



Richard Burke

August 3, 1932 - April 12, 2015

Richard Cullen Burke, 82, longtime Bloomington resident and Professor at IU, passed away on Sunday, April 12 at the IU Hospice House after a lengthy illness. Born and raised in Buffalo, NY on August 3, 1932, he was the son of Paul F and Carolyn S Burke. He started his academic studies at University of Buffalo (now SUNY). After graduation, he served in the Army from 1954 to 1956. He received his Master's degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and received his PhD in 1963 from the University of Michigan. He began his teaching career at Central Michigan University in 1962, and in 1964 he moved his young family to Bloomington to teach Radio/Television (later Telecommunications) at IU. Richard officially retired from the university in the early 2000's, but continued teaching for many years after.

In his retirement, he took up a few new interests. He became a CASA volunteer, a Docent at IU's Art Museum, and he thoroughly enjoyed teaching the "Great Books" for the Honors College at IU. Local residents also saw him perform in a number of theatrical productions over the years.

Survived by his wife of 56 years,

Ann F Burke, his daughter Elizabeth A Burke (Andrew Fisher) of Seattle, WA, son Paul C Burke (Victoria) of Bloomington, IN, and daughter Catherine R Gordon (Robert) of Westmont, IL. Also survived by his brother Paul F Burke Jr, of Buffalo, NY; grandchildren Benjamin, Samuel, and Catherine Fisher, Elizabeth and Christopher Burke, and Jack and Paul Gordon.

Services will be held in the great room at Trinity Episcopal Church at 111 S Grant St in Bloomington, IN on Thursday, April 16 at 1100 AM. Friends are encouraged to make a donation in Richard's name to Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in lieu of flowers.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ *I'm so sorry for your family's loss. God promises to be close to the brokenhearted. PS 34;18. I hope you find comfort in God's promise & in the many wonderful memories you made & shared together. You have my condolences.*

Tara - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

AN

“ *Apart from Trinity, I didn't know Dick well but whenever and wherever I saw him he was always warm and friendly -- sort of like those favorite uncles. I respected and appreciated all that he did for Trinity. His was a good presence. And of course I was always delighted to see him on stage -- and you too, Ann. I send all of you my thoughts and sympathy.*

Antonia Matthew - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

CH

“ Dr. Burke took me to lunch at the Tudor Room and gave me a campus tour way back in the spring of 1982 when I visited IU to check out the master's program in Telecomm. He was serving as the graduate coordinator at that time.

Every spring when the blooms appear and the rain freshens everything my mind reaches back to that wonderful visit and his cordial hospitality. Coming to IU in 1982 has made all the difference in my life, was a great turning point for me. Dr. Burke played a significant role in helping me make that life-changing decision.

After IU I taught at West Georgia College for 5 years, then went on to the Univ. of Alabama for my Ph.D. I'm in year 20 on the faculty here at Kennesaw State. I will be forever grateful that my life intersected with Dr. Burke's life in such a special way.

My deepest sympathies to those who love him and miss him.

Chuck Aust - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

RO

“ I am very sorry to hear of Richard's death. I had the great pleasure of sharing the stage with Richard and Ann in the old Indianapolis Shakespeare Festival in 1986 and then again in Bloomington in the 90's. I last saw them over a lovely dinner at the Uptown in Bloomington several years ago. Richard was a warm, highly intelligent, thoughtful and talented man. I learned a lot from him and though my time with him was short, it saddens me to know he's gone. He was a great lover of Shakespeare. "Flights of angles sing thee to thy rest."

Robert Neal - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

HA

“ Dear Ann, Children, and Grandchildren,
Please accept my great sympathy on the loss of your husband,
father, and grandfather. Though I did not know Richard well, I have
always heard so many good things about his professional and
community activities, and as a resident at Bell Trace I was pleased
to welcome Ann and Richard to our community. It is my hope that
your many happy memories of your life with Richard will help
sustain you at this very difficult time.
Harriet Pfister

Harriet Pfister - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

RI

“ Richard was a thoughtful and generous mentor to my wife and I
after we joined the IUAM docent program in 2009. We also were
always impressed by his cordiality and mental vigor, even after his
health took a hit.

We'll greatly miss him.

Richard Wolf - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

HA

“ Sadly, Dr. Burke did not have time to enjoy the family move to Bell
Trace, but that may be the only thing in his life that he cut short. He
was an excellent professor, a good community servant and touched
the lives of many.

Harmon Baldwin - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

TA

“ Richard was an integral part of the Docent program. He will be
missed. My thoughts and prayers are with your family in your time of
grief.

TammyJo Eckhart - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM

LR

“ *Thinking about you and keeping you in our prayers. Richard is in a much better place and is at peace.*

May happy memories sustain you and help you during this difficult time

Laila, Jim & Rita Cripe - October 26, 2015 at 04:00 PM