



Richard William Hansen

April 19, 1956 - May 8, 2017

Richard William Hansen passed away peacefully, suddenly and way too soon on May 8, 2017. Born 1956 in Detroit, Michigan, he grew up in Plattsburgh, NY where he attended Mount Assumption Institute High School. Summers were spent at the family cottage in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which remained his geographic spiritual home.

College followed at SUNY-Albany and the Environmental School of Forestry, University of Maine and University of Minnesota. He worked as an entomologist for 29 years for the USDA-APHIS in Massachusetts, Montana and Colorado as an expert on the biological control of weeds using insects.

His love of music led to singing in chorales across the US, including spending the last 13 years with the Larimer Chorale in Fort Collins, CO, where he was able to enjoy wonderful music and dear friends.

He shared his deep enjoyment and encyclopedic knowledge of everything — including all kinds of music or museums, books or jokes, beer or scotch, cooking or skiing, gardening or nature, sports or history, lakes or insects and more.

He is missed by his wife of 35 years, Sandy Bartell Hansen; and daughters, Cynthia and Alice; his mother, Jeanne Hansen; sisters, Suzie and Nancy;

brothers, Tom and David and their families in New York and California.

A Celebration of Life for family and friends will be held in Fort Collins. We hope you will listen to some music, tell a bad joke, lift a glass of spirits and smell a flower in remembrance.

Tribute Wall

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“ Rich and I had a few bonds. Life in Montana, passion for our work, but probably more importantly beer... and most importantly.....humor. I EXPECTED a new joke or riddle each time I talked to Rich on the phone. It was rare that I could provide a joke for Rich that he hadn't already heard or that he had to correct me on how I was "supposed" to tell the joke. Just before he passed, we had a long talk. He helped me pull together information for a presentation, we talked about the future of our efforts in the Agency, and what retirement looked like.....and shared a few jokes to wrap it up. Life's not fair, Rich.....but you made it bearable. (Which reminds me of the big bad black bear that bellied up to the bar in Butte...joke). Thank you for the smiles and memories.

Gary Adams - May 24, 2017 at 09:57 AM