



Dennis L Richards

September 25, 1945 - July 11, 2021

Dennis Lyle Richards was born on September 25th, 1945 in Los Angeles, CA and passed away July 11th, 2021 in Sherwood, OR.

Dennis was raised in Hartford, IA and graduated from Carlisle High School in 1963. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and was stationed in San Diego, CA. While in California, he reunited with his childhood sweetheart, Judy Jenkins. They were married on September 9th, 1967 in Torrance, CA. Good childhood buddies became best friends and inseparable lifelong soulmates. Family became the center of their lives with the birth of their children, Mark and Tami.

Dennis began his 31-year career with Snap-On Tools in 1975 as a franchise owner in Los Angeles. In 1980, the family moved to Beaverton, OR where he soon became a Field Manager. In 1989, he accepted a promotion to Sales Manager in Kansas City. He continued his career in Texas and Washington. With each move, Dennis and Judy built an amazing circle of lifelong friends.

After retirement, he and Judy moved to Sherwood to be closer to their grandchildren. As their biggest fan, Dennis never missed a game or event, and they always knew how proud he was and how much he loved them. He happily served as a golf course marshal at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora, OR until his death.

Ornery! There's no other word to describe our Dennis, as a man who truly enjoyed life, he made the best of every moment. Whether he was the instigator or a spectator, he guaranteed a good time for all. When he wasn't working or playing on the golf course, Dennis spent countless hours attending and supporting youth sports. He never knew a stranger and never forgot a face. He was "Dad" or "Papa" to more than just family and would do anything for anybody, expecting nothing in return.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Max and Jean Richards, his sister, Sheryl Ann Richards, and his in-laws, Kenneth and Elizabeth Jenkins. Dennis is survived by his best friend and soul mate of 53 years, Judy, his children, Mark Richards and Tami and Matthew McNemee, his grandchildren Jake and Alexa Richards, Rebecca (Kenny) Brandl, Rachel and Renea McNemee, and his sister, Renita McGrail.

A celebration of Dennis' life will be held on July 24th at 1 p.m. in the Red Shed at Langdon Farms Golf Club located at 24377 Airport Rd NE in Aurora, OR 97002.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a Legacy Health charity of your choice at www.legacyhealthgiving.org.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **24.** 1:00 PM (PT)

Langdon Farms Golf Club
24377 NE Airport Rd. #1
Aurora, OR 97002
<http://langdonfarms.com>

Tribute Wall

EN

“ *My condolences. He leaves behind a wonderful granddaughter!*

Emily N - March 17, 2024 at 03:32 PM

LA

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. Dennis was a great man and someone who was a friend to everyone. He will be missed, but always remembered.*

Larry - July 28, 2021 at 06:36 PM

RS

“ *I will miss you pal. The day we met we watched a basketball game at Peggys house and you grilled me on who my favorite players were... I thought you were trying to figure out what kinda person I was❤️. I was lucky that I passed your test and we became fast friends. Prayers to your family as you were a once in a lifetime cool kinda guy. 🙏🥹*

Renee Soeneke - July 25, 2021 at 12:37 AM

CR

“ *My father has been Denny's best friend since kindergarten. When I relocated to the PNW in 2019 Denny and Judy extended a warm welcome. Their love filled me with peace and contentment as I began a new chapter. I had the opportunity to play golf, watch the Super Bowl and dine out on many occasions. My time with Denny was good for the soul. He had the gift of bringing humor to any situation, making life seem a little lighter.*

I last saw Denny on July 4th leaving his home. My last words to Dennis- love you Dennis, and his- love you too.

Chuck Van Ryswyk



Charles Ryswyk - July 24, 2021 at 01:53 PM

BC

“ *It was a real gift to know and work with Dennis for my seven years at Langdon. When working with Dennis you could count on being met with a wily smile and a playful wisecrack ("lookout boys here comes Wild Bill") and you knew the shift would go well. When arriving for an early morning tournament, Dennis always beat you there and was well along in getting stuff done. Always smiling, he loved to joke and laugh but never had a unkind word for anyone.*

I am missing him everyday and know I will think of Dennis often. Surely he will receive a unanimous induction into The Course Marshall Hall of Fame.

Bill Conerly



Bill Conerly - July 24, 2021 at 10:58 AM

SG

“ I first met Dennis in 1975 when he became a Snap On Franchise owner. First time I met him I walked in the order dept he had his back to me so I did something inappropriate to him that guys do to each other that they are good friends with, he jumped and turned to me and I said OMG your not Larry and he said "buy me dinner and I can be Larry", because nothing is better than a great sense of humor I knew this guy was gonna be a good friend, and he was. His territory was right next to mine and we go close real fast and we always had each others back. We did alot of things together and it was nice that our wives and kids got along making our loves better.

We had the same interests but our love of basketball was our biggest, we played almost every Saturday 2 on 2 or 3 on 3 at a local gym or just our 1 on 1 battles in my driveway which prompted me to get one of the first video cameras so I could record our games, and boy I wish I still had those. We also had Laker season tickets from 1977 to 1979 going to every home game they had, of course the Lakers did terrible till 1980 when the Lakers got Majic and history was made thus Dennis was not to happy to miss that ! He was not only a very good basketball player but very good at Vollyball too as we dominated at our company picnics in the 2 on 2 tournements.

We were inseparable during our 4 years working and playing together, talking about everything and anything and you think you know a person as well as you can, but then I read Deans tribute about Dennis and his drag racing story which Dennis and I never talked about as I too was drag racing in the 60's and 70's which was one of the best things I ever did . Then to see Dennis had a '55 red and white chevy, well guess what, I just bought a '55 Red and White and it showed up yesterday, how funny and scary at the same time. If we only knew that we shared that too imiagine the stories we could have told and exaggerated about !

I told him he was always more Lucky than good and he shrugged it off, he would be parked at the warehouse where multiple Snap On Trucks would be and a guy would just wander into his truck and

spend a few thousand bucks or he would make a shot in a game where he would miss so bad he would make it, or a neighbors dog had knocked him down and broke both of his wrists and the dog owner had insurance which paid Dennis 3 months to stay home and heal. or the time a driver ran a red lite and had insurance (a rarity) to cover his truck and his get well time, or to have a great wife in Judy and 2 terriffic kids in Mark and Tami plus a great array in friends he made along the way.

Heres to a great guy we know and love and we will miss daily, till we meet again !

sal guagenti - July 23, 2021 at 12:32 PM

DR

“ In 1977, due to Denny's invitation and insistence, our family flew to L.A. to visit the Richards family. That was a great memory embedded in all of us, including the day at Disneyland. What a job it was to get those 5 kids wound down, showered, and in bed. They seemed to come alive, just when we wanted them to simmer down. what Joy!

dean van ryswyk - July 22, 2021 at 10:21 PM

DR

“ When I turned 10 or 11, my mother invited my classmates out on a Saturday, for my birthday, which was April 2nd. I had a very good horse and we were all riding it. With the Spring rains, South river, not far from our farmstead, had a fair amount of water in it. Denny dared me to ford the river. That was another one of his great instigations. How would you turn down a dare in front of your classmates? We barely made it across, and both me and the horse was too scared to return. After about 20 minutes, and realizing there was no other way to get out of the river bed, it became a no choice decision. Barely made it again, and we still talked about that. 'Little Rich, the instigator.

dean van ryswyk

dean van ryswyk - July 22, 2021 at 10:12 PM

DR

“ My wife, Janet, found this newspaper clipping today. **WINS TROPHY AT DRAGSTRIP** Denny Richards of Hartford won a First Place Trophy at the Greater Des Moines Drag Strip Sunday, May 5th. Denny drove in 4 elimination races, and won the final one against a 62 Olds, 270 H. P. Denny drove a 55 Chevy V-8. Helping Denny in the "tune up" were Lionel Walker, Jim Cochran, Dean Van Ryswyk, Chuck Kail, and Chuck Bartholomew. Friends, Janet Bartholomew, Linda Jorgenson, and Sandy Thompson brought a picnic lunch for them.

That was just part of the story. When Denny brought his 55 Chevy 2door hardtop, red and white(beautiful car) back to the pit area, a large crowd emerged. That was normal, and it was customary to raise the hood so everyone could see the engine. About that time Jim Johnston, who was 4 years older, much bigger, and one of the toughest I ever knew, walked up and said " this car is not legal and I am going to protest it". What the crowd did not know, was that Jim and Denny were good friends, and Jim was just having some fun. Of course, 'Little Rich' got into Jim's face and threatened to knock the heck out of him. Jim backed down and walked away. That crowd was absolutely astonished. Just another fun day, being a friend of Denny Richards.

dean van ryswyk

dean van ryswyk - July 19, 2021 at 11:08 PM

DR

“ Our little town of Hartford never had any organized youth baseball programs. However, we played a lot of baseball during our lunch break and recess periods. We never played in the summer because all of us lived in the country, on farms, and had no feasible way to get together. Carlisle was a large town about 5 miles away, and they had little league and a Babe Ruth team. Carlisle always had a big July 4th celebration in their park, with concessions, carnival rides etc., and a ball diamond. Their Babe Ruth coach called the Hartford school custodian in July and asked him if he could get enough 6th and 7th graders together to play their Babe Ruth team on the 4th. We always figured they were looking for a team they could win against, while they had a large home crowd. We had 9 players, and I believe we won 13 to 2. Denny was a fantastic baseball player, and we loved to reminisce this story.

dean van ryswyk

dean van ryswyk - July 19, 2021 at 09:55 PM

HO

“ I believe people are put into your life for a reason. I developed a special closeness with both Dennis and Judy as neighbors and friends that only grew stronger over time. They have always been there for me like family. I love spending time with both whether it is walking, eating, visiting, puzzling or whatever. The connection and relationship is gold to me. Dennis's mannerisms and character will not be forgotten. His selflessness did not go unnoticed. I make peace with what transpired knowing he is in a better place. I will forever miss him.

Love,
Holly



Holly - July 19, 2021 at 07:39 PM

DR

“ Denny was one of the orneriest kids, there ever was in existence. He loved to instigate something and then see what was going to happen. We were in Des Moines in a school bus, in stop and go traffic, and we had just stopped and got hamburgers. Denny threw a hamburger out the bus window at a stop light on the windshield of the car next to us. I can still see the burger sliding down the windshield leaving a trail of ketchup and mustard. The guy in the car was furious, but there was nothing he could do, short of following us to our destination, which was several miles. Our bus driver never knew it had happened, so " Little Rich " as we sometimes labeled him, got away with another one.

dean van ryswyk

Dean Van Ryswyk - July 18, 2021 at 11:15 PM

DR

“ Denny was my lifelong best friend, and I have been making that statement for many years. We met in kindergarten, he being the smallest boy in the class, and me the biggest. Neither of us had any trouble with bullies, however, our little school in Hartford, Iowa was pretty much trouble free.

We extend our sympathy to the family and we are sharing in your loss. Denny always showed great support and compassion when speaking of you. My memories are many, and it would take forever to recall and tell all of them. For those reading this site, I will try to post a couple everyday.

Dean and Jan Van Ryswyk

Dean and Jan Van Ryswyk - July 17, 2021 at 11:37 PM

RP

“ I worked and played golf with Dennis during the time he Marshalled at Langdon. I got o know and love his perspective regarding people's reaction to events occurring locally, nationally and worldwide. Dennis' sense of humor was second to none when describing how he felt about people supporting or opposing an action.

Dennis and I spent many years of our lives in the Midwest, he in Iowa, me in Missouri. This bond enabled us to share many values common to people living in the Midwest. Sometimes we would smile to each other when we saw an action or heard a comment by someone visiting Langdon.

I have asked my brother Fr. John Phelps to offer his Mass this Sunday for the repose of Dennis' soul. Jane and I will remember you Judy and Dennis at Mass this weekend.

May Dennis Rest in Peace, Ray and Jane Phelps

Ray & Jane Phelps - July 15, 2021 at 06:23 PM

AA

“ Judy I’m so sorry for the loss of your lifelong partner! You made so many happy memories together, I hope they will give you comfort in the days to come. Dennis had such a loving heart for his family and truly devoted to all of you. Every single game for Alexa or Jake, there was Papa right by your side. He was a great and good man. Always supporting his family in a fun and loving way the world could see. God Be With You and your family. Much Love, Dave and April Anderson

April Anderson - July 15, 2021 at 12:58 AM

KA

“ His welcoming hugs and contagious laughter were always the perfect dose to lift the spirits ups. Sweetly sings the donkey will forever remind me of his happiness, his way of taking a moment from his day to make one more memory for his family to remember.

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Karen - July 14, 2021 at 09:50 PM