



Richard Koeper

July 23, 1943 - March 13, 2010

“I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle—victorious.” --Vince Lombardi

Richard M. Koeper passed away March 13th, 2010 after suffering a massive heart attack. He was in the presence of the Lord and his immediate family at his passing. He will be greatly missed by his friends, family and the many lives that he touched and inspired. He was born in San Francisco, and graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City where he grew up and achieved many prep athletic accolades. He was named NorCal Player of the Year, Peninsula Athlete of the Year, and was a Prep All American as a football offensive lineman and baseball pitcher.

Upon graduating from high school, Rich received a football scholarship to Oregon State University where he earned his B.A and M.A. in Counseling Education. Rich was a standout offensive tackle while playing for Tommy Prothro from 1962-64. He played in the 1962 Liberty Bowl, the 1964 Hula Bowl, and capped his Oregon State football career by playing in the 1965 Rose Bowl. He earned second team All-American honors by the Associated Press during his senior year. Koeper was drafted in 1965 by the Green Bay Packers where he played under Vince Lombardi. Rich also went on to play for the Atlanta Falcons followed by the British Columbia Lions until a knee injury led him into retirement and into coaching. Rich returned to Oregon State University as an Offensive Line coach from 1973-1975 under head coach Dee

Andros. Rich went on to be employed by Hewlett-Packard until his retirement in 2001. In the last five years he was a part-time employee of First Student and drove bus #55, a job he truly loved.

Rich was inducted into the San Mateo County Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements in 1994. He was inducted into the Oregon State Hall of Fame in the year 1991. He was a devoted family man and active member of the community in many capacities. He received the United Way Award for Dedication to Community Service. Above all, as most will remember him, he was a loyal Beaver Believer. Rich is survived by his wife, Bobbye, his step son Troy Carlson, daughter-in-law Kim Carlson, grandchildren McKenzie and Abigail Carlson; his step daughter Gina, grandchildren Carly and Cole, his sister Diana and brothers Ron and Bill. Rich had an extended family of in-laws, cousins, and friends.

Rich was a devoted Christian and member of the Northwest Hills Community Church in which he and his family were actively involved. He was a devoted supporter of Frontline Ministries, Friends of the Family Ministries and Oregon State Athletic Scholarship Fund. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in his name to any of these causes through McHenry Funeral Home 206 NW 5th St. Corvallis, OR 97330. A memorial service will be held in Corvallis on April 10 at 10:00 a.m. at NW Hills Community Church in Corvallis followed by a continued Celebration of Life at the Valley Football Center at Oregon State University.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ *Bobbi, My heart is so hurting for you and I will see you next weekend. Rich was someone I would have loved to have as a father. I love you and will be thinking of you and praying for you. Love Julie*

Julie Suiter Luce - April 02, 2010 at 11:13 PM

TV

“ *My deep sympathies to all the family. I had the pleasure of watching Rich play when he was a student. We became friends when he joined 30 Staters and we always talked about sports and how things were going at HP. Rich cared about people which was really evident even more when he decided to drive school bus in his retirement years. I will miss his always friendly greeting and handshake as will his many friends across the country.*

Tony Van Vliet - March 27, 2010 at 11:09 AM

JJ

“ *Bobbye, I was shocked and sadden when I got the phone call about my good friend, Rich. We were roomates years ago and spent many a wonderful years together in Corvallis. I won't forget when you, Kiel's and Todorovich's came to my 50th birthday party at our cabin. What a great present that was! Of all of the great moments in Rich's life the day that you said "YES" when he asked you to marry him that was the day that made his life fulfilled. Bless you and your family in this time of saddness. Wish we could be there for the service.*

Jim and Norma Johnston - March 24, 2010 at 01:42 PM

JJ

“ *Richard Koeper*

Jim Johnston - March 24, 2010 at 01:31 PM

SM

“ *Those early days of building HP Corvallis in the late 1970's are a distant memory until you think about the wonderful people met along the way. Rich was one of those great people and I remember working closely with him. He once told me of the ravages football had taken on his body and how that would grow worse with the passing of time. It was a short, poignant conversation that has stuck with me through the 26 years that I've been gone from Corvallis. Bobbye, I'm sending my heartfelt sympathies to you and the family.*

Shari Morwood - March 24, 2010 at 09:06 AM

EK

“ *I worked with Rich at the Corvallis HP site for many years. He was always good for a smile and a laugh. Sorry to see his passing.*

Ed Kruskamp - March 24, 2010 at 08:46 AM

JS

“ *I transferred to Corvallis when APD moved up from Cupertino and as an R&D Project Manager, I interacted with Rich. Those were interesting times, as CVD could be frustrating as a business. I am sorry to learn of his passing and consider that period of my life as such a learning experience - and some of that was because of Rich. Rest eternally in the arms of Jesus, Rich.*

John van Santen - March 22, 2010 at 06:50 PM

NU

“ I always enjoyed my conversations with Rich when we worked at HP. He was a great guy and a fellow Beaver. He gave of himself in many ways, and should be remembered for all he did for his community and his university.

Nancy Ulman - March 21, 2010 at 09:10 PM

DG

“ I am sorry for your loss. Rich and I room-mates at Hawley Hall Winter term, 1962. And though I dropped out shortly afterward, he remains a strong presence in my memories. Though we had not communicated in all these years, his name suddenly popped into my head this morning and I thought to perhaps re-connect via Face Book. Sadly, my attempt caused me to learn of his passing. I am glad to learn of Rich's Christian faith and know that our Lord Jesus will help you through this time. I send my warmest regards and my prayers, David Goble, OSU, Class of '89

David Leroy Goble - March 21, 2010 at 11:25 AM

RV

“ Bobbye: I am so sorry to hear about Rich. He was a good guy and I was always proud to call him my friend. I will remember our times together with softball in the fondest way. Gail and I live in Central Texas now but will be returning to Oregon next year. We will look you up the next time we are in Corvallis. God bless you.

Roger VanZyl - March 20, 2010 at 12:53 PM

PE

“ Rich was and is at the top of my list of very special HP people. I am honored to have known him. I won't forget him.
My heartfelt condolences to his family and many friends.
Phillip Evans HP 1969-2000

Phillip Evans - March 20, 2010 at 12:29 PM

CG

“ I have been in the same small group (Bible Study) with Rich and Bobbye for approximately 15 years, possibly longer. Our group functioned by meeting at a different home each month and the host of the meeting any given month would lead the study. Rich always took this responsibility seriously and with reverence to our wonderful Lord. I always loved listening to Rich discuss serious issues that affected his and our walk with God. He was always so thoughtful and clearly **listened** to God for wisdom about how to lead the group. His contributions were always loving and thoughtful. I hope that Bobbye and Rich's family takes this in the spirit in which it is offered: Rich was, to me, like a huge, loving teddy bear who spoke with wisdom and gentleness and was always careful not to let our discussions slide into the realm of gossip or pettiness. He made every group member feel welcome and valued their contributions in ways that edified them. I struggle with the dilemma of being sad for Rich's passing and the effect that will have on his family, versus coveting that he is in glory! I know that the Lord has said to him, "well done, good and faithful servant."

Cheryl A. Graham - March 19, 2010 at 01:53 AM

RE

“ With our deepest sympathy.

Rich and Dee Eva` - March 18, 2010 at 10:53 PM

DM

“ Dear Bobbye...please accept my deepest sympathy at the loss of your wonderful husband Rich. All of us who worked with him at HP knew him as a great guy who could light up a room with his smile. He will be greatly missed. Thankfully you have many wonderful memories to draw from which will give you strength and comfort.

Donna Mann - March 18, 2010 at 09:07 PM

BD

“ TO THE KOEPER FAMILY, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONDOLENCES. RICH WAS A GREAT FRIEND AND WORKMATE OF MINE AT HEWLETT PACKARD. WE LOVED HIS SENSE OF HUMOR..

BILL AND JUDY DIXON - March 18, 2010 at 07:36 PM

MW

“ *Rich was a member of the HP retirees club, and a passed associate board member. We would like to convey our deepest sympathy for your loss. Many members remember working with Rich and enjoyed his outgoing nature and willingness to help. With sympathy, Margaret Watson, VP HP Retiree Club.*

Margaret Watson - March 18, 2010 at 03:45 PM

JH

“ *I am so sad to hear of Rich's passing. I worked with Rich at Hewlett-Packard Corvallis from 1991-2000. He was the recruiting manager who assisted me in my move from HP in Cupertino. My thoughts and prayers are with all of his family. I pray for your peace of heart in knowing that he is with our Heavenly Father. God Bless you all. Judy Helstrom*

Judy Helstrom - March 18, 2010 at 03:27 PM

PG

“ *I worked with Rich at HP. I have enjoyed and feel honored to have known him. He has deeply touched my life.*

Peachie Gaylor - March 18, 2010 at 10:04 AM

MB

“ *I loved Rich's heart for God and his family. He and Bobbye were always a shining example of a loving marriage. I will always remember my fellow Christian, co-worker and softball coach with a heart smile.*

Michael and Pamela Baker - March 18, 2010 at 09:12 AM