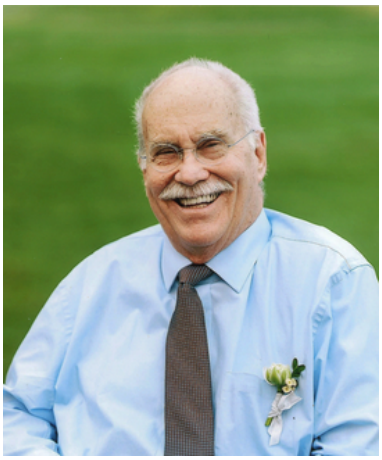


Richard W. Nielsen

January 15, 1944 ~ October 31, 2022

I am so sorry for your loss. Rick was always so kind to me and my family.

- Pamela Lyman Fisher

"Rick" a/k/a "Uncle Rick" in our family. Rick was a man for all seasons, he was kind to everyone, no matter the situation or status in life. I, personally held Rick in high esteem for his knowledge about "everything". There wasn't a topic of conversation that he didn't know about and he would teach in his way of having the conversation. Rick will be missed by everyone that knew him with his sense of humor and willingness to tease and make a fun time for everyone...especially, at times, Maralyn. The world was a better place with Richard W. Nielsen in it. I've never known anyone equal to the man.

- Linda Jensen

When I learned of Rick's passing, my mind was immediately flooded with fun and positive memories. I met Rick many years ago when I became Maralyn's roommate behind the Capitol in Salt Lake City. We all immediately connected because of our roots in Idaho. Rick and some of his buddies would often come and hang out (he had an MG convertible which fit him). Some of his friends I recall were Steve, Mike, and Cranney. Years passed and we all moved on but somehow we managed to keep in touch. Maralyn and I tended each others kids. When I was a single working mom and Rick was a medical resident at the University of Utah, he would come to my house in the evening to check on my sick kids, make a diagnosis, write a prescription, and then tend Tracy and Eric while I went to pick up the medicine. He was always thoughtful, considerate and kind. Rick, Maralyn, Christian and Jason were like family to us -- my kids still refer to him as "Uncle Rick". Rick was always fun to be around and could make you laugh no matter the situation. Even the last little while, while he was in the care center, I talked with him a couple times and we ended up reminiscing and laughing. He had an amazing memory and so many interesting stories to tell! I will forever treasure my friendship with Rick and Maralyn and I find comfort in knowing they are now together. Rita Anderson Pocatello, Idaho

- Rita Anderson

I have so many fond memories of Rick especially the time we spent together on the slopes all over the world in France, Canada, and the USA. The many times we boarded a helicopter to reach untracked snow. Although Rick is gone he will always be with me whenever I begin down the Piste. He is now skiing untracked powder on every turn.

- Peter Salamon

Such an amazing and cool dad and grandpa. Loved that I got to host him for dinner during summer ski camp. We know y'all will miss him. Sending love to you guys!

- Paul and Scarlette Richards

I am saddened by Rick's passing. I so enjoyed his company on our ski trips in France. My condolences to all his friends and family. Robert S Salamon MD

- Robert Salamon

Rick and I (and wives and small children) spent a year together in California as first year general surgery residents in 1972-73. We would visit at Christmas ski trips to Utah. But we really reconnected on a heliski adventure to the Ruby Mountains in the mid eighties when we could begin to afford such a trip. I'd never seen Rick more happy. We did many subsequent low-cost ski road trips to Canada and off-piste adventures on glaciers in Austria,France and Italy. Rick was a strong and graceful skier. Around 15 years ago Rick and group of docs were enjoying a blinding deep powder storm at Alta when late in the day Rick skied into a "firm" snowbank. Later, a finger on his right hand looked a bit off kilter and our beer-infused, apres-ski medical committee tried to pull and stretch the finger back in place. No luck. Rick underwent emergency surgery that night, pinning fractured digit bones back in alignment. Over the next six weeks Rick had to operate with only his left hand. Maralyn blamed me for leading Rick astray but Rick never complained and only pointed out that it was a chance to use the hands of young ENT university resident surgeons and teach them the tricks of his surgical trade. (She eventually forgave me …and the beer.) Rick never complained but I could feel how these last few years were a terrible struggle. But on our annual visit and during many phone calls, Rick was always upbeat and inquisitive. "What are you up to?" Thinking bout you Rick. We shared some of the best of times. Time to rest those legs. Peter Tuxen

- Peter Tuxen, MD