



Richard Minnaar

November 25, 1987 - May 30, 2010

Richard was born November 25, 1987 in Springs, South Africa. He moved to America in March of 1999. Richard was and will always be known for his open door and heart policy to anyone he met. He was a friend that would go the extra mile without hesitation or judgment. His passion and gift was working on and rebuilding motor vehicles. When he was not working on cars he could be found spending time with his other two passions Danielle and Diesel. He had a drive for living life to the fullest and it can be said without a shadow of a doubt, "Richard embraced every moment and lived every minute to its fullest." Adventure was his middle name.

Richard is survived by his parents,

Sandy, Keith and Warren, his sister

Candice, nephew Shane. Gran Tina,

Aunts, Uncles and Cousins

and his four legged child Diesel.

Tribute Wall

MO

“ Oh, today was so tough. I went to Eagle Mountain Lake to collect my Richie's personal items: wallet and cell phone. Oh, the pain is unreal, I miss you my Champ. I miss you, so badly. Love always, mom

mom - August 07, 2010 at 11:26 PM

MS

“ Oh, I miss your text messages, your phonecalls, your barbeque dinners at your place, the breakfasts and lunches at Judge Beans. Some days, I can look at your photos hanging on the walls, and those on the mantle and on tables . . . and I just smile, cherishing the precious memories of the past. But, then there are some days that are really so tough, and when I look at the photos, tears just roll down my cheeks, oh how I miss you. My champ, my Richie. Thanking God again and again for the years I had with you. Still, the unconditional love, mom

Mom - Sandy - July 02, 2010 at 11:08 PM

RU

“ I remember Richard as a lively youngster of about 6/7 years old. Always busy doing things. You obviously kept that spark into adulthood. You will always be remembered by your family and friends.

Roland & Michelle Urmson - June 28, 2010 at 05:36 AM

JM

“ I never met Richard or Carmen in person but I have met Sandy, their mom. I feel like I know them through all of the memories shared by those left behind. I know Richard and Carmen are with Jesus and I look forward to meeting them.

Jamie McCrary - June 23, 2010 at 05:07 PM

MS

“ Lord, I attach my pain to all of Your pain. I do not understand the mystery of pain, nor do I grasp the power of it to change a stubborn will like mine. Though I do not understand Your plan, my Lord, I accept it. I trust Your love and give You mine in the hope of being lost in Your embrace. Amen." Resting in Your everlasting arms'

Mom, Sandy - June 20, 2010 at 09:10 PM

“ Thoughts from Warren

A fathers tribute to his incredible son

Solomon shares with us in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is a time and place for everything and right now we are in the very depths of despair & heartache at the passing of our precious son Richard. No one can prepare you for such a time. There is no more convincing way of letting parents know that children are on loan to us than when they are taken ALL TOO SOON.

Rich, you lived life to the fullest. Your energy, vitality and passion for life made people want to be around you. Your gregarious nature and winning smile....oh that magnificent smile....drew people of all ages and made them love you instantly. This is clearly evidenced by those who have gathered here to honor you.

Your zest for life was inspiring and your love for cars and engines contagious. You encouraged those around you to participate in your excitement which was easy to do as you impressed with your knowledge and skills. You were gifted in so many ways but mostly in this area which you were passionate about. You know you are good when a 6 year old's first comment on looking at his crashed radio controlled aeroplane is "Uncle Richard will be able to fix it" and Rich your love for engines started at about the same age as Shane when you first sat on your Pee Wee motor bike and it quickly developed from there.

Thank you Rich for blessing me with so many wonderful memories and with your permission would like to share with our dear friends one that we often spoke about because of the fun we had.

.....you were 16 and growing in confidence as a driver. It was the time that off road vehicles and offroading were all the rage. The venue selected for our experience was Marshall's Creek. It had been raining and the conditions absolutely perfect for a 4x4. That is.....if you had a 4x4. Not too worry our 1.3, Stick shift, Geo Metro,

which you loved so much, would suffice. It was not a 4x4 and did not have AC but was equipped with coffee holders and guaranteed to smile when pulling into a gas station. I smile now as I reflect back on you driving this vehicle. We arrived at Marshall's Creek, selected an area and proceeded to do donuts, hand brake turns, and the like on a scaled down version considering your age and our vehicle. It was great fun but paled in comparison to when we went a little too far and got stuck in the mud. We tried again to convince our Geo that it was a 4x4 and to get us out of this mess. FORTUNATELY, it couldn't and it was left to Richard and myself to dig it out. Hours later, covered in mud from head to toe, except for the smiles on our faces, we recovered our Geo and received a significant deposit in our memory bank at the same time - thank you Rich.

*Rich, very dear friends of ours said the following about you:-
"Richard has always been genuine and what you see is what you get. What you got in Richard is one of the most kind, caring and giving people you could ever meet"
and Rich take this as a HUGE compliment because the friends who said this about you know what they are talking about because they epitomize kindness, caring and giving and have blessed our entire family immeasurably. May I also say a very big thank you to everyone who has touched Richard's life in a positive way and in so doing help mold a young man whose parents are so proud of and who everyone adored.*

*Rich, we shared earlier how easy it was to love you and want to add that it was equally as easy to admire you. Your manners were impeccable.... always a please and a thank you. You were considerate and respectful of others and grateful for whatever you received. You were strong on the outside and at times removed your halo.....eg letting everyone in the neighborhood know you were heading home two blocks away by allowing us to share in your music and suped up engine..... or as a little boy teasing your sisters....or chasing the sheep and chickens.
Whilst strong on the outside you also displayed a beautiful*

sensitivity on the inside evidenced by the letters and cards you kept. I am so very grateful

Warren Urmson - June 14, 2010 at 08:13 AM

BM

“ *Richard,
I remember you as a very young boy when you still lived in Benoni.
They are very fond memories I have.
You were just too full of life and far too young to go...!!!
To your Mom, Keith, Warren, Candice and Shane my sincerest and
deepest heart felt sympathies - you will never be forgotten.
Barry Meyer*

Barry Meyer - June 14, 2010 at 07:10 AM

KI

“ *i remember richard picking me up for school in my Trans Am
because i couldnt drive it yet when i lived with carmen and all the
times we got pulld over and me forgetting to put the car in park
when i got out to talk to the officer and of course richard saved the
day and threw the car into park from the backseat I also remember
when richard and carmen decided to try to float me down the road in
a box after it rained alot I didnt want to i knew it wouldnt work but
befor i could say no richard had picked me up and put me in the box
it was so funny i didnt go very far n the box fell apart. i have so
many great memories of richard and carmen together and apart
they were the best people i have ever had a blessing of knowing in
my life and they will always be in my heart*

Kimberly - June 11, 2010 at 09:35 AM

TW

“ I am a friend of Sandy's and I never had the honor of meeting her son Richard, but it came as no surprise to me of how all of friends and family spoke of his loving, giving, kind heart! I have known Sandy for a few years and I have to say that I have never met a person on this earth that has such a sweet spirit and kind heart! The lord just shines from within her! I now know how everyone viewed Richard in the same light! May the LORD give your FAMILY his PEACE! Blessings! Tanya Wheeler

Tanya Wheeler - June 10, 2010 at 09:47 PM

MB

“ I only met Richard a couple of times when I was visiting Sandy at her house. I love Sandy so much and after attending the memorial, I have learned that Richard shared many of Sandy's qualities. You will certainly be missed, but not forgotten.

Marsha Benda - June 10, 2010 at 04:48 PM

SS

“ It has been a very long time since seeing Richard before they immigrated to the States, but we remember him as a lovely little boy, with a huge SMILE... always loving animals... he was a loving little boy, and sure a loving adult! He will be missed sorely by his family and friends.. Prayers are sent to his loving mom, his sister and all the family xxx

Steve and Ashley van den Bergh SA - June 10, 2010 at 03:42 AM

BB

“ Sandy I never had the pleasure of meet your handsome son. I am so sorry for your loss. May God give you strength to endure the heartache of losing yet another child. Like Job we are tested every day but we must remain strong in our faith. I love you.

Belva Brodin - June 09, 2010 at 08:00 PM

SN

“ Richard,
Wow, where to start I am so thankful to have known you, and never would have known you if it had not have been for Carmen who too we lost too soon. I have so many little memories that make me smile like how you let your accent slip when you were around just me and Carmen or your family, the times when I used to drive you to school before you got your license and then after you did learn to drive you decided to teach me to drive a stick shift in your little car! It used to make me laugh how much you and Carmen used to bicker and fight but still clearly had so much love for each other. You have an amazing family. You are one of the most genuine people I know and it's hard to find other guys around like you, I like to boast and say it's because you're South African, but you truly are a special person! I only met Danielle once but it was clear how much you two loved each other. I love you like a brother Richard and will keep the memories of you and Carmen with me forever. ~Sam

Samantha Naylor - June 09, 2010 at 07:00 PM

CP

“ How precious your memorial service was and how very loved you were! Your mom is a very special example of faith right now. I am confident you are enjoying time with Carmen.

Carol Potts - June 09, 2010 at 06:01 PM

GS

“ Richard - I knew you as a precious little boy back in South Africa. Your passing hardly seems possible...
Sandy, Candice, Aunty Kay, Keith and Debbie, you have constantly been in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord's peace and sweet memories of Richard console you!
Love always,
Al, Genie & Aunty Connie

Genie Strachan-Smith - June 09, 2010 at 05:43 PM

OM

“ Our condolences and love to you, Sandy.

O.E.& Kay Miller - June 09, 2010 at 03:56 PM

MC

“ We knew you as a small boy living in SA. Our prayers and thoughts go out to the family on this very tragic event. We thank God for your faith in God Sandy and Tina, you have encouraged us. He had grown into a good looking boy!

Marlene & Ivan Currie - June 09, 2010 at 03:15 PM

JH

“ This must be your dear son who has died so recently. We did not know this. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and the family. How tragic about Carmen and now Richard! Your heart must be broken a thousand times over!
God bless you always.

Jerry & Ann Hogg - June 09, 2010 at 01:37 PM

GT

“ Richie, I have no words, I LOVE YOU !

Gran, Tina - June 09, 2010 at 10:35 AM

MS

“ *" Across the miles . . . to Heaven "Richard, - a part of you has grown in us, together forever we shall be, never apart, maybe in distance, but never in the heart".*

Mother, Sandy - June 09, 2010 at 10:33 AM

MS

“ *Richard, my "Champ". All I can say right now, thank you for 22 incredible years of unconditional love. For making me proud. For being YOU. Love forever.*

Mother, Sandy - June 09, 2010 at 10:29 AM

LW

“ *Richard came over a few times to swim in my pool with Rhonda and me. He loved a good conversation and was always, always respectful. I light a candle for you Richard. You are leaving us many happy memories.*

Lisa Harper Wood - June 08, 2010 at 08:31 PM