



## Ricky Lee Quistad

March 19, 1959 - November 15, 2024

Ricky's Story as Told by his 'Favorite' Wife as he was my 'Favorite' Husband. (An Example of the Humor we shared) Ricky Lee Quistad was born March 19, 1959 to his loving parents Chester & Betty (Chatterton) Quistad in Omaha Nebraska. Survived by his wife Linda Quistad, daughter Lynn Calloway (James Watkins), son Luke Andresen (Amanda), grandchildren Alexander Calloway, Drake Watkins, Jacob Zustra, Samantha Zustra, and brothers Dan and David Quistad, along with many friends and relatives.

His musical story began at a very young age, when one day he looked up at his Mom and said "I'd like to Play the Drums" and his Mom replied, "How about playing the organ, and being 'The Whole Band'". He proceeded to take organ lessons from Jeanne Cooper for years. At the age of 10, his mother received a call from Jeanne that she thought he was ready to play a couple nights in the lounge at Gorat's Steakhouse, so that he did. He enjoyed camping with his Mom and Dad in their Airstream camper traveling throughout the country, visiting Chet's Minnesota relatives and his half-brothers in California, Dan & David. Impressing many before getting his driver's license, he bought his first car demonstrating his lifelong love of cars.

In his Senior year of high school, his Mother was called in because he had been skipping gym class. They compromised that he could go to the music room and practice during gym class times. He was in various plays in high

school, one was South Pacific and tried out for the play, Charlie Brown because he felt he was the perfect fit as Schroeder, and much to his surprise, and slight disappointment, was cast as Charlie Brown! They had to have seen what we all have seen throughout our lives, the powerful showman personality, commanding a room, whenever and wherever he entered. He spoke of the security guard letting him leave occasionally to go to his Volkswagon bus complete with a keg (My bad boy). He played in local venues such as The Joker in Council Bluffs, and many more that I hope you will share, so I can continue to hear and learn.

After graduating from Benson High in 1977, Rick was awarded an Architectural School Scholarship, choosing instead to pursue his musical dream of touring with the Wink Band in Canada for 5 years. While touring in Canada another band approached him to join their band. The band was Lover Boy! (Those old enough to remember this band). Something selfishly I am SO glad he did not accept!

Upon returning home, he continued his music passion by recording at Studio C in Omaha. Before I met him, he played with Buggy Malone and shortly after meeting me, he joined Rock Hard, Heart Attack, Rabbit Stew, 36th Avenue Band and Bo'Dell & The Relics, filling in with the Fish Heads in Lake Okoboji and Blue House when they'd ask him to join them with one of his signature songs, Great Balls of Fire by Jerry Lee Lewis. He also recorded with '7 times 7 Records' for vocalist Nicki Frolio Aney with his amazing sounds.

In 1994, Rick and I met at a mutual friend's house warming party. He had leased them cars, and I had taken a debate class at UNO with the other roommate, Kathy. Kathy said the party was getting boring, I said "I've got this", and I gathered all who would participate into their garage. They couldn't stay unless they participated in the two games, 'Butt Darts & Bite The Bag', games I learned from my Florentine Player friends. He gave Kathy his Rosen Auto

Leasing card and asked her strongly to have me call him. I didn't. Six-weeks later I was at a 35+ singles networking event at the Anchor Inn, and saw him from across the patio and waved thinking, "That's the guy who gave me his card, I should give him a chance". From that night on we were inseparable and have had the most wonderful 30 years together with 27 years of those married. Rick was SO HAPPY to welcome my children Lynn and Luke followed by our grandchildren, Alex 25, and Drake 6, in the adoring roles of Father and Grandfather. He accepted all of my friends, joining me with the Florentine Players and Florence Historical Foundation. His contributions included, being President of the Florentine Players, the 'sound guy' for 25 years, and many recent years of being the Florence Days Parade's Master of Ceremonies, along with occasional on stage roles. Example: Rick being Rick, it was all too easy to convince him to wear a tutu and participate in an all-male ballet of Swan Lake, performed gracefully from his days roller skating, his moves were stellar! We also shared many years on the Florence Historical Board raising thousands of dollars for them through our various 'fun' fundraising events.

After his Mom died in 2008, we kept her lake house in Ashland, Nebraska because we were married there on the beach on August 23, 1997, honeymooning in Jamaica with a return trip to Jamaica for our 20th Anniversary. In 2016 after my Mom died, we decided to stop owning 2 homes. Working full time and keeping up 2 homes for 13 years was getting old for both of us. We designed a home on the same property where we could age comfortably, for the rest of our lives, moving in November 13, 2020.

Jobs I remember him telling me stories from was working with World Radio, Custom Auto, and Rosen Auto Leasing (where we met). He joined me working at Movie Ad Media selling theater ads for a number of years. This allowed us to travel together throughout the country, working individually in our assigned

states. He joined Jones Automotive finding another niche he excelled in, working with law enforcement and building up the company's revenue stream for 9 years. Federal Signal met him at Jones Automotive, and made him an offer he couldn't refuse, forming his own LLC, 'Q's Lights & Sirens' for the past 8 years exclusively in a 6-state territory. He simply loved his job, especially helping his clients and working with his co-workers. When people would ask when we were going to retire, we'd answer "We truly enjoy working" and lately have been able to work a couple of conventions together with his booth next to mine. Rick demonstrating his lights and sirens for fire departments, and I promoting Prochaska & Associates, an Architectural-Engineering firm. This allowed us once again, the ability to travel and work together.

Our personal travels together continued in various countries. Some of our stateside adventures included Chicago, (Where he proposed to me on the Ferris Wheel after bribing the operator to go around twice to signify our 2nd marriage), New Orleans' Mardi Gras, and most recently Boston. One of our favorite trips was taking our first Grandson Alex to California's Disneyland to visit Rick's brother, Dan, and his wife, Janet.

Aside from his passion for music, Rick also enjoyed golfing, combing the beach, working in his Man Cave, that doubled as his office and music haven, watching the Indy 500, Kentucky Derby, Coca-Cola 600 (NASCAR), Huskers and Chiefs, along with driving around in our golf cart visiting our lake friends.

Above everything else, Rick was a gentleman, and often was heard saying, "Always be a Gentleman" to the boys in our family. He was also a jokester who enjoyed pulling pranks, photo bombing whenever he could, which many of you have been victims of. Also bragging that he graduated from the University of Okoboji, waiting for people's reactions to see if they caught his humor.

Rick never met a stranger, only friends. He was patient with our family, kind to everyone, and very creative, which made him an excellent musician writing his own music, some of which will be played at the funeral. Rick cared about everyone who was in his life with a special talent of diffusing difficult situations with grace and charm by using his unique personality in a way that others could not.

Another quote Rick was often heard saying was, "I'm just a poor starving musician". He loved cookies of all kinds and looked forward to each year's Christmas Cookie Exchange, which inspired him to form the 'Shrimp & Wings Exchange' with the men at the same time, either in his Man Cave or at Hooters.

We were birds of a feather that thought and felt the same way about almost everything, being thrifty, music, and both enjoyed cooking dinner for each other with an occasional courteous debate because we both had ideas of meals we wanted to create and share with one another.

Every evening Rick made coffee, and had a cup waiting for me when I woke up. Rick was an excellent husband, father, grandfather, friend, and employee. He loved to spend time with his children and grandchildren, looking forward to every event to be with them. He was the love of my life; our 30 years together seemed like only a couple. I loved coming home to him everyday!

Ricky will be at the at Reichmuth Funeral Home, 21910 West Maple Road, Elkhorn, NE 68022, Sunday, November 24th starting at 1:00 pm with a program at 4:00 pm and the family staying until all guests have been received and all stories and lies have been exchanged.

What To Do:

~ Friends and family are encouraged to wear Hawaiian or Bowling shirts,

and/or Fedoras (Rick's signature look)

~ No plants or flowers, please, due to family allergies

~ Send your pictures or videos to Reichmuth Funeral home's email:

services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com by Friday, November 22, so they can include all your memories in the slide show

~ Financial memorials will be allocated by the family in the future

~ If using Venmo, memorials can be sent to @RickQuistad-Q-MemorialFund with all monies received to be distributed by the family later

If you'd like to help with supplying some of Ricky's favorite things during the visitation, cookies were one of Rick's favorite foods. Please Contact Nancy Westphalen 402-960-8840, or email nwestphalen@msn.com by Friday, Nov 22nd, at 6 pm, to eliminate too many or too little cookies, or take them directly to the Reichmuth Funeral home by 6 pm, Saturday, Nov 23.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

NOV **24**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn  
21901 W. Maple Rd.  
P.O. Box 711  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
402-289-2222  
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

## Sharing of Life Stories

NOV **24**. 4:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn  
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P.O. Box 711  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ricky Lee Quistad*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - November 25, 2024 at 10:42 AM



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Ricky Lee Quistad*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - November 22, 2024 at 10:20 PM



“ *I am so sorry to find this out! I saw Q at the FF Conference in Manhattan KS last fall and always looked forward to the next. Needed a light today so I was trying to reach my old friend Q. Fire Conferences will never be the same. I am sorry for your loss.*

*Cade Smith  
Conrad Fire Equipment*

Cade - January 24, 2025 at 03:44 PM

JR

“ Rick was a bright, lovely light that everyone loved basking in. Why do the good die young? With love, JR (John Rogers).

John L Rogers - November 24, 2024 at 04:48 PM



“ Never a dull moment! Forever in hearts! Until we meet again, my friend!

Pete Pedersen



Pete Pedersen - November 24, 2024 at 02:15 PM

SC

“ Q...My life long friend! From all the bands, Florantine players, to playing in our wedding and just hanging out! We will truly miss you! Love ya!!!

Scot& Cindy



Scotty - November 22, 2024 at 11:42 AM

KG

“ *RIP my friend, so many good times, from the annual Pajama Jam, to Halloween shows to just making music and having a good time, you will always be my keyboard player. Thanks for being a friend, raise a toast to you Q! 1...,2...3!*

KG



KG - November 20, 2024 at 07:06 PM

SC

*Those were alot of crazy fun years!!! Man I'm going to miss you my friend!!*

Scotty - November 22, 2024 at 11:24 AM

JS

*My friend in all that flashed and yelped. I will miss you dearly.*

Janis Strautkalns - November 24, 2024 at 01:49 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Nancy L. Boyle - November 20, 2024 at 12:02 PM



*" I once used to golf with a guy who cheated so bad When he scored a hole in one he wrote zero down on the scorecard. "*  
*Bob B.*

*Rest in peace.  
 May perpetual light shine upon you.*

**Nancy L. Boyle** - November 20, 2024 at 12:13 PM

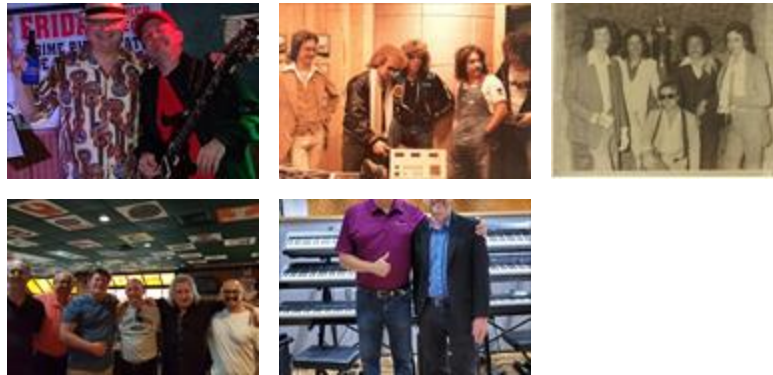


*He was a buddy of mine at fire conventions for federal signal, I used to visit him for police, fire, and EMS lights and sirens. I got a can Koozie from him, and I saw him in 2023 in Grand Island in 2023. I didn't even know he passed away. Fly high legend*

**Trent Vap** - February 12 at 05:19 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Ricky Pics



**LC Wink** - November 19, 2024 at 06:56 PM



*when you ran into Q, all you had to do was say "hello", he took it from there John Norton*

**john norton** - November 20, 2024 at 10:45 AM

CB

“ We got to know Rick when he worked at Jones Automotive. So knowledgeable and helpful when it came to vehicles. We always looked forward to seeing him at the Florence Days Parade. The Parade just lost the best emcee it ever had. He will surely be missed by everyone that attended Florence Days, us included. Our hearts go out to all who loved Rick and had the great pleasure of knowing him.

*Joel & Cheryl Bettin*

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**Cheryl Bettin** - November 19, 2024 at 03:04 PM



“ Q would come into Jones Automotive in Omaha after his time with the company. We always talked and I still have the keychain he gave me. Rest easy buddy

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**Ken Phares** - November 17, 2024 at 11:49 PM

MJ

“ Rick was a year behind me at Benson High School. I graduated in 1976 and he was class of 1977. I've never met someone that never said a bad thing about anyone else nor did I hear anything but kind words about Rick. His passion was music. I had no musical talent so I became a DJ. Throughout the years we kept in touch through Facebook. I read his words of wisdom daily. Saw the Thursday 11.14.24 post and then the News about 11.15.24. Prayers going out to Linda and his family. Rest in Peace...

*Mark Skeet Johnson*



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**Mark Johnson** - November 17, 2024 at 08:46 PM

RM

*I saw Rick at The Florence Day Parade. We graduated from Benson "Class of 1977." Rick was announcer at the parade and I was supporting my nieces campaign on a float. Rick saw me and said - "Hey Rhonda - see you at our 50th class reunion!" So sad to hear of his passing.*

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**Rhonda McFarland** - November 18, 2024 at 12:51 AM