



Richard Martin Moodie

July 13, 1951 - March 3, 2020

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Richard Martin Moodie, a loving, devoted, respected and revered father, husband, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend and celebrated Captain of Industry.

Richard is survived by his son Danny Moodie, his granddaughter Amanda Hickey, his brothers Jerry Moodie, Tom Moodie and David Moodie and is predeceased by his loving wife Michelle Amicone Moodie, daughter Dawn Moodie Hickey and son Dale Moodie.

Born to humble parents Neal Moodie and Evelyn Weintraub Moodie in Bedford Ohio on July 13, 1951, Richard grew up in a modest, loving home where he learned the value of family and laughter. Attending Bedford High School, Richard quickly earned the reputation of jokester and rebel and it was here that he met his beloved wife Michelle and they were married soon after graduation and over the next several years, had 3 children.

Richard was introduced to the kitchen cabinet industry by his father whom he would work with after school and on weekends installing and repairing cabinets and countertops. He quickly learned the trade, was introduced to several local Cleveland builders and realized the potential of starting his own business, which he did in his home garage in 1969.

A very intelligent, charismatic, tenacious and hardworking man, Richard soon had repeat customers and volume sales, so he moved from his garage into a small building on Old Rockside Rd in Independence Ohio and partnered with a distributor named Kitchen Queen. He named the manufacturing portion of his company Quality Kraft.

As the growth of Quality Kraft greatly exceeded the growth of Kitchen Queen, Richard decided to end the partnership and become a manufacturer on his own. The partnership was dissolved and he named his new company Kraftmaid and moved the company from Old Rockside Rd into a much larger building on Granger Rd and, eventually, to its current home in Middlefield Ohio.

Over the next 20 years, Richard grew Kraftmaid into one of the largest cabinet manufacturing entities in the U.S.

with more than 2000 employees with sales nationwide, including prominent sales in all Home Depot and Lowes stores.

He was loved and revered by his workers, customers, peers and competitors as a fair and insightful leader and an unparalleled innovator. Richard is credited with being the “Father of Semi-Custom Cabinetry” as he was the catalyst that successfully combined commodity and custom cabinet offerings and this became his signature trademark and legacy. When he sold Kraftmaid in 1991, it was the largest manufacturer in Geauga county with an unparalleled reputation.

Over the next 28 years, Richard’s life was filled with great joy and devastating tragedy. He never fully recovered from the health-related losses of his wife Michelle and daughter Dawn and the tragic accidental death of his son Dale.

Richard will be fondly remembered, revered and loved for many things. His generosity and his compassion leading the list of memorable traits. His love of California, of good food, of movies, and for his granddaughter, son and family passed. His passion for Art and collectables and his drive to create and build at any cost. A Memorial Service will be held in Cleveland Ohio in May. All details will be shared as they develop.

Comments



“ I met Richard in 2010, he hired me to teach art to his wife. I'm so sorry to read about his passing away. A great man, fantastic friend. My heart is broken. Sending comfort to his family.

Enrique Amiama - May 14 at 11:05 AM



“ Fred & Karen Richards lit a candle in memory of Richard Martin Moodie



Fred & Karen Richards - March 29 at 07:42 PM



“ On behalf of Richard's (and Michelle's) graduating class from Bedford High Class of 1969, we are very saddened to hear of his passing. He was a wonderful businessman, but we knew him and Michelle as high school sweethearts....the Elvis and Priscilla of our time....and the love they shared. He had a very good life and a very sad one as well. We are sure he is with his true love and daughter and we trust he is at peace.

LouiseHocvar Vanek - March 24 at 11:57 AM



“ Richard was a legend in his own time. A man who touched thousands of lives, men and women who were able to provide for their families through employment he made possible through his ingenuity and determination...through his self sacrifice and risk-taking. Richard created a corporate culture that inspired us to perform our jobs at our very best in order to bring “10% more for 5% less” to our customers. I am forever indebted to him for his belief in me and the opportunity he willingly gave me working with some of the most talented and special people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. Yes, Richard, YOU made life so much better for me and for more of us than you know by providing opportunity and exemplifying true leadership. You've enriched generations ... your legacy lives on ... and so it should. May God bless your soul and grant you eternal rest.

Dave Cillian - March 14 at 04:19 PM



“ So sorry to hear about Richard passing. He was a great person & a very sharpe business person. I am so thankful for him hiring me at Kraftmaid in 1988. It changed my life. U have our deepest condolences.

Glenn & Kathy king - March 06 at 11:13 AM