

Genesee Valley Hiking Club

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD RAPPENECKER GVHC PRESIDENT



You may know that Richard Rappenecker has passed away. He succumbed to cancer on July 25th, 2019. Jim and I attended the calling hours at Thomas's Funeral Home on Lake Ave and the memorial funeral service at St. Cecilia's church down the street from where we live.

I tell you this because I learned a lot about Dick at these two events. Because of his illness, Dick was not able to get out much. Many of you may not have known him; I confess that I did not and am happy to have learned about him. Dick discovered the GVHC from a Facebook ad and after finding the website he joined that night. Dick's first hike with the club was at the Helmer Nature Center to Rock Beach on January 3, 2010.

Dick grew up in the Culver/ Ridge area right down the street from where we now live. He was the eldest of 7 children. I talked to one of his sisters, who was just lovely and friendly. I saw her talking with other GVHC members during our visit. Dick attended East Irondequoit High School where he was known as a music maniac. He played guitar, piano, drums and, I think, trumpet. He was frequently seen at school carrying colorful LP records and was considered to be "way-cool." He grew his hair long and played in a band with his buddies. Eventually, Dick became a DJ and started his own business, Sunset Sound DJ Services. He was well known and respected in the local entertainment community.

One of his childhood friends called him "Dickie" and fondly shared memories of Dick's mischievous behavior. He was somewhat of a gentle prankster and participated in many youthful shenanigans.

Dick worked for St. Anne's Community as the building and grounds manager for 37 years. He was a jack of all trades and well-liked by the staff and residents.

If you are at a gathering of hikers in the future, raise a glass to Dick and keep him in your memory. Look for a memory book about him at our October annual meeting.

Ann Bayley