



Richard Westerman

April 8, 1947 - February 12, 2026

Richard Lee Westerman, was born April 8, 1947, in Kankakee, Illinois, to Richard S. Westerman and Betty Lee (Grady) Westerman.

Richard graduated from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School (BBCHS) in 1965. He enlisted in the United States Navy and served from 1967 to 1969. He attended Olivet Nazarene University later in life, where he earned a Bachelor of Applied Science.

He married the love of his life in 1969, Marlene Toepper, and together they built a home filled with laughter, music, and unwavering support. They were blessed with four children, each of whom he adored and guided with patience, humor, and the kind of quiet strength that made him a truly great dad.

Richard dedicated more than 20 years of his professional life to Good Shepherd Manor, where he worked in Information Technology.

A gifted craftsman, Richard found joy in building model trains and designing and constructing string instruments. His meticulous blueprints for instrument building were so exceptional that they earned a place on display at the Smithsonian, a testament to both his creativity and his devotion to the craft.

To those who knew him, Richard was more than his accomplishments. He

was funny, loyal, and the kind of person who showed up when it mattered. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, craftsmanship, and love that will continue to resonate in the lives of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Marlene Westerman of Bourbonnais, IL; two sons, Casey (Betsy Lescosky) Westerman of Atlanta, GA and Ian (Haleigh) Westerman of Bourbonnais, IL; two daughters, Darcie Westerman (T.J. Vander Velde) of Eugene, OR and Trina Westerman of Madison, WI; one grandson, Waylon Westerman; special friends, Ken and Barb Sauvage and cousins, Mike DeVries, Steve DeVries, Dana Regnier, and Bob and Kevin Grady.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Waylon Westerman's 529 education fund at: <https://go.fidelity.com/9tbv83>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Goselin Park Community Bldg.
306 S. Bridge Street
Aroma Park, IL

Tribute Wall

JO

“ JOANN-FORDBOX lit a candle in memory of Richard Westerman



JOANN-FORDBOX - February 18 at 08:34 PM

SH

“ Susan H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Westerman.

Susan H. - February 17 at 10:40 PM

WB

“ Rich's love of music was a guidepost for my young life while he and I and Red and Terry served on the Nathan Hale, and lived in Stonington CT., in Big Black.
Mimi, please know how much I will miss our Rich.
May God shine his light of Love on you and Rich's family and friends.

William Bosley Bond
QM 2
USS Nathan Hale SSBN 623 (Retired)
414-331-7218

Willam Bond - February 17 at 04:42 PM

KM

Funniest and most interesting person I've known and so knowledgeable about so many things. Will miss the fascinating stuff he put on his Facebook

I talked with him a few days before his death. I said I was in a prayer group and that we would pray him. He didn't say not to bother, didn't say thank you . He did say it was good that I had s support group. Always thinking of others.

The world is a better place for him having been it. I believe you don't have to be a Christian for God to have mercy on such a good person

Ken Marr - March 01 at 06:30 PM



“ *Donna Marcotte lit a candle in memory of Richard Westerman*



Donna Marcotte - February 17 at 01:43 AM

RB

“ *I first met Rich at a mid-90's Swannanoa Gathering Celtic Week, and I always admired his humor and wit, and his skills in luthiery. We remained friends over the intervening years, meeting up several more times at Zoukfest. I will miss him terribly—my sincere condolences to all his family and friends. He was a wonderful guy.*

Rick Boyle - February 16 at 07:04 PM

GD

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know Rich personally, but did acquire one of his octave mandolins from a friend in 1981 and played it as part of a successfully folk duo in New England called Compass Rose from 1987-1992. I still have the instrument which has a wonderful sweet tone and was a perfect accompaniment for our music. I will try and post a video or two of it being played back in the day.



Gary Dolinsky - February 16 at 05:14 PM

RW

“ Marlene and family. Please accept my deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband and father. I do not have your address so am unable to send a card but please know that Rich will be kept in my prayers as will all of those who love him and will miss him. Love & Prayers, Rita Werner

Rita Werner - February 16 at 12:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Westerman.

February 16 at 12:10 AM