



Richard "Rick" A. Montcalm

September 23, 1947 - February 8, 2022

Richard A. "Rick" Montcalm, age 74, of Monroe, passed away Tuesday morning, February 8, 2022, after fighting a spirited battle with cancer and combating numerous complications in recent months.

Born September 23, 1947, in Detroit, to the late John and Mary (Miller) Montcalm, Rick was the oldest of seven children. He graduated from Saginaw High School in 1965. Three years later, he married Ruth Abraham, his wife for the next 53 years, and the love of his life. After graduating from his beloved Michigan State University in 1970, he served in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Nuremberg, Germany, where he and Ruth lived for a time, until he was honorably discharged on December 9, 1971.

Rick then began his long career in education as a math teacher in Tecumseh, where he rose through the ranks to become the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance. He held that same position in Monroe for 14 years, and then in Utica Community Schools, where he finished his career, retiring in 2009. Along the way, he obtained Master's and Specialist's Degrees from Eastern Michigan University. He was also a member and leader of Michigan School Business Officials, serving as the association's president in 2005.

Rick was dedicated to serving his community. Over the years he was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kiwanis Club, the YMCA of Monroe, and the former Monroe County Teachers Credit Union, among others. He co-founded Leadership Monroe. And he served on the board of Directions Credit Union at the time of his death.

Rick loved to play and watch sports. He was an avid golfer, played racquetball and cards, coached, and worked as an athletic official. Though he cheered for all of the Detroit sports teams, he saved his loudest cheers (and jeers) for the Michigan State Spartans.

Above all else in his full life, Rick loved his family and friends. He cared fiercely for and protected his loved ones, who will miss him dearly. In addition to his wife Ruth, he is survived by their two children, Carrie (Jason) Zimmerman of South Carolina and Jonathan (Megan) Montcalm of New York; five siblings: Kathryn (Kent) Hetrick of Indiana, Denise (Jean Perry) Montcalm of Nevada, Patricia Topping of Michigan, Maryann (Tom Croft) Godek of Michigan, and Brian Montcalm of Michigan; three grandchildren, Zoe Zimmerman, Gavin Zimmerman, and Josephine Montcalm; and mother-in-law Ruth (Abraham) Baker of Michigan.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Montcalm.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a donation in Rick's honor to the Salvation Army of Monroe, the Monroe YMCA, or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

A memorial visitation will be held from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 11, at Bacarella Funeral Home. At 6:30 p.m., military honors will be provided by Monroe VFW Post 1138, followed by a Scripture Service. On Saturday, February 12, the family will receive visitors at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church followed by the Mass of the Resurrection at 11:00 a.m., and then lunch at the Parish Life Center. The church pastor, Rev. Fr. David Burgard, will officiate. The family asks that all visitors wear facial coverings when attending the visitation and funeral.

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary page at www.bacarellafuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 11. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.
Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road
Monroe, MI 48161
info@bacarellafuneralhome.com
<https://bacarellafuneralhome.com/>

Veterans Service

FEB 11. 6:30 PM (ET)

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.
Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road
Monroe, MI 48161
info@bacarellafuneralhome.com
<https://bacarellafuneralhome.com/>

Scripture Service

FEB 11. 6:45 PM (ET)

Bacarella Funeral Home, Inc.
Address: 1201 South Telegraph Road
Monroe, MI 48161
info@bacarellafuneralhome.com
<https://bacarellafuneralhome.com/>

Instate

FEB 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
127 N. Monroe St.
Monroe, MI 48162

Memorial Mass

FEB **12**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

127 N. Monroe St.

Monroe, MI 48162

Tribute Wall

DM

“ We are one of the many families grateful for the kindness and generosity shared with us by Rick and Ruth. We have been blessed by Rick's life though his friendship, his giving/caring as a wonderful neighbor, and his mentoring of our children through the many formative work opportunities he provided.

A treasure is the day he walked by while I was working in the front yard. Fresh off a study at church he was passionate about what he had learned and received. Our conversation told me something about Rick, his love for God and his love for learning. I saw that lived out on our block.

*Prayers and Love,
Dan & Anna Marie*

Dan & Anna Marie - February 12 at 05:29 PM

EK

“ From Eric and Luann Kosa.
*How do we put into words the valued friendship we have had with Rick for many many years?
He was always there for us during the good times and the rough patches... standing tall and always ready to help- a truly good man (who shared with Eric a love of golf, and with Luann, a love of chocolate!) Our lives were made better having known Rick.
Ruth, may your heart be always filled with memories of his love and care for you.*

Eric and Luann Kosa - February 12 at 04:52 PM

CL

“ Jon and family, very sorry for your loss. Our family is praying for you.

Chad Lechy - February 11 at 02:19 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" A. Montcalm.



February 11 at 12:25 PM

JM

“ Dear Ruth and family,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Rick was a key part of our board at Directions Credit Union and he brought expertise on which we depended. He also was positive and joyful to be with.

I spoke with Rick last week to ask if he would consider serving as Vice Chairman in the upcoming term. He said that he was very willing to do so and he had cut down on all his other service roles to focus on serving at Directions. Even with the health struggles that he had been contending with, he still had the heart and desire to serve in whatever way that he was asked. That's a wonderful testimony to the life that God expects for each of us and I admire how Rick lived that out!

Love and prayers to you all during this sad time.

Jay Malcolm

Jay Malcolm - February 11 at 11:57 AM

GC

“ Ruthie, Vera and I want to share our condolences with you and the family. Our kids who fondly remember Mr. Montcalm from T.H.S. also remember him as a teacher they never forgot. Please pass our sorrow to the rest of the family. We will be praying for you all. If you are ever in Naples or Northern MI. Our door will always be open for you.

Gordon & Vera Clark - February 11 at 11:12 AM

TW

“ Rick was one of the most thoughtful people I've known. He was a leader and a worker. I remember playing golf the first time with him when he was president of MSBO and parring the first three holes, something I've rarely done. On the tee of the fourth hole he said, "Looks like you've been playing more golf lately. How's work going?" I duffed my drive. He profusely apologized for 'jinxing' me! I told him that once he saw my game he'd know he hadn't! He was such a gentleman. Rick was the creator and implementer of the Meridian Award for recognizing excellence on the part of school business personnel. He was a friend and one of the top people in his field. Go in peace Rick.

Tom White - February 11 at 08:56 AM

SM

“ Ruth and family,

LaMoine and I send our love and prayers to you and your family at this time of sorrow. We remember Rick fondly and his special contributions and care for all he knew.

LaMoine and Sandra Motz

Sandra Motz - February 11 at 06:52 AM

TN

“ My thoughts and prayers for the family.

Tina Neese - February 11 at 05:58 AM

GH

“ Ruth and family, Mary and I send our prayers and sympathy on the death of Rick. He was a very special person. He was highly respected as an educational leader and public finance expert. Rick was a mentor to literally hundreds over the years. He was always willing to take time to listen and share his expertise. I had the honor of serving with Rick in various roles on the state association board (MSBO). Rick was always a gentleman and very kind to all he met. He lived his faith and was a tremendous example for all of us. It was always a pleasure to meet with Ruth and Rick and get an update about the kids grandkids. Rick was very proud of his family and beamed when he talked about Ruth.

May you find peace in this time of sorrow.

*Gerald (Jerry) and Mary Hunsburger
Holland, Michigan*

Gerald (Jerry) Hunsburger - February 10 at 08:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" A. Montcalm.



February 10 at 07:14 PM

KT

“ Rick was a supportive administrator, and I was always touched when he attended our theatrical performances at Ford II when I was the director and would spend time chatting with me after the show. Rick was a class act, and I’m saddened to hear of his passing.

Karen Trivelloni - February 10 at 04:39 PM

KG

“ Rick was my favorite Jr. High Assistant Principal at Tecumseh Public Schools. He always took a moment to speak with me or gently tease me in the hallways whenever we crossed paths. I look back on those school days fondly.

After I completed my education, Rick's career as a School Business Official also helped shape my own decision to follow a similar path. He was a kind and knowledgeable man. My deepest condolences to the family.

Kelli (Crittenden) Glenn

Kelli Glenn - February 10 at 03:39 PM

AM

“ Ruth and family, I am so saddened to hear about Rick's passing. Rick was a wonderful mentor to me as a school business official, and during my time on the MSBO board. I'll miss seeing him. My deepest sympathies!

Angie McArthur - February 10 at 03:11 PM

SK

“ Rick and I were best buds and roommates at MSU. Linda and I have been fortunate to have been friends with Rick and Ruth for 55 years. You'll be sorely missed Rick, but not forgotten!

Steve Kleinert - February 10 at 02:52 PM

LN

“ The Montcalm family lived across-the street from us in Monroe for many years. We did many activities with them like the block parties, 4th of July neighborhood parade and monthly get togethers for birthdays besides just the usual daily interactions. Rick was a great person and truly devoted to his family, the community and church. He will be greatly missed but he leaves behind wonderful memories for not only his family but so many people in the community.

I am so sorry for your loss.

Linda Nobbs and family

linda nibbs - February 10 at 12:31 PM

KH

“ I had the privilege of working with Rick on the Directions Credit Union board. He was always positive, helpful, intelligent, and focused on continuous improvement.

Regardless of his health situation, he would join meetings and add value. His strong work ethic and desire to make an impact made the credit Union a better business.

I am shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. And I am so so sorry for his family.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to work with Rick and get to know him better.

Kimberly Howard

kimberly howard - February 10 at 12:29 PM

KH

“ I enjoyed working with Rick at MPS and as a fellow Kiwanis member. I especially remember when we had to get up early in the morning to check icy roads. I was all about the children.

Rick was (is) a good man.

RIP my friend.

Kim Hooper

Kim Hooper - February 10 at 12:11 PM

KH

It was

Kim Hooper - February 10 at 12:11 PM

JH

I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF RICK'S PASSING. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BUSINESS EXECUTIVE, AND A PAST PRESIDENT OF MSBO.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLANCES.

JACK HAMM, PAST PRESIDENT OF MSBO-1989.

JACK HAMM - February 10 at 03:12 PM

MS

I had the privilege of working with Rick on the Directions Credit Union Board. His commitment to servicing the employees and membership was unrivalled. Rick was always respectful and kind to me, and I will truly miss him. Thank you for your dedication to family, friends, and communities. Rest in Heaven.

*Marybeth Sund
Directions Credit Union*

Marybeth Sund - February 10 at 04:09 PM

SR

Even though I never knew Rick, he was married to my cousin, and everything I ever heard, and read here really pointed to a top notch man! I am sorry I didn't get to know him, and know that he will be greatly missed. Sending sincere condolences to the family! hugs, cousin Sandy in Denver

sandy reavey - February 10 at 10:13 PM

GS

Ruth and family, I'm so sorry to hear of Rick's passing. He was a good man and I was honored to be his secretary for four years at Utica Community Schools.

Gail Schulte - February 11 at 12:41 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" A. Montcalm.*



February 10 at 11:16 AM