



Rick Thomas

August 15, 1959 - March 4, 2012

Rick Thomas of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away Sunday, March 4, 2012, at his home. Rick was born August 15, 1959, in Fort Ord, California, to Grace and Walt Thomas. Growing up the son of a Navy Captain, he and his brother Bob were fortunate to travel and live throughout the United States. He lived in Carmel, California; Arlington, Virginia; Sunnyvale, California; Portsmouth, Rhode Island; Chula Vista, California; Patuxent River, Maryland; Springfield, Virginia; and Lincoln, Nebraska. Rick graduated from Lincoln East High School. He holds a B.A. in Advertising from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After graduating college, Rick moved to Boulder and settled in Fort Collins in 1985. Here, he met and married the love of his life, Susan, and together they created a loving home and raised a family. Rick and Susan were married in 1989, and he committed himself not only to his one and only love, but also to her children Dustin and Dana. Rick and Susan were later blessed by the birth of their son Sean. With over 20 years of experience in the food and beverages industry, Rick was a natural with people and a beloved member of the Fort Collins community. In the early 1990s his first lead role came as Food and Beverage Director of Fort Collins' Hammons Holiday Inn. He then served as General Manager of Pitchers Sports Restaurant in Fort Collins from 1993 until 2002. From 2002 until 2011 he and his wife Susan were co-owners of The Vault Tavern, where Rick also worked as General Manager. He served hundreds of loyal and enthusiastic customers weekly and maintained a stellar and dedicated staff. Rick was an avid supporter of the local community. He scheduled weekly musical events and monthly art shows showcasing talented local artists. Rick was a keenly intelligent, compassionate, and gregarious man. He loved to laugh and never took himself too seriously. He was a caring and loyal friend who made everyone around him feel singularly valued. His light went out too soon, but everyone will remember forever the light he shed on his family's life and everyone he touched. And he was a huge sports fan – Rick was absolutely elated when his beloved Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004. Rick is survived by his loving and ever-devoted wife of 23 years, Susan Thomas; his children Sean Thomas, Dustin Tschirley, and Dana Dailey; his son-in-law Andy Dailey and grandson Jackson Dailey; his brother Bob Thomas; and his mother Grace Thomas. He is preceded in death by his father Captain Walter R. Thomas, USN. A time to mourn his passing and celebrate his life will be held

beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at Timberline Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. A meal and fellowship at Timberline Church will follow. A “Rick-a-palooza” wake will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, at Hodi’s Half Note (a Hawaiian shirt is suggested). Please come and share your memories and love of Rick Thomas, who has left us much too soon.

Comments



“ Dear Susan and Family,
I am so very saddened by the loss of Rick. Please accept my sincerest sympathies. My heart breaks for you all. Rick was absolutely one of the highlights of my career at the Holiday Inn! I remember playing silly games with him (imagine!), where we had a subject, like "name an Oscar". We would then go back and forth and each name an Oscar (de la Hoya, the Grouch, etc), sometimes calling from office-to-office, sometimes leaving While You Were Out messages and so forth. It was hilarious! He was such a smart, likeable man with a quick wit, who I loved dearly. Though I hadn't seen Rick in a few years, my heart aches with you. I know the whole community grieves with you, too, Susan. May God bless you mightily, as you go through the incredibly difficult time.

Sincerely, and With Love,
Sandy Ernst Aldern

Sandy Ernst Aldern - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ We knew Rick from the time we opened our business in 1991 and always found him to be an agreeable person. He was easy to work with and fun to talk to. We followed his career from the Holiday to the Vault and always knew him as a successful entrepreneur. We will miss him.

Rob Cagen - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Susan and family, Chris and I are so sorry for your loss. I worked with Rick at Pitchers for a few years and Chris had some crazy bets with a Raider fan. Rick was a great boss and a wonderful person. We will miss him.

Chris and Connie Mares - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To Susan, Sean, Dustin, Dana and All Family,

I was so saddened to hear of Rick's premature passing. Although we go WAY back to UPHI days, I was so fortunate to re-connect with Rick and see him quite often in the last few years, whether at the Vault or school functions. Rick was always upbeat and had a smile for everyone. He was such a card, and so clever. I will never forget the time when we were all dancing at the Christmas Party...in 1985(!) to John Mellencamp's R.O.C.K in the U.S.A., when in the middle of the song, Rick turned to us and chanted "RICKY in the U.S.A" - LOL! There were many, many other times when Rick showed is playful, quick wit.

He was a good friend, and will be so missed. I am so sorry to have missed the service and especially his life celebration at Hodie's. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very sad time.

Todd McIntyre - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ As a graduate student in the Creative Writing Program at CSU, Rick was always generous and kind when we showed up after workshops. In addition, he was gracious enough to allow the MFA program to host the Reading Series at the Vault. I know I speak for everyone who has met Rick when I say he will be missed dearly.

Kelley - March 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM