

Rick Cuvala

Member of

Mid West Vans

Calumet Chapter...

Rick joined Calumet Chapter as a sponsor in 1975, he along with Flame was the driving force behind themed truck-ins, 2% and so much more...



# RICHARD P. CUVALA

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## FUNERAL HOME

[The Oaks Funeral Home, Ltd.](#)

1201 East Irving Park Road

Itasca, Illinois

## RICHARD CUVALA OBITUARY



Richard P. Cuvala, age 61, loving father of Justin (Jessica); devoted grandpa of Gabriel and Natalie; dear brother of John (Fran) Lord, Bobby (Susan) Cuvala, Joe (Ann) Cuvala, Jerry (Linda) Cuvala, Paulette Cuvala, Anita Cuvala, Maria (Scot) Hasman and the late Renee; fond uncle of many; special friend of Nina Keehn; special friend and former husband of Wendy; proud owner of Max and Kit. Visitation Wednesday, 3 p.m. until time of service, 8 p.m. at **The Oaks Funeral Home**, 1201 E. Irving Park Rd. (at Prospect), Itasca. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Bensenville Lions Club, would be appreciated. For funeral info: 630-250-8588 or [www.theoaksfh.com](http://www.theoaksfh.com).

Published by Chicago Tribune on Feb. 6, 2012.



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## MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES FOR RICHARD CUVALA

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Rick is up there driving his silver '67 Polara. Thanks "Bud" for all the great times! My condolences to the family.

**Bruce H.**

January 13, 2013

Richard, May you continue to Rest in Peace.

**Theresa Jones**

July 5, 2012

I was Flames roommate in 1978 and 79. We vanned together in the late 70's. He was one of the smartest and most creative people I have ever met. My prayers for his family.

Bootlegger

**Guy Kriske**

July 4, 2012

Rick is a great person that was taken from this world much to soon. We have many memories of Rick. Our condolences to his family.

**Harrahs**

February 18, 2012

Rick was a wonderful neighbor and a great man. He was always willing to lend a hand. My condolences to his family and friends.

**Sarah Sperry**

February 13, 2012

Im so sorry to hear Richard has passed away. I met richard through Midwest vans Ltd Truckins back in the 70s and 80s. I remember his famous crab races, and great van custom work his company created. He will be missed by many, but he will not be forgotten. It was a priviledge to know him and my condolences to the family.

**Ron Duguay**

February 11, 2012

Rick had an imaginative style of communication. Over our 31 years of friendship, i found myself immitating his speaking technique often. I will sure miss him. So many amazing memories of Rick!...his personality was one in a million. Condolence to his family.



A quick phone conversation with Rick would brighten up my day. He was a lesson to all of us on how to be COOL and NICE! :) He will be missed dearly!!!

**Rachel Vanderkamp, Complete Cleaning Company**

February 8, 2012

To the Cuvala Family, I am sadden for your loss. So I must say this, There are tears of sadness, there are tears of joy. Tears are the signs of peak states of emotion, they are the sparkling reflections of one's life. Tears appear when we touch upon the deepest truth within our souls, they are the proof of your humanity, they are the proof that you are alive. May Rick rest in PEACE. GOD BLESS.

**TJ**

February 8, 2012

Rick was one of the best people on earth. A loyal friend who will be missed by all. My sincere sympathy to all his family. We will all miss him. My prayer is for comfort and peace knowing he is home.

**Lorey Koehler**

February 8, 2012

May GOD bless the entire family as we mourn the loss of Mr Richard P Cuvala he will be missed.

**Reginald Jackson**

February 7, 2012

I am so sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our pain and sorrow give you all the needed endurance to continue to go one day to next. Psalms 46:1

**Hill**

February 6, 2012

Rick was a great guy. Everyone in the Bensenville community will miss him. There was never a event he was not at. He was a pillar of the town. I will miss seeing him in his yellow lions vest.

**Pete Zalewski**

February 6, 2012

May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.

**pat&john walsh**

February 6, 2012

Showing 1 - 14 of 14 results

## MAKE A DONATION IN RICHARD CUVALA'S NAME

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MEMORIAL EVENTS  
FOR RICHARD CUVALA



# RICHARD P. CUVALA "FLAME"

DOB 8-17-50

DOD 2-04-12

MIDWEST VANS LTD  
CALUMET CHAPTER

## FIRST SPONCER OF A MVL

# 'He was the community'

### *Bensenville mourns longtime volunteer who died of cancer*

BY ELISABETH  
MISTRETTA

*emistretta@dailyherald.com*

It was hard to ignore Richard Cuvala.

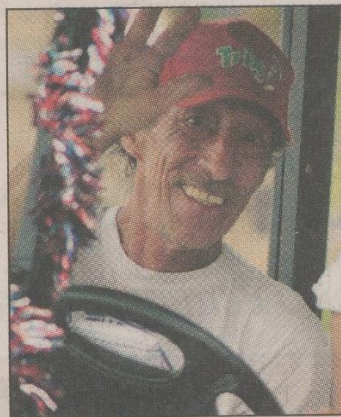
That's partly because Cuvala, owner of Trixx Manufacturing in Bensenville for 35 years, was especially fond of wearing Hawaiian shirts and baseball hats.

But the bigger reason, friends said, is because the Bensenville man made himself known throughout the village through his community service.

"He was the community," said friend and colleague Gary Thorsen, Bensenville director of recreation and community programming.

Cuvala, 61, died of cancer Friday surrounded by family, including his son, Justin, who rushed home from his U.S. Navy post in Washington state to be by his father's side. Cuvala previously served in the Naval Air Reserve and was stationed at the former Glenview Naval Air Station.

Friend Pete Gallagher, who



**Richard Cuvala**

serves on the Bensenville Chamber of Commerce where Cuvala was vice president, said it's not only Cuvala's relatives who will miss him. It's a huge loss for the whole Bensenville community, he said.

"He was just a fixture in Bensenville," Gallagher said. "Rick was into everything. He was just a nice guy who would help anybody with anything."

Cuvala served as a member of the Bensenville Lions Club for 25 years, including as treasurer. He was a member of the American Legion and devoted many hours to community

service projects throughout Bensenville, including setting up tents for LibertyFest and fixing up the Santa House for the annual tree lighting.

For the village's annual Fourth of July parade, Cuvala created an elaborate float that looks like a genuine train engine.

"There really wasn't anything he couldn't do," Thorsen said. "He was so handy and creative. Anytime anything came down, I could call Rick."

Before his death, Cuvala had to take a four-month leave of absence from Trixx to deal with his illness. To help him with mounting medical and household bills, friends had planned "Recover Rick Benefit" for Feb. 17.

The benefit will still go on, in an effort to now help Cuvala's family pay for his medical costs. The event will be from 5 to 10 p.m. Feb. 17 at Bella Vista Banquets, 205 W. Main St., Bensenville, and will include a buffet, cash bar, DJ Music, silent auction, basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle and more. Although a ticket price is not

set, donations will be accepted for admission.

Friends like Thorsen say the event honors the spirit of a man who always put community first.

"I can't say enough about this guy," Thorsen said. "He was just a remarkable, remarkable man."

If you cannot attend the benefit but wish to contribute, send donations payable to: Bensenville Lions Club, P.O. Box 196 Bensenville, IL, 60106. (Indicate in the memo of your check: Recover Rick Benefit) For details, contact Wendy Rebmann at (630) 927-1080, R2eagle@aol.com; Nina Keehn at (630) 651-0323, NMKeehn@aol.com; or Pete Gallagher at (630) 327-7032, vanguard60106@aol.com.

Visitation for Cuvala will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at The Oaks Funeral Home, 1201 E. Irving Park Road, Itasca. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Bensenville Lions Club, would be appreciated. For details, call (630) 250-8588 or visit theoaksfh.com.