

"Celebration of the Life of Richard H. Crowley"

Feb. 2, 1936 - Jan. 30, 2016

Written by Ruthie Crowley, photo taken in 2008 at Fun N Sun



Richard was born into a loving home in Hornell, NY. He was the oldest of three boys who had an older sister. He always said he had the best childhood a boy could ask for as he had two parents, good friends, many places to explore and much to do. He joined Boy Scouts, was a school patrol boy, a newspaper boy and enjoyed overnight campouts with friends.

In his teen years he worked at Canada Dry Bottling and earned the extra money to buy the several cars he was noted for driving. His senior yearbook said, "Richard worked for Canada Dry and had a different car every time he went by."

He married young, learned how to play the guitar and upright bass. His wife was musical and so was her family. He learned to sing and he also called old-fashioned square dances. He was drafted into the U.S. Army, served his time and moved to Scranton, PA, where he worked for the Erie Lackawanna Railroad. Dick and Lorraine adopted their first daughter, Janet, in Scranton.

Dick and Lorraine eventually returned to NY. There they adopted three more children: David, Nick and Bonnie. They moved to Caledonia, NY, because they did not want the children to attend city schools. Dick was a very busy man during this time in his life. He opened a music store (which his wife ran) and he sold real estate, owned rental property as well as working a full-time job. With Lorraine's help they organized a family band called "The Crowley Clan," which played at many local events as well as some out of the area.

Lorraine passed away in 1986 and Ruthie's husband passed away the same year. Dick and Ruthie met at a music event, he as a musician and she as a listener. They were married in 1999. They spent time in NY hosting and attending music jams and enjoying their families. She sold her house and two years later he sold his large Victorian house in Caledonia. They RVed in Florida and traveled the east coast the first three years, then heard about an RV park in Texas called Fun N Sun. They purchased a small house together in Bergen, NY, and headed for TX. They started spending three months at Fun N Sun and three months traveling. It was around this time that Dick was diagnosed with Parkinson's (the year was 2002).

Over the years they continued coming to Fun N Sun, first RVing here then driving their car, and then flying. They owned three homes: first K124, then N13, and lastly T408.

They moved here permanently in November, 2014, so Dick would not have to battle the cold NY winters. Also doctors and hospitals were closer.

For those that knew Dick, they know his struggle was long. At the end he was battling Parkinson's, Lewy Body dementia, spinal stenosis, celiac disease as well as dystonia (which he was first diagnosed with at age 37).

Now God has him in his loving arms and he is at peace. No more pain, he is no longer a cripple. He is playing music and singing with the heavenly choir. Rest in peace, Richard. You have earned your rest for a life well lived.