

Richard A. Gregg, Jr., 70, died peacefully on June 23rd, 2021, at the Ohio State University Hospitals. Rick was diagnosed in June of 2019 with terminal small cell lung cancer and kept his outlook positive during his two-year battle.

Rick was born and raised in Upper Arlington. A 1969 graduate of Upper Arlington High School, Rick was one of the managers of the State Champion football teams. He earned a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Ohio State University in 1976. He was a long-time employee of Culvers Drug Stores before becoming a sales representative for a national drug store distributor. During this part of his life, he realized that he was better suited for more unconventional types of jobs. He built a career working for people in the community that he had built strong relationships with over the years. He was part personal caregiver, chauffeur, handyman, and apartment manager for several people. He also cared for his parents in his home as they aged.

He lived in his house in the Short North area of Columbus from 1979 until shortly before he passed. His neighborhood and the community meant everything to Rick and he was passionate about supporting the preservation, history, and charm of the area. His neighbors had business cards made for him with a title of "Professional Neighbor" because Rick would go above and beyond to help his neighbors - people, as well as every stray cat, squirrel, and critter in the neighborhood that he also looked out for.

Rick was devoted to keeping up with Columbus politics and was a dedicated election poll worker at each election. He could fix anything, enjoyed tending to his garden and plants – especially his roses and tomatoes, and was always willing to lend a helping hand. He loved all animals, old cars, architecture, collecting stamps, and would always cheer on any of the teams at Ohio State.

In 2018 Rick played a key role in the 50-year reunion of the Upper Arlington State Champion football team. Rick was instrumental in organizing the banquet and in providing the most comprehensive scrapbook so that the documentary of the team would have accurate facts and summaries about each game. He truly loved being a part of that team back then and was a consistent participant in the team's monthly dinners that began after that reunion. At one of those dinners, he calmly announced that he had been diagnosed with cancer. Then he smiled contently and said, "I've had a good life, so if it's time to go, it's time to go."

Rick was a genuinely kind and reliable person with a big heart who will be missed greatly as an uncle, great uncle, teammate, and close friend to many.