



Richard E. Popovich

May 9, 1944 - October 2, 2022

Devoted Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Friend

Richard Emil Popovich, 78, was born on May 9, 1944, in Seattle, Washington, to Emil and Helen Popovich, and died on Sunday, October 2, 2022, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He was the younger of two children, and his sister, Jackie Sweazey, and parents; Emil and Helen Popovich preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Susan Popovich, daughters Natalie (Scott) Pinson and Elizabeth (Ryan) Mueller, grandson Jeremy Pinson, and granddaughters Audrey Pinson, Cora Mueller, and Ruthie Mueller.

Richard studied at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1962. Later, he headed to sunny California to discover the world and briefly worked for Shelby American, Inc. (a high-performance car manufacturer). He met his future wife, Susan Sobery, from St. Louis, Missouri, on the dance floor at their favorite hangout in Manhattan Beach, California. In 1969, they married in Las Vegas, Nevada, and welcomed their first daughter, Natalie, later that year. In 1970, they settled in St. Louis, where Richard earned his master's degree in philosophy from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) and briefly taught philosophy.

Throughout his life, Richard was always resourceful and good at working with his hands. This made him a natural fit as Head of Maintenance at Carrollton

Apartments in 1971—where he worked for his father-in-law’s thriving business. During that time, Richard and Susan welcomed their second daughter, Elizabeth, in 1982. Richard’s hardworking nature paved the way for his eventual ownership and management of Butler Hill Apartments in 1990.

After selling Butler Hill Apartments, in 2003, they purchased a condominium in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, and wintered there every year until his death. He enjoyed playing cards in the cabana and attending social activities offered at their Sea Ranch Club. Most recently, he continued to grow and manage his real estate business, even from afar, owning properties in Missouri and surrounding states under his business entity, REP Properties, LLC.

One of Richard’s passions in life was cars—especially sports cars, including Formula One racing, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Indianapolis 500. He owned several sports cars during his lifetime, mostly red, and always dreamed of owning a car museum. He instilled his love of cars (and trains!) in his grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and kids alike, with his collectible car and train sets he would always have running each Christmas.

Richard had a thirst for knowledge and a love of books which sparked his interest in publishing. He started his own publishing company and, throughout the years, published works such as a family member’s memoir and an aspiring children’s author’s book under REP Publishing, LLC.

Richard was a history buff, a political ideologist, and loved a good debate and thoughtful conversation. He was an avid St. Louis sports fan and enjoyed college hoops. He was a philanthropist, a master record-keeper, but—above all else—he was a family man. Richard was a wonderful husband, father, uncle, and generous grandfather who always put his family first. We know that our ‘stars’ will collide in the heavens again someday.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made in Richard's honor to: Prostate Cancer Foundation <https://www.pcf.org/> or Sierra Club <https://www.sierraclub.org/>

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood

10301 Big Bend Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 965-8228
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (cst)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Richard E. Popovich*

January 06, 2023 at 10:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Barton Workman - November 02, 2022 at 03:38 PM



“ *It was so sad to get the call from Sue. I'd known Richard since about 2005 when he ventured into my showroom in Ft. Lauderdale, started kicking tires and talking about publishing and we ended up talking that entire afternoon.*

He was passionate about his racing, cars, boats, planes, anything that went fast and so we held many of the same interests and remained in touch over the years.

A dear, sweet man even when he was suffering the last time we saw him in Miami in February. He will be missed. Condolences to Sue and the family.

BHW

Barton Workman - November 02, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Richard E. Popovich.*



October 14, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard E. Popovich.*



October 12, 2022 at 10:13 PM



“ *Bonnie Dodson purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Richard E. Popovich.*



Bonnie Dodson - October 12, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard E. Popovich.*



October 11, 2022 at 09:04 AM

RP

“ Rick's family and friends share deep sorrow for losing such a fine man. Rick was my best friend. We spoke quite often, and even more during the playoffs.

We truly enjoyed going to dinner with our wives, especially at his favorite Greek place for marinated lamb chops.

We also went on several cruises. Our favorite stopped in Cuba, where we enjoyed the Cuban cigars and coffee.

Rick was always busy with complex projects. He structured intricate real estate deals, fixed his vintage sports cars himself when he could, and loved

Formula-1 races. He called me whenever one was on TV. A passionate Democrat he often wrote letters to the editor. They were punchy, intelligent and witty.

Amazingly we never had an argument or a harsh word. He was a true friend and a gentleman. He loved his wonderful family, and we all will deeply miss him.

ROBERT PAVLICA - October 08, 2022 at 12:05 PM

NP

Thank you Robert for these kind words. So glad he had a good friend like you, especially these last few years in Florida. Hope to hear more about your cruising adventures in the coming months. ~Natalie

Natalie Pinson - October 13, 2022 at 02:25 PM