



Richard Jahn Bulfinch

December 12, 1940 - August 20, 2022

Beloved Richard Jahn Bulfinch (“Dick”) passed away peacefully at home with his loving wife Shirley by his side August 20, 2022, after struggling with Parkinson’s Disease for several years. He was age 81. He is survived by his wife Shirley, children Lori, Rob, Michelle, John, & Mark; plus, 8 grandchildren & 4 great --grandchildren.

He was the only child of Leonard & Leah Bulfinch in Connecticut, raised there through pre-school years; then, family moved to Arizona briefly, before settling in South Pasadena, CA, where, sadly, his father passed away suddenly when Dick was age 11. His amazing & capable Mother continued to raise Dick - encouraging him in the outdoors ... local playground, beach, Boy Scouts, hunting, & sports, ensuring that he continue on in baseball youth sports programs in which his father was integral in cultivating in their neighborhood years leading up to his death; Dick’s baseball team won Regionals that year for which Dick was proud. After his father passed away, Dick tried his best to take responsibility for his own expenses by taking on a huge paper route & later washing dishes in a local restaurant to relieve his mother of some of her burden of raising him by herself even though she worked fulltime in an administrative position for a large company. Being a warm, engaging, & outdoorsy person herself, Dick’s Mother spent many evenings & weekends piling he & friends into her car & traveling near & far.

Dick maintained close & highly valued South Pasadena High School friendships & recounted many favorite memories with many of them throughout his life.

Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, was the next chapter in his life, education, & close friendships. Of course, many fun stories were generated there among his AZ Fraternity friends . . . stories fondly repeated - bringing more grins upon each re-telling!

At Pacific University, he met & married Cathy Bader, & then soon after briefly attended Portland State University. They eventually became parents of three wonderful children. It was during these years that he began his 37 year career at Carolina Biological Supply in Gladstone, OR. Several years later, he became a divorced father raising his two young sons & ensuring that, during vacations & summers, etc, his daughter joined his household.

In following years, it was learned from his boss Mike Tunnicliffe, that Dick became 'extra willing' to take the weekly business deposits to the bank ... at that time it was First National Bank on Main St in Oregon City... where Shirley was working as their vault teller. As she processed the weekly business deposits, he & Shirley would trade stories about each of their little kids' escapades from the weekend before - since she was also divorced raising her two adorable little ones of similar ages. On Fridays Dick soon began to hide a white Muno's Bakery sack behind his back - filled with a chocolate éclair- which he'd give her as she gave him his deposit receipt. The rest is history ... they began dating 50 yrs ago & had been married 48 ½ yrs until he passed away ... still truly in love as they will be forever.

He retired from Carolina Biological Supply after 37 years, most recently as Regional Sales Manager. She retired from same bank ... now called Wells Fargo Bank ... after 33+ years, most recently as Personal Banking Officer.

By all accounts, Dick was a hard-working, kind, quietly outgoing, engaging, fun, poker-playing, sports-minded, loving husband & family man who truly thought of many of his closest friends in Oregon, California, Utah, & Arizona as his extended family. He was quick to smile ...yet had a 'backbone' & vision that directed his integrity in executing his coaching duties, choosing his friends, handling his private matters, & in conducting his family life. He led by example, emulated the best that he gleaned from his parents & his many friends, rarely complained, & was self-deprecating ... even as he struggled these last few years with his disease.

Through to the end as he struggled with his disease, Dick's sense of humor lightened his outlook on his daily life, &, in so doing, made each of his last days less burdensome for him; it's that light-heartedness that stemmed from decades of fun gatherings for which his Pacific Univ friends & their extended group specifically deserve huge credit.

Dick drew a hard line against flying in an airplane but was never short of alternative travel plans with fun road trips, cruises, & by train with family & friends ... & had a great time doing it!

He'd want to be remembered as a valued & loving Dad, loving husband, & valued friend who's respected for his integrity along with his good - natured sense of fun.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life with Reception

DEC 27. 11:00 AM (PT)

Hillside Chapel
1306 7th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Jahn Bulfinch*

January 28, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Jahn Bulfinch.*



December 19, 2022 at 06:40 PM



“ *140 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Hillside Chapel - December 06, 2022 at 06:43 PM

BF

“ I can't remember when I first met Dick. It seems he's always been a part of our Powell

Labs story. My Dave went to work there in January of 1963, after getting out of the Air Force. Dick had started there in late 1962 if memory serves. My next memory was picking him up with all his worldly possessions after his divorce. My next memory is watching him care for those two precious boys with a male roommate. Seeing that roommate carry those boys in his fancy two-seater sports car was precious. (I can't remember his name but watching those guys interact with those boys at Powell picnics was fun) Next I learned he had married a special young woman with two kids. How excited he was! After Powell closed Dave set up Ovis Biological doing what he had done for 33 years. As the business grew it was more than he and I could handle. Dave saw Shirley at some point after Dick retired from Carolina. She shared that she felt he was depressed and needed more than golf. Dave asked if he might want to work part time with us. What a blessing to have someone we didn't have to train and was fun to work with! Of course, we couldn't interfere with his golf and tennis! I thank you Shirley for welcoming us to your home as well as allowing us to spend time in Palm Desert upon Dave and Dick's retirement. My prayers are with you. Your wonderful memories of Dick will comfort you forever!

Betty Ferren - December 01, 2022 at 01:41 PM

SB

Thank you for sharing your precious memories, Betty! Dick & I always enjoyed you two during all these decades! 🤗

Shirley Bulfinch - December 03, 2022 at 11:34 PM

SB

Another note: Betty ~ Dick's roommate was Sandy Spurlick who was a Carolina(Powell Labs) employee. His interactions with little Rob & John were a joy to watch! We've lost touch with him after Rob's wedding & John & Lori's move after their wedding same year. 🥹

Shirley Bulfinch - December 07, 2022 at 04:17 PM

MC

“ Dear Dick, you were wise enough to find Shirley and i loved how you loved her! I will never forget how we had ties from the same little place, Weston, Oregon of all places! We just had the best time reminiscing! You were the kindest person, disciplined, and made terrific martinis!!!! You will be missed, but my faith reassures me we will meet again!



Mary Clark - December 01, 2022 at 11:29 AM

SB

Thank you, my friend, for sharing your add'l memories! It was so fun to watch you & Dick compare folks whom you both knew in Weston, Oregon! ❤️

Shirley Bulfinch - December 07, 2022 at 04:28 PM

KA

“ I have more shared memories with this gentle, welcoming to everyone man than any other friend I have ever had. These memories encompass (somewhat in chronological order) Fraternity brother at Pacific University; Doubles partners in club tennis tournaments - where our right/left combination covered for our weak backhands; Playing hours of ping pong - I think we ended winning about 50% each; Playing open field Bocce in our back yard - I can't remember who had the advantage there but I'm certain it was me; Taking annual trips to Lake Tahoe, including for Dick and Shirley's wedding; Owning a 35 foot trailer at Camper's Hideaway on Lake Merwin for several years; Renting a 38 foot motor home and driving to Disneyland with our three daughters and most of Dick and Shirley's crew; Organizing and working at all night grad parties for Oregon City High School; Monthly dinners out, usually with four other families - preceded by imbibing in "Whiskey Sewers"; Coaching girls softball teams with amazing "strategery"; Coaching girls high school basketball at Oregon City H.S. and Gladstone H.S.

Throughout it all, Dick remained the only person to fully get my attempts at humor and was my constant solid backup for all endeavors. It was my amazing good fortune to have had Dick in my life.

Ken Alcorn

Ken Alcorn - September 13, 2022 at 11:36 AM

JF

I am deeply saddened at Dick's passing. He was a gentle kind man who was always interested in everyone else's well-being. I've known Dick and Shirley for many years as they were members of my tennis club.

Dick seemed to always have that smile which he carried with him on every occasion.

I was fortunate to have known Shirley as well as some of their grand children who Dick and Shirley brought to me for tennis lessons.

God bless this family at this most difficult time. He will be missed.

Jumbo Fernando

Jumbo Fernando - September 15, 2022 at 10:12 AM

AH

What an honor to have known you, Dick Bulfinch. Such a gentle man who always had a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. Such fond memories of the "gang" and sharing such fun "functions" as they were called. From Tahoe to our weekend in Welches and all the in-between. You will be missed. Much ❤️ to Shirley and your lovely family.

Ann Hermens - December 20, 2022 at 01:12 PM

“ Dick and Shirley were the ultimate hosts and sightseeing planners. One never knew what the next adventure would be. There was the time we ventured up a mountain and, once there ,it took your breath away. As you looked across a deep, narrow river valley to Mt. Saint Helens, the mountain had fully recovered from it's eruption years before. The foliage was lush and magnificent! Early the next morning the boys were up and on the river fishing. Another time we were all treated to a dinner party on Pebble Beach Drive with old classmates, Mike and Penny Archer, Bill and Donna Jacobson, Cal and Bunny Clark, and Jimmy and Gail Thompson given by Dick and Shirley. Their door was always open! For the boys, it was always fishing a local river, ocean or crabbing. If the salmon were running, all the better. However, if there was a catch that day, I'm sure we had a taste. Dick and Shirley were expert BBQers. You could certainly count on a yummy meal! A blast from the past around 1978! Now talk about courage and patience! Can you imagine driving from Portland to Temple City in a 2-door car with a backseat full of 5 elementary age children? That was Dick and Shirley! The trip's purpose: to experience the Rose Parade. We had friends whose business was on Sierra Madre so they let us use a portion their parking lot. Together, the Bulfinches and the Thompsons viewed the flowered floats and the

*great
marching bands. Then, after the parade it was back to our house for
dinner with
the children enjoying a giant slumber party, 8 children in all. As all
good things
must come to an end, so did their visit. The Bulfinch children
climbed into the
backseat, then Dick, the great man of patience and courage, and
Shirley, plus 5,
drove off with waves of good bye and a safe trip home. What a
family! Truly
amazing!*

*I just started witting down a things that came
to mind! So good talking to you, Shirley!
Love, Gail (Gus) Thompson*

Shirley Bulfinch - August 27, 2022 at 10:20 AM

SB

*En route to your home in Dick's blue Dodge Dart coupe, we stayed the
nite at the Holiday Inn Motel in Redding which had double queen beds
... sooo we had one bed with 4 little bodies sleeping vertically along
top plus Lori sleeping horizontally at foot of that bed!
As Dick drove south that trip,
the kids & I played a small peg-board game to pass the time! Fun
memories!!! 😊*

Shirley Bulfinch - August 27, 2022 at 10:23 AM

SB

Fun trip! Precious memories!

Shirley Bulfinch - August 27, 2022 at 10:25 AM

MC

I remember one trip to Palm Desert to go to Shirleen Dick's condo there, it was for a celebration for our 60th birthdays. Dick spent the day waiting on us, making margaritas making food just being in overall good-natured pool guy. I feel privileged to have known Dick especially since he has ties to Weston Oregon and soda why.

Mary Clark - August 29, 2022 at 03:14 PM

EC

I remember Dick always made everyone feel special and welcome. He never knew a stranger.

He often shared his vast knowledge of geography and history and had an entertaining way of telling the stories.

I loved his smile, his laugh, his love of children and animals. I especially loved the way he treated Shirley, the love of his life. Dick was truly a sweetheart ❤️

Ellen Churchill - September 01, 2022 at 11:34 AM