



Richard Marks

November 6, 1942 - April 15, 2020

Due to the current health situation in the world, we will not be holding an open ceremony nor receiving flowers for our father. If you wish to help to celebrate his life, please leave us a message and consider donating to the The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD): <https://www.theaftd.org/support-aftds-mission/>

Richard Kent Marks, OD; born to Lucille and Leslie Marks on November 6th, 1942 in Sheldon, Iowa passed away of natural causes on April 15th, 2020. Richard is survived by his older sister Judy Lutzi, his three younger brothers Steve, Wesley, Russell and Richard's former wife Susan. Richard has three children Kelby, Marla and Staci as well as three granddaughters Natalia, Gabriela, and Tayler. He was proud of the family that he and Susan loved and supported together. Richard spent most of his early life growing up between Nebraska and Kansas before graduating from the Kansas State Teacher's College in Emporia in 1966. Later on, he finished his Optometry Doctorate at the University of Houston in 1970 and moved to Derby, Kansas where he established a widely respected and successful 45 year Optometry practice. He was a dedicated and active member in the United Methodist Church, the Kansas Optometric Association, The Optimist Club and a founder of the Derby Running Club. In all of these organizations he served in leadership and presidential roles over the years. He often talked with us about his time working on the railroad through college and maintained a fascination with

trains all his life. He had a great admiration for his Nebraska roots and his family's Nebraska/German genealogy. He loved to go on road trips through Kansas and Nebraska looking for remnants of the Santa Fe Trail or to locate small Marks family cemeteries and homesteads. He was a marathon runner. He was an accomplished photographer. He was a fervent Jayhawk basketball fan. He LOVED pie - he would frequently drive 50 miles just to get his favourite rhubarb pie.

He instilled all of these passions in us, his children, and we actively pass them on to his grandchildren and the people closest to us.

Our father was diagnosed with Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) in 2016, and his cognitive and physical health began to fade. At that point, he finally retired and spent more time with his closest friends and family. He eventually moved to Bogota, Colombia where he spent the better part of a year living with his son, Kelby and two of his granddaughters, Gabriela and Natalia. When his health required more constant and professional care, he moved to San Diego, California where he was able to have more visits and time with his two daughters and granddaughter, Tayler until he passed away.

In a small family ceremony we recently held to say goodbye, we talked to his granddaughters about how celebrating and giving honour to our parents is not a once-in-a-lifetime ceremony. In truth, daily and throughout our lives, we constantly recognise all the ways, both subtle and great, that our parents have influenced and taught us.

Dad, you taught us a strong sense of respect and responsibility for nature and for our communities. You demonstrated for us a profound capacity for friendship and charity. You taught us the importance of love and patience. You shared with us a fascination for railroads and the Santa Fe Trail. You taught us to run, to camp, to hike canyons, to take a canoe down a river, and to enjoy

backpacking in the wilderness. You taught us an unyielding work ethic tempered by unshakeable discipline.

Father, in our actions, words and thoughts - and in our hearts - we celebrate you now and in all the generations to come.

En español:

Debido a la situación de salud actual en el mundo, no celebraremos una ceremonia abierta ni recibiremos flores para nuestro padre. Si desea ayudar a celebrar su vida, déjenos un mensaje y considere donar a la Asociación para la Degeneración Frontotemporal (AFTD): <https://www.theaftd.org/support-aftd-s-mission/>

Richard Kent Marks, OD, hijo de Lucille y Leslie Marks nació el 6 de noviembre de 1942 en Sheldon, Iowa, y falleció por causas naturales el 15 de abril de 2020. Richard fue el primero en fallecer de sus hermanos Judy Lutzi, Steve, Wesley, Russell y de su ex esposa Susan. Richard tiene tres hijos, Kelby, Marla y Staci, así como tres nietas, Natalia, Gabriela y Tayler. El estaba muy orgulloso de la familia que él y Susan amaban y apoyaban juntos. Richard pasó la mayor parte de su juventud viviendo en Nebraska y Kansas. Después, se graduó de Kansas State Teacher's College en Emporia en el año 1966. Más tarde, se graduó como médico optómetra de la Universidad de Houston en 1970, luego estableció su práctica de optometría por 45 años en Derby, KS ampliamente respetada y exitosa. Fue un miembro dedicado y activo en la Iglesia Metodista Unida, la Asociación Optométrica de Kansas, The Optimist Club y fundador del Derby Running Club. En todas estas organizaciones, desempeñó funciones de liderazgo y presidenciales a lo largo de los años. Siempre hablaba con nosotros sobre su experiencia trabajando en el ferrocarril cuando estaba en la universidad, él mantuvo una fascinación

por los trenes toda su vida. Tenía una gran admiración por sus raíces familiares en Nebraska y su genealogía alemana. Le encantaba hacer viajes por carretera a través de Kansas y Nebraska en busca de restos del sendero de Santa Fe o localizar pequeños cementerios y granjas familiares de los ancestros Marks. Fue un corredor de maratones. Fue un fotógrafo consumado. Fue un ferviente fanático del baloncesto de los KU Jayhawks. Le encantaban los “pies”: y con frecuencia manejó 50 millas sólo para obtener su pie favorito de ruibarbo.

Él inculcó todas estas pasiones en nosotros, sus hijos, y los transmitimos activamente a sus nietas y a nuestras seres queridos.

Nuestro padre fue diagnosticado con Degeneración Frontotemporal (FTD) en 2016, y su salud cognitiva y física comenzó a deteriorarse. En ese momento, se retiró de su práctica y empezó a disfrutar más tiempo con sus amigos y familiares más cercanos. Eventualmente se mudó a Bogotá, Colombia, donde pasó la mayor parte del año viviendo con su hijo y dos de sus nietas, Gabriela y Natalia. Cuando su salud requirió una atención más constante y profesional, se mudó a San Diego, California, donde pudo tener más visitas y tiempo con sus dos hijas y la nieta, Tayler, hasta el día cuando falleció.

En una pequeña ceremonia familiar que celebramos recientemente para despedirlo, hablamos con sus nietas sobre cómo el momento de celebrar y honrar a nuestros padres no es una ceremonia única en la vida. En verdad, diariamente y a lo largo de nuestras vidas, reconocemos constantemente todas las formas, tanto sutiles como grandiosas, en que nuestros padres nos han influenciado y enseñado.

Papá, nos enseñaste un fuerte sentido de respeto y responsabilidad por la naturaleza y por nuestras comunidades. Nos demostró una profunda capacidad de amistad y caridad. Nos enseñaste la importancia del amor y la

paciencia. Compartiste con nosotros una fascinación por los ferrocarriles y el sendero de Santa Fe. Nos enseñaste a correr, acampar, caminar por los cañones, y tomar una canoa por los ríos. Nos enseñaste una ética de trabajo incesante moderada por una disciplina inquebrantable.

Padre, en nuestras acciones, palabras y pensamientos, y en nuestros corazones, te celebramos hoy y en todas las generaciones por venir.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Marks*

January 28, 2023 at 12:52 PM

CC

“ Our family is in San Diego and we had the privilege of meeting Richard at his care home 2 1/2 years ago when he and my mother Carole became dear friends when she moved in. Richard was such a sweet and loving man and always had a smile and warm hug for us. We felt as though he was family and took him everywhere we took mom. Our dear friends Tom and Flo would include him on outings as well and we were all having happy times together. We had many fun times together going out to eat, the movies, family nights at their home every month, the zoo, walks in the parks and sightseeing around town to name a few. We were fortunate to have met Kelby and Marla as well and spend some quality time. Richard loved animals and babies and was always searching for a job to be able to do to stay busy. He made my moms life more fulfilled and we feel he felt the same about her and us in his last years here on earth. Mom doesn't know of his passing as she fell and broke her hip and was found to have the virus April 5 and still has not been able to return. She asks about him frequently but I haven't the heart to tell her he is gone. She would be heartbroken. We will all miss him so very much and feel blessed to have had him in our lives for awhile. Our heartfelt condolences to all of his family. Rest with the Lord now Richard 💕🙏 love Cathy, Ray, Tiffany, Tom and Flo



Cathy Cooley - May 11, 2020 at 02:49 AM

MI

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Milena - May 10, 2020 at 11:29 PM

SS

“ *I probably visited Richard for 30 or 35 years. As has been related in other shares, he always interacted with your story and what had occurred since your were last in. We had a common interest in southwest pottery and artifacts and talked often about them. Richard, rest in peace and may the peace be shared by the family.*
Steve Saunders

Steve G. Saunders - May 06, 2020 at 04:17 PM

PL

“ *Dr. Marks was my eye doctor from the mid '90s until he retired. What a special man - he always made me feel like I was his favorite patient. An appointment with him was the highlight of my week! I was always amazed that he would take so much time to discuss what I had been up to, traveling, music and hobbies. I liked the way he would explain what he was looking at or for while doing the eye exam, and how various diseases could be evidenced by what could be seen in the eyes.*
My condolences and prayers to his family. Thank you for sharing this loving tribute with so much information about him.

Patty Lane - May 06, 2020 at 02:41 PM

CR

“ Dr. Marks was my eye doctor for about 30 years. He was amazing and so good at what he did. I have missed him since he retired. He was more than my doctor.... he was my friend. We always talked about our kids on my appointments. So very sorry for your loss. RIP Rich.

carla Rogers - May 05, 2020 at 08:51 PM

EK

“ Dear Kelby, Marla, Staci, & Susan.

I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Dr. Marks was a real friend to the Dale Klish family in more ways than one. He took good care of our eyes and vision and especially Devin when he had an eye injury and also for seeing my elderly uncle when he needed a consultation. I always looked forward to and enjoyed my eye appointments with Dr. Marks as it gave us an opportunity to catch up on each others families and especially what was going on with Kelby and Darren. You all have my deepest sympathy and I know you will miss him dearly now, and in the days ahead. May you find comfort in in all the memories of your dad, the care of friends and family, and the thoughts and prayers of those who care deeply. He was a good man, a great father and a true friend. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families at this sad time.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Elsie Klish*

Elsie Klish - May 05, 2020 at 04:06 PM



Mary
Martin

“ I met Dr. Marks in 1970. He really did have a keen interest in all aspects of his patients' lives; very knowledgeable on so many subjects. I always looked forward to my appointments, knowing we would have a great conversation. He NEVER made an appointment seem rushed, so sometimes I felt guilty when we'd get to talking. He will be greatly missed!

Mary Martin - May 05, 2020 at 02:31 PM



ST

“ I am in tears as I write this. I hold this man in such high esteem. We started going to Dr Marks when my husband retired from the AF and returned home to Derby in 1993. He came highly recommended by my husband's sister, also a long time patient. The AF doctor in NE had given up on my vision and I was very depressed. Dr Marks fixed the problem and was our Dr until he retired. We even drove to Derby from our retirement home in Hillsboro, KS just to see him. I knew of his love of rhubarb pie so I took him one from one of my favorite places in McPherson, KS and gave him a motorcycle ride recommendation to Durham, KS for more pie. He has been missed since his retirement. Prayers for your family and his former coworkers and patients.

Sharolyn Tibbetts - May 05, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ Dr. Mark's was one of my favorite doctors to visit. I think we're talked a lot longer than the appointment would take. I enjoyed and miss those talks greatly. He was a great doctor and even more a great man. May his memory be eternal!

Kevin Coons Sr - May 05, 2020 at 10:53 AM

TW

“ We are so sorry to hear of Dr. Marks passing. He had a way of making you feel you was the most important person. He was such a caring man and always listened. He remembered every member of your family and always asked about them. I ran into him at Silver Dollar City and he adjusted my new glasses for me there. I started seeing him in the late 70's and continued until his retirement. He was one of a kind and we are blessed to have known him. He will be greatly missed!❤️

Terry and Kathy Witte - May 05, 2020 at 10:33 AM

SL

“ Prayers for the family. So sorry to hear of Dr. Marks passing. He was certainly one of a kind in the industry. Never in my years of seeking health services has there been a man that was so compassionate and so pleasant to work with.

Steve Langholz - May 05, 2020 at 09:49 AM

RH

“ Dr. Marks has been the only Eye Doctor I have every seen since I arrived in Derby KS in 1979. I have always enjoyed our conversations during his exams.
My condolences to the family.

Rex Howe - May 05, 2020 at 08:24 AM

BS

“ I started going to Dr Marks in the late 70's while in school in Derby. I continued through his retirement. I brought my wife and children to him also, even when we moved to Newton. Such a caring man, always remembered you and your family. We spent as much time talking about world events and family as we did the business at hand.

Dr Marks was a blessing to every soul he touched and will be missed by all!

Bob Spencer - May 05, 2020 at 05:44 AM

RP

I was a patient of Dr. Marks from the 80s until his retirement. Even after moving from Derby in 86' I drove in from West Wichita for my appointments with Dr. Marks. He was very meticulous and precise with my complicated optical issues. Always so personal and genuinely caring about my and my family's life. He is dearly missed by the Prideaux family. Safe in God's arms Dr. Marks.

Rebecca Prideaux - May 05, 2020 at 08:38 AM

CB

“ I am in tears. Dr Marks was one of my top favorite people! I met him in 1981 and continued to travel to Derby Kansas no matter where i lived to get my eye exams. He was the only one who get my Rx "right". He always asked about my mom and dad. What a great man. He will truly be missed. Wishing his family peace and comfort.
Connie Bishop.

Connie Bishop - May 05, 2020 at 12:57 AM

LB

“ Dr. Marks was a very kind and warm hearted person. He was our eye doctor for 35+ years. I was always impressed by his memory. At each yearly exam he always asked about my family and remembered each name. I was so disappointed when he retired from the profession in Derby. Our prayers are for the family. Your father has left a lasting impression on many and will be truly missed.

Linda Bolster - May 05, 2020 at 12:39 AM

GJ

“ Kelby, Stacie, Marla, and families..... We are very sorry to hear of your father's passing. He was such a gentle and kind man while caring for our vision needs. He always had a story or two about his family, and how proud he was of each of you. Please except our heartfelt sympathies for the loss of your dad, and know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers for peace in your hearts. Love to all - Gary and Gloria Jaeckel

Gloria Jaeckel - April 30, 2020 at 07:25 PM

NS

“ I was privileged to work with Dr. Marks for nearly 25 Years and to know his family, as well. He was my employer, my mentor and my friend. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on. In sympathy and friendship,
Nancy Steinle

Nancy Steinle - April 25, 2020 at 08:24 PM

DC

“ One of the greatest blessings of my life was my friendship with Rich Marks. We shared a love of our profession, optometry and worked together to advance the delivery of eye care. We discussed the trials and tribulations of life. Our families shared wonderful times. The loss of Rich is very painful but we will savor 50 years of great memories. With love to Rich's family, Dave and Betty Crum

Dave and Betty Crum - April 25, 2020 at 01:51 PM

CA

“ Kelby, Marla and Staci all the love and lessons you received from Richard will be within your hearts always. He is not physically here anymore but lives around you in many ways. Wishing you peace and loving memories forever. Accept my deepest Sympathy. Carolina Acosta

carolina Acosta - April 24, 2020 at 03:19 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kelby Marks - April 23, 2020 at 06:41 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kelby Marks - April 23, 2020 at 06:40 PM

KM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Kelby Marks - April 23, 2020 at 06:24 PM

KM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Kelby Marks - April 23, 2020 at 02:25 PM