



# Richard "Rick" Joseph Rogowski

OCT 9, 1974 - AUG 11, 2023



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“In a bed, in a bed/By the waterside I will lay my head/Listen to the river sing  
sweet songs/To rock my soul.”

~ The Grateful Dead, Brokedown Palace

Richard Joseph Rogowski (Rick), 48, adoring husband, proud father, and amazing traveling companion, left this Earth far too soon on Friday, August 11, 2023. Rick was the kind of person who got into your heart and never left, and his loss is felt deeply by all who knew him.

Rick was born on October 9, 1974, in Buffalo, NY to Rosanne and Craig Rogowski. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from SUNY New Paltz. In 1992, while at SUNY Oneonta, he met Marianne Clark from Poughkeepsie, NY, and on June 29, 1996, they were married. Together they and their two amazing children, Roman and Alea, adventured through life together. For many years, Rick owned and operated Village Paws and Claws, a retail pet and grooming shop in Mooresville, NC. It was a place where people came in to shop for pet supplies, but almost everyone would stick around and shoot the breeze for a bit with him. Rick was a brilliant, compassionate, and beautiful soul with a big heart, a boisterous laugh, and an entirely contagious zest for life felt by anyone lucky enough to cross his path. Accepting of all people, you only had to tell him your name once, and he would remember you forever (and probably Google your voting record as well). He followed his own rules, wore many different hats (literally), and on occasion, could be seen dressed in tie dye from head to toe. Rick would stay up all night talking to you, always get you home safely, and took time to notice the beauty of life. He loved history, travel, festivals, music, art, his luscious locks, and beautiful mountain top sunrises. He had a gift for making others feel welcome and at ease, and his zany antics earned him the affectionate nickname “The Laughing Boy.”

Rick was preceded in death by his father, Craig Anthony Rogowski, Buffalo, NY. Surviving are his wife of 27 years, Marianne Rogowski, Huntersville, NC; two children, Roman Rogowski, Huntersville, NC, and Alea Rogowski, Cary NC; mother, Rosanne Orban and husband Chris, Alpena, MI; sister, Rebecca Rogowski, Buffalo, NY; brother, Dominic Rogowski and wife Dana



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(West Seneca, NY); grandmother, Lucia Schipani, Lackawanna, NY; cousin and festive bestie, Chris Gugliuzza, Huntersville, NC; dog Eleanor "Elly" Roosevelt and cat Barack "Mango" Obama; and 16 nieces and nephews, as well as many cousins and beloved friends.

Calling hours will be held on Friday from 4-7 PM at the James Funeral Home, 10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville. The Celebration of Life service will be led by Father Larry Evans II at the James Funeral Home on Saturday at 11:00 AM with a reception to follow. Whether you dress in formal, casual, or festive attire, we encourage everyone to wear something that would make Rick smile. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the March for Our Lives Foundation (<https://secure.everyaction.com/45zWIUMUqUycXs7bfGH8gA2>).

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.



# Events


**Richard "Rick" Joseph Rogowski**

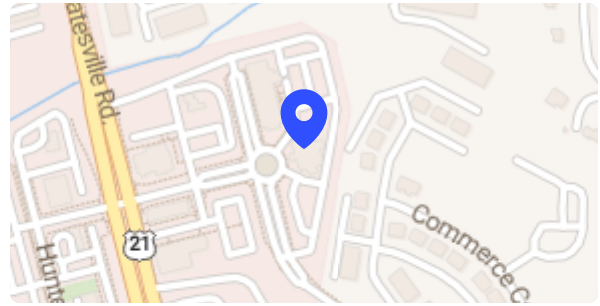
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## Visitation

 **Friday**, August 18, 2023


 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **James Funeral Home**  
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078



## Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, August 19, 2023

 11:00 AM ET

 **James Funeral Home**  
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078





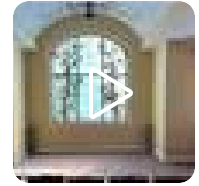
## Tribute Wall

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**James Funeral Home** shared a **Webcast Video**.



August 19 at 5:20 AM



**Yvette Beard** posted:

We are so very sorry for your loss! Please know your family is in our thoughts and prayers as you navigate this difficult time. Yvette and Randy Beard

August 18 at 11:54 AM



**Cindy Perrotta** posted:

Marianne, I am so very sorry for your loss. I will never forget how his personality lit up the room when I met him. He was a larger than life guy with a wonderful outlook on life. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Cindy Perrotta

August 18 at 11:44 AM



**Blake Griffith** posted:

The party never really reached that sweet spot til Ricky showed up. One of my most favorite people ever. He was a completely unique individual. There is no substitute. My favorite memory is him asking Micah and I if we would join a soccer league with him. Sure, why not, I was expecting a rec league, a beer league. Nope. Not for Rick. He signed us up for a competitive league full of 30 something's that we're sure that this game the MLS was there scouting talent. Needless to say, we got absolutely rocked. Housed. Decimated. 10 games in a row. Rick saw it and put himself in goal for every game knowing he was going to get 30 shots a game to the face. Total class act. All this to say, Rick might have got you in a jam occasionally, but it was always a good time and he was always smack dab in the middle of it with you.

August 17 at 3:43 PM



**Joseph Geoghegan** posted:

It's been a long time since those crazy college days but I'll always remember Rick's laugh and his unique perspective on just about everything. Zany is actually a perfect word to sum up his ethos. When not being zany, Rick could get deep on life and never seemed to stress out. Sending love and strength to Marianne and the kids. Joe G or as Rick called me Gohaygaaaaaaa

August 17 at 8:39 AM



## Tribute Wall

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RM

**Ray Mollica** posted:

Rick was a great man. He was one of the first friends I made in Oneonta where we went to college. Easy going, quick to laugh, a good friend. I will miss him. Ray Mollica

August 17 at 8:24 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Rogowski family.



August 14 at 9:26 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Richard (Rick).



August 14 at 9:26 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Richard (Rick).



August 14 at 5:35 AM

BM

**Brian Mcswain** posted:

Marianne, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you or your family. With deepest sympathy, Brian McSwain

August 14 at 3:43 AM

HG

**Hannah Graham** posted:

Marianne, We are so sorry for this incomprehensible loss. You and your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. Much Love, Hannah and Bob

August 12 at 12:25 PM



# Media

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**James Funeral Home** shared a **Webcast Video**.

August 19 at 5:20 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Richard (Rick) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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