that we needed to go snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park in January. Why not? YOLO! It was incredibly cold, but absolutely thrilling, and we shared a lifetime memory. Richard and I always talked about everything (he did 80% of the talking), and I will never forget his friendship. It is said that if one recalls a loved one, they are never truly gone. I will be saying Kaddish (Jewish prayer for the dead) every Saturday this year for him. R.I.P. Richard Spivack. Marvin S. Wasser, M.D.

Marvin S. Wasser, M.D. - October 05, 2024 at 08:24 PM

SE

Dr Marvin (as Richard always referred to you), so great to see you participate here, as I wasn't sure you would hear the news of Richard's passing (I didn't know your last name even), and I didn't know how you were doing yourself. I wrote you a lengthy message in the "Messenger" app (accessible by way of Facebook), explaining Richard's life over the past few years, and I hope you will see that. I was Richard's girlfriend for most of the last 17 years of his life. - Sandy Eisen (sandy.eisen@gmail.com)

Sandy Eisen - October 06, 2024 at 06:43 AM

DC

“*It speaks volumes about a person when all of the people, with whom he had a close, personal relationship, still speak well of him. This includes past girlfriends and wife[s].*

I worked closely with Richard for about a year when he was at NIST. I considered him a good friend.

More recently, we would talk on the phone periodically, but not frequently enough.

Richard loved life and people and embraced all aspects of life fully. I know he was proud about the great work he did as a volunteer at the Asheville Food Bank.

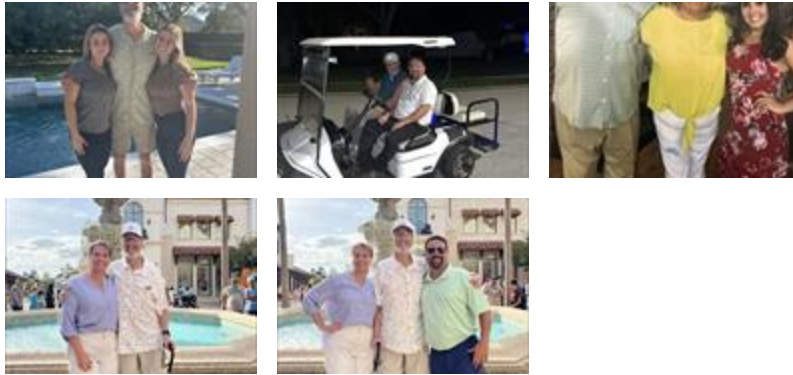
I know we all will miss him.

- Dean Calcagni, M.D.

Dean Calcagni - September 26, 2024 at 09:53 AM

SV

“ He was a wonderful uncle, We enjoyed his long conversations either about basketball, football politics or even history. Just about anything he would speaking about WE were interested in listening. He was my mom’s only sibling and she loved him with all her heart, she was tremendously proud of all his successes through his life. I miss those talks with her and now I will miss those talks with him. We will love you forever❤️



Stephanie Vinacco - September 26, 2024 at 12:15 AM

SE

He was super happy that he reconnected with you and Harriet a few years ago. Thank goodness he did.

Sandy Eisen - September 26, 2024 at 08:20 AM

MF

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Rich’s passing. We originally met years ago at American University while I was visiting a mutual friend. Many years later we met again at this same mutual friend’s family event. At that time he was about to move to the DC area for a new job. Fortunately we ended up living close to each other. We had common interests in traveling, sports and history.

I will always remember his boundless energy and joie de vivre.

Marc Fisher - September 25, 2024 at 11:25 PM

ES

“ I worked with Richard at NIST/ATP 20 years ago. He was smart, interesting, and kind. My thoughts are with you all today.

Eric Samuelson - September 25, 2024 at 09:32 AM

ER

“ Richard was very special to me. He was a positive influence on my life when I was young and guided me through some important life decisions. I will always remember him for being as intellectually curious as he was generous with his time to help others. I have lost a true friend.

Ernesto Robles - September 24, 2024 at 08:28 PM

SE

He adored you! He thought so highly of you. As do I... I hope you and your family are well.

Sandy Eisen - September 24, 2024 at 08:41 PM

SE

“ I loved him. And we shared the greatest of times together, especially traveling around the world.

Sandy Eisen - September 24, 2024 at 06:41 PM

AD

“ I remember Richard from my days working at NIST. Richard was very courteous and helpful. Rest in peace. Extending my sincere condolences to Richard's family and friends.

Ashfaq Dawood - September 24, 2024 at 04:37 PM

MB

“ I worked with Richard at NIST (ATP/TIP) for many years. He did have the laugh no one could ever forget. I enjoyed listening to his stories as others have mentioned in this tribute. He could talk for hours about life/work if you let him. So glad to have been able to work with him and know him. Sending condolences to the family. I will always remember the good times we shared.

Michelle Beddow - September 24, 2024 at 04:23 PM

HM

“ I worked with Richard in MEP/TIP and he was always such a fun guy to work with. He was always smiling and just made your day better. Sending condolences to all of his family and friends.

Heather Mayton - September 24, 2024 at 11:54 AM

HJ

“ I worked with Richard for years at NIST. He was always so warm and friendly. I always enjoyed hearing his stories about his travels. Such a kind man, I am so sorry to hear of his passing.

Holly Jackson - September 24, 2024 at 11:26 AM

CC

“ It's hard to imagine that Richard has passed. The news hit hard. If you've ever shared a meal with him or worked with him for over a decade as I have, you'll remember his hearty laugh, the stories he told with such flair, his insistence in inviting many of us to take a break and go have lunch together, and his resilient, matter of factness after say, slipping down a mountain on a group hike, being miraculously saved, and enduring scrapes and bruises! He cared deeply about the work we did at NIST-ATP and he cared about his colleagues and friends. May his family, his friends, and community remember him with fondness and joy. I know I will.

Connie Chang - September 24, 2024 at 10:41 AM

SE

Connie, he spoke of you often during those years and valued your friendship!

Sandy Eisen - September 25, 2024 at 05:42 AM

CC

Thank you Sandy!

Connie Chang - September 26, 2024 at 05:33 PM

LW

“*I am sorry to hear of Richard’s passing. I worked with him at NIST for several years, and always think of him as a warm and friendly person. He always stopped in to tell me stories about his travels—some of them quite amusing—because he knew I liked to travel too. I am glad to have known Richard, and I extend my condolences to all who had the privilege to be his close friends and family.*”

Lorel Wisniewski - September 24, 2024 at 10:03 AM