

Richard "Ric" Kunz

August 10, 1942 ~ July 14, 2023

Ric, 80, peacefully passed away of natural causes on July 14th 2023 with his loving sweetheart Kate Kunz by his side.

Ric was born and raised in Victor, Idaho. Ric loved and doted on his younger sister Jamie Lavenstein and his younger brother Kelly Kunz. As a child and teenager, Ric helped his father Homer Kunz in the potato fields. While helping with the potato harvest, Ric learned to whistle from a fellow worker, and he became an excellent whistler. He would whistle to the cows to help them relax and let down their milk before he milked them. Grandma Lucy Kunz would say, “Whistle to me Ricky.”

Ric learned to hunt in the Big Hole Mountains. He would drive an old jeep up into the mountains and hunt for food to be cooked by his mom Doris Bennion. There was a problem with the jeep, it didn’t have any brakes; stopping the jeep was always an adventure for Ric.

Ric loved to eat his mom’s cooking especially the enchiladas, peas and potatoes, dutch-oven fried chicken and fudge. Grandma Dora Love taught Ric to can fruits, vegetables, grape juice, salsa, and chili pepper sauce. He and Kate would work tirelessly in the kitchen to create these wonderful delights and share them with family and friends. They often hosted dinners down at the patio on Little Cottonwood Creek.

At Teton Valley High School, Ric participated in every sport and played the slide trombone in the marching band. Upon graduating from high school, Ric was unsure of what career he wanted to pursue. His Uncle Ralph and Aunt Lorraine Self introduced Ric to podiatry and he never looked back, eventually earning a doctorate in podiatric medicine.

Ric opened a podiatry practice in the Sugar House area of Salt Lake City. He treated his patients with deep kindness and respect. Towards the end of each patient’s appointment, Ric would wrap up their time together with a short foot massage as he listened intently to whatever the patient wanted or needed to tell him. He cared so deeply about helping each patient heal and improve their lives.

Ric and Kate were married for 28 years. They loved to pack up the RV and travel through Idaho and Montana fly fishing, biking, and golfing. They loved to play cards, cook good food, and laugh. Ric and Kate loved each other very deeply.

Devin (Marni), Tara (LeGrand), and Tyler are Ric’s children from a previous marriage to Mary Jane Ogden Gordon. They love and adore their father. He spent countless hours helping them practice sports, attending their activities, and providing them with love and comfort. Kristine, Scott, Michael, and Emily (Jason) are Ric’s stepchildren from his current marriage with Kate.

Ric has 17 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He loved to play with his grandchildren on the swing set in his backyard and at his cabin in Idaho. He loved to take the grandchildren on 4-wheeler rides and pick huckleberries.

Ric’s viewing will be at 2 PM on Saturday, July 22nd, 2023, at Larkin Sunset Gardens. All are welcome to participate in the celebration of life by sharing a special moment or experience you’ve had with Ric.