



Richard Charles Shrake

APR 11, 1944 - JUL 24, 2023



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R ichard Shrake Obituary

Richard Charles Shrake died July 24, 2023, peacefully at home in Sunriver, Oregon. He was born April 11, 1944, in Salem, Oregon to Warren and Eva Shrake.

An icon in the professional horse industry, Richard's talent for caring and working with animals began in childhood. Around 11 years old this talent grew into an interest in horses, and Richard began competing in 4-H on a local and state level. By age 18, he was competing on a national level. Richard competed in horse judging and became one of the youngest judges in the country at 21 years old for the American Horse Show Association and the United States Equestrian Federation. At the same time, Richard joined the Oregon Air National Guard.

Richard was a legendary horseman, trainer, instructor and judge throughout his life. He started Horsemanship West in Oregon City, Oregon, a stable where he instructed and trained world championship riders and horses. Richard had a special gift for teaching, the capacity for unlimited patience, and was a great communicator. Richard's riders made up a humorous song titled "Richard Shrake had 50 kids..." that exemplified how beloved and respected he was. Richard was dedicated to the humane treatment of horses and went on to enrich the lives of thousands of riders and their horses.

Richard's distinguished achievements in the horse industry included judge of world championship shows for five major breeds; coach of the U.S. World Cup team; author of best-selling books; lecturer at over 200 universities and colleges; content producer of a successful equine instructional video series; designer of saddles, bits and tack for major equine companies; writer of a syndicated monthly magazine column; advisory board member for numerous university equine programs; inductee in the Horse Expo Hall of Fame; and creator of the Resistance Free Riding and Training programs.



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Richard was an active member of Community Bible Church in Sunriver, Oregon where he attended church services every Sunday and weekly bible study. Richard was a devout Christian, and faith was important to him. Every letter ended with "God Bless You." If he heard good news, Richard's response was "Thank the Lord." Richard prayed for his family and friends.

Richard had a wonderful sense of humor. He enjoyed a funny story and could be counted on to tell a good joke. He enjoyed riding his electric bike on the paths of Sunriver visiting his neighbors and friends. Richard loved college football and cheered on the Oregon Ducks, Beavers, and the Baylor Bears. If you called Richard on a Saturday in the fall, he would be watching a game, wearing his team's hat, and cheering them on.

Richard frequently visited the local public library and was always on a quest to learn something new and share it with friends and family. He was the consummate people-person and an outstanding conversationalist. As the saying goes, Richard never met a stranger. He was kind-hearted to everyone. Once you were in Richard's orbit, you had his full attention, and he genuinely cared about what you were saying. When you talked again months later, he would ask you how your loved one was doing or about your vacation because you had mentioned it months prior, and he remembered.

Richard never had a bad word to say about anyone...ever. Richard always saw the good in everyone and everything. It was always the prettiest sunset, we were always lucky to be wherever we were, the dinner we were eating was the tastiest ever. His optimism and joy for the beauty of each day was extraordinary.

You were fortunate if you were in regular contact with Richard. He was a great listener, generous with his time and attention, and you were going to hear a pearl of wisdom from Richard's view that the world was full of hope and cheer.

Richard loved spending time with his family and was a beloved father and grandfather. He always made his family feel valued and cherished. His family and those who loved him will miss Richard deeply.

Richard Shrake is survived by his wife, LeeAnn Beyer of Sunriver, Oregon; son Justin Shrake and step- children Steven Pless, Joey Ross, Jill Pless and their families including 11 grandchildren and 5



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great- grandchildren. Richard is survived by his sister Mary Lou Zeek and family. He is preceded in death by his parents, Warren and Eva Shrake; sister, Janice Howell; and brother Gregg Shrake.

“May you always ride a good horse.” Richard Shrake



Events


Richard Charles Shrake

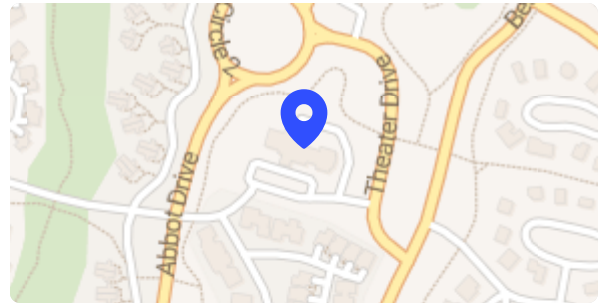
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Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, October 14, 2023

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

 **Community Bible Church**
1 Theater Drive, Sunriver OR 97707





Tribute Wall

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JR

Julia Rust posted:

My husband and I attended a training class in Bend around 2013-2014. Fond memories of the instructions. Richard had a calm professional way of teaching - especially when riding a new horse. So sorry for your loss.

October 22 at 5:07 PM



Fanda Blankenship Thomas posted:

I went to several of his clinics with a friend of mine. He was a fabulous teacher and horseman! Then many years later I saw him at the Midwest horse fair. He actually remembered my name amongst all those people all those years later! What an amazing person!

April 1 at 6:11 AM

RB

Ruth Bishop lit a candle in honor of Richard.



February 19 at 10:03 AM

RB

Ruth Bishop posted:

I attended a couple of his clinics and always enjoyed myself. He was a great teacher and will be missed.

February 19 at 10:03 AM

NM

Nicole Mangiameli posted:

What a kind, charming and brilliant man! I bought all of his videos back in the day and they improved my horsemanship 100%. Met him in person at the Wild Horse and Burro Show in Reno one year, and he gave amazing feedback after our classes. I will never forget him.

January 23 at 7:01 AM



Tribute Wall

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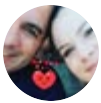
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HK

Heidi King posted:

I attended a clinic with Richard quite many years ago. At the end, he went around the room and said one thing for each horse/rider combo that he observed. He got to me and said "When I die..." (and we all gasped a little bit) "I always knew I wanted to be a horse in my next life. Now I know I want to be YOUR horse!" Ride like the wind, Richard!

October 23 at 5:58 AM



Hillary Davis posted:

Just finding out that he passed! He came to Maui and I did a clinic with him and his "rhythm collector" invention on my Anglo Arab. I was a teen then and absolutely THRILLED to be in the same arena as him.

September 25 at 10:58 AM

CL

Callie Leazer posted:

I went to few training sessions.. my first one in omaha ne.. I had my 4 tr old black quarter horse.. we survived and learned.. poor horse held my glove the whole time .. richard always called my horse the wrong breed.. I didn't correct him .. Last day my neighbors show up .help set up final course.. he called horse it's new breed.. my friends said he's not that he's a qtr horse.. poor richard.. but we laughed at that for years..

September 17 at 1:54 PM

CF

Chip In Florida posted:

I'm so saddened to hear about Richard's passing. My horses are so appreciative that I learned so much from Richard. I appreciated him too; his sense of humor, patience, encouragement, knowledge, and so much more. He was a good Christian so I know he is being taken care of in Heaven.

August 28 at 9:31 AM

LM

Leesa Massman posted:

Richard was my mentor and dear friend for more than 30 years. I will miss his smile and wonderful sense of humor. I am eternally grateful for the guidance and wisdom he shared with me over the decades. Rest in peace

April 22 at 2:17 PM



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BP

Bobbi Pratt posted:

I had met Richard just a few times. But when I walked up to him he recognized me. He was an amazing person, and a leader in the horse world. He connected with the horse and with his followers.

February 25 at 8:38 AM

KS

Karen J Smith posted:

I never owned a horse but always wanted to. I first saw a demonstration of Richard working with a 4 H group at a fair. I watched those kids and realized they knew a lot more than I did. So I signed up for one of his clinics in Bend. A game changer. I could catch friends horses with ease, I had confidence that with practice I could be a good rider. Armed with his methods I signed up for a tour in Iceland. I returned there 7 times and ended up riding for 7 days in rough terrain, changing horses up to 3 times a day. Each horse comes with a new challenge. Without the confidence Richard instilled in me, that I could learn how to do this, I never would have been able to enjoy becoming a better horseman each trip to Iceland . So sorry to find that he is no longer with us. But his training is...and I refer to his videos often. Wish our paths would have crossed again so I could have told him in person how much he had changed my life. He will be missed. Karen J. Smith

January 4 at 3:59 PM

RT

Renetta Trissel posted:

I will always cherish every moment I was able to spend participating in Richard's clinics! He made me the equestrian I am today. He will be sadly missed in the horse world!

January 1 at 12:25 PM

PT

Peggy Taylor August 2 at 7:21 AM

I knew Richard many years when I rode in shows and coached 4H. I had a black quarter horse and wanted Richard to tune him up. Told Richard doNOT wear spurs on Buddy Love as he would buck you off. Richard puffed up his chest "I wear spurs on all horses". "Don't tell me I didn't warn you". The next time I talked to him, he told me Bud had thrown him "to the rafters". Buddy's history.... He was a stud until age 7 and his owner used to get drunk and spin and spur him to show off to mare owners. Bud hated him. Bud lived to be 33. I won a lot on him thanks to Richard. He was a great man and friend, Peggy Taylor



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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