



Richard Michael Villanti

September 27, 1947 - March 26, 2021

On Mar. 26, 2021, Richard Michael Villanti passed away at the age of 73 in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

Rich was the youngest of four children born in Sayre, PA, on September 27, 1947, to Anthony and Mary Villanti. He had a passion for all sports and was a standout athlete playing football, basketball, and baseball. Notably, he led the Sayre High football team to an undefeated season, was a three-sport letterman, and was inducted into the Sayre Hall of Fame.

Rich graduated from Sayre in 1965 and was drafted into the army in 1967. While in the army, he was awarded marksman, broke records of many physical achievement tests, and reluctantly shipped overseas to Korea. He was honorably discharged in 1969 and began his 32-year railroad career as a conductor.

Family was the most important thing to Rich. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Maureen Villanti; six children and spouses, Sean and April Villanti, Jason and Sonia Villanti, Anthony Villanti and Rachel Brown, Richard and Rejane Villanti, Dominic Villanti, and Kelly Villanti and Joseph Antonetti; brother and spouse, Dominic and Debbie Villanti; two grandchildren, Madison and Leo Villanti; and many other extended family members.

His favorite times were spent with family at the Seneca Lake house, poolside on Hayden Street, or any beach where he could enjoy the sun. He loved attending and watching sporting events with his family, especially Penn State football games and NY Yankees baseball games. He dedicated most of his

post-athletic career to coaching multiple generations both on and off the field. He had a wonderful sense of humor, could spark a conversation with anyone, and even after suffering a stroke continued to surprise everyone.

A funeral service will be held Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Epiphany, South Elmer Ave., Sayre, PA. The family will receive friends Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of the Alteri-Bowen Funeral Home, Sayre, PA.

Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Epiphany
304 S Elmer Ave
Sayre, PA 18840

Service

APR 1. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Epiphany
304 S Elmer Ave
Sayre, PA 18840

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Michael Villanti*

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Richard Michael Villanti*

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Richard Michael Villanti*

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Richard Michael Villanti*

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ *Richard Michael Villanti*

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM

NL

“ *Maureen and family,*

Jerry and I want to express our deepest sympathy to you, wishing you comfort and peace at this time and hope you are continually surrounded by strength. We know Rich had a tough struggle at the end. Our prayers go with you.

Nancy and Jerry Lockwood

Nancy and Jerry Lockwood - April 03, 2021 at 08:26 PM

LD

“ *My warmest thoughts and condolences to Ritchie's wife and children. I was part of the group that graduated with him in the Class of 1965. We all enjoyed each other, the "Valley", our group of friends and the adventure of learning to "grow up".. He was fun, loyal to his friends, hard working and respectful of his parents, grandmother and uncle. I agree that his passing is way too soon.*

Linda Comerinsky Dobson (Cosit)

Linda Comerinsky Dobson - April 01, 2021 at 05:33 PM

JA

“ *good bye old friend. you may have left us but the memories of us growing up together will never be forgotten,*

john antonetti - April 01, 2021 at 10:11 AM

CH

“ Chris and Naya Hayes purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Richard Michael Villanti.



Chris and Naya Hayes - March 30, 2021 at 07:33 PM

JC

“ We were so sorry of Richie's passing. We graduated together and fell very fortunate to have known him. Our prayers are with his family at this difficult time.
Jim & Jean Nobles Ciavardini

Jim Ciavardini - March 30, 2021 at 06:16 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Michael Villanti.



March 30, 2021 at 04:58 PM

HD

“ My condolences to the Villanti family! I grew up playing sports with Richie and Dom in Sayre. I always remember Richie and Dominic when playing football for the Sayre Redskins. He had a lot of determination and a good sense of humor!

Harry Durham - March 30, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Michael Villanti.*



March 30, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ *Jason and family*

Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Our prayers are with you.

John and Linda Grandeo

John & Linda Grandeo - March 30, 2021 at 11:48 AM



“ *Maureen and family,
Mary and I send our sincere condolences on the passing of Richie. He and I spent many hours together coaching small fry football, playing softball, traveling long distances to work on the railroad when Conrail took over, and socializing frequently at the Hotel Bradford and many other places. Richie and you have raised a wonderful family and he was so proud of all 6 children and his grandchildren. May your memories help ease the pain.*

Daryl Rich - March 30, 2021 at 09:18 AM

RS

“ I send my sincerest condolences to Richie's family.

I too graduated with "Richie" (as we called him) in the class of '65. We also attended the old Epiphany school on Elmer Avenue. I have two vivid and fond memories of Richie. He was, as noted, a superior athlete noted. I was, at best, average.

However I recall vividly the day when my Little League team, ILGWU Local 365 beat his team sponsored by the Sayre National Bank in the 1960 Championship. It was quite astonishing considering our team was the decided underdog. Richie made the last out by hitting a rocket of a ground ball to our third baseman who stopped and threw it to me at first base just in time.

The other incident occurred in the Sayre-Athens gam in late October 1964. Richie was the hero this time. As I recall our victory occurred because of a play that he made to keep a drive going for out last touchdown. On fourth down and short yardage for a first down he was stopped short but fumbled forward and out of bounds. That kept the drive alive. Anyone who attended the game surely remembers it. His heroics were all the more noteworthy because it appeared before that play we would surely lose to our hated rival.

Finally, and as a fellow veteran (USN '65-'69), I salute you, Richie. May you rest in peace. I will always remember you.

*Richard A. Smith, JD
Phoenix, AZ*

Richard A. Smith - March 29, 2021 at 10:41 PM

AW

“ *My condolences to the Villanti Family. It is indeed sad to learn another from the Class of '65 has passed. Rich, along with several others certainly made the Redskins shine.*

Allen "Al" Warner

Allen Warner - March 29, 2021 at 07:36 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Richard Michael Villanti.*



March 29, 2021 at 05:48 PM