



Richard "Dick" Whitman

April 12, 1949 - November 29, 2019

Whitman, Richard (Dick) beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Teacher and friend passed away November 29th 2019 at home with his family. Our hearts are broken but we know he is with God.

Dick was a quiet, gentle, Christian man who had an abundance of energy and strength both inside and out. He did not mind hard work and he was wonderful at inspiring others to work hard too. He was a born leader and natural teacher.

Dick was born in Malone NY April 12th, 1949 to Ken and Rita Whitman. He has an older sister Marilyn and a younger brother Larry. His family moved to Tampa when he was in elementary school. He graduated from Robinson High School. He was the head of the football team and Tennis Team at Robinson. After high school he went to St Pete College and the University of West Florida.

His first job after college was Head of the Marine Lab at the Aquatarium on St Petersburg beach, a job he enjoyed greatly. While at the Aquatarium he also taught night classes for St Pete College in Clearwater. He found his love of teaching from this experience. When the Aquatarium closed he went back to school and got his teaching degree to teach High School science. He taught for three years at Gibbs high school and was a football coach for Gibbs while still teaching night classes at St Pete College.

In 1984 he moved to Old Town Florida and bought a small farm with his wife Charmaine and his son Jason. Both Dick and his wife taught high school classes at Bronson and Jason started 7th grade. It took 4 years but he built a beautiful house with some help from family and friends. While at Bronson he held many hats, Science teacher, disciplinarian, football coach, track coach and too many others to name. He took his students on field trips that they will never forget. In 1993 Dick wanted to try clam farming and teach part time while his wife taught part time and was home with their infant son Caleb. They were offered part time positions at Dixie high school. In 1997 Dick was offered a full time position at Cedar Key School where he taught for the remainder of his teaching career. In 2002 his wife joined him at Cedar Key. Sons Caleb and Joey also attended Cedar Key. Dick took students on many field trips both through NEFEC and on his own. They also did seafood dinners and other fund raisers for their trips. He did summer teacher workshops at FSU and at Sea Horse Key for UF. He retired in 2011 after 30 years of teaching. He was just an amazing man and his family misses him so much.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ken and Rita Whitman, his daughter Amanda Whitman, in laws George and Marguerite Trudel, brother in law Owen Singleton, and nephew Michael Gardner

He is survived by his best friend and wife Charmaine, Sons Jason (Melissa), Caleb, and Joey, his grandchildren Colt, Josie and Sam, his sister Marilyn (George) Hall, brother Larry (Jennifer) Sisters in law Carylle (Harold) Barr, Candy Quaidy, brother in law Bill Trudel, and several nieces and nephews.

The visitation will start at 9am and the funeral will start at 10am Saturday December 7th at the Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland Chapel, with Rev. Michael Pendergraft officiating. Burial at the Old Town Cemetery to follow immediately after the funeral.

In lieu of flowers please do a good deed for someone or give a donation to St Jude's children's hospital in his name.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland, Florida 352-493-0050 and Cross City, Florida 352-498-5400. Please sign the online guest book at rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Old Town Memorial Cemetery

910 SE 136th Ave
Old Town, FL 32680

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland
1301 N Young Blvd
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 493-0050
<https://www.RickGoodingFuneralHomes.com>

Service

DEC 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

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Chiefland, FL 32626
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Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Dick" Whitman*

October 08, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ *Richard "Dick" Whitman*

January 30, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ *I worked with Dick and Charmaine at Aquatarium and under it's new name Shark World. I first met Dick when Mr. Canova gave me a summer job in the marine lab. And worked with him again as a diver at Shark World. Being taken under his wing gave me a love of the water and diving I still have today and I'm 62. Bless you and your family Charmaine I've thought of you many times over the years. Sincerely, Cathi Gregory*

Cathi Gregory - November 30, 2020 at 06:12 AM



Thank you Cathi for your kind words.

Charmaine whitman - March 13, 2021 at 10:35 AM



“ *Mr. Whitman was such a wonderful teacher... he both challenged his students and made learning adventurous and fun. I will never forget the dive field trip to the Keys nor the trip to Cedar Key collecting samples. I am so very sorry. My heart goes out to Mrs. Whitman and their family.*

Karen Quinn - December 24, 2019 at 07:35 PM

CW

Thank you for sharing Karen.

Charmaine whitman - March 13, 2021 at 10:37 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album *Richard Whitman beloved husand, father, and teacher*



Charmaine - December 21, 2019 at 06:54 PM

CH

Love you so much and miss you.

Charmaine - March 23, 2023 at 07:49 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album *Dick Whitman*



Charmaine - December 15, 2019 at 07:12 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album *Richard Whitman*



Charmaine - December 11, 2019 at 06:29 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album *Richard Whitman beloved husand, father, and teacher*



Charmaine - December 11, 2019 at 06:26 PM

JR

“ *Mr. Whitman was my biology and Oceanography teacher at Bronson High School and made a lasting impression as a teacher and mentor. He always made time to listen or help and just made you feel like learning. He and his wife will forever be in my heart as making my high school experience better by showing compassion and understanding to their students. Coach Whitman had a heart of gold and he made an impact on many peoples lives. Goodbye Sir may the Angels surround you in their loving embrace. My love and sympathy to his loving family. Just know he made a legacy in his teaching and will be forever remembered by so many. Class of 1990*
Thank you - Jennifer Gray - Student

Jennifer Gray Reza - December 06, 2019 at 11:32 PM

CW

Thank you for such nice comments Jennifer. He loved teaching and enjoyed all the times he spent with his students. We both appreciated and were blessed to have such wonderful students.

Charmaine Whitman - April 15, 2020 at 06:31 PM

KD

“ Dick and I played a lot of tennis during our years at Robinson He was a friend and soft spoken. Prayers for his family.

Ken Davis - December 05, 2019 at 11:21 AM

CT

“ Dick, We haven't been together in many years I still remember the great times we had in elementary school and when we both started playing football at Monroe Junior High. We graduated together and our lives separated. I always thought of you as a great person and good friend My prayers are with you and your family. Rest in peace my brother.

Charlie Thom

Charlie Thom - December 05, 2019 at 10:27 AM

MR

“ An amazing man and will be missed by many. So proud to have had my daughter in his classes and to go on a few of his field trips. A great loss to all of us but heavens gain.

Malinda Roland - December 03, 2019 at 06:15 PM

AB

“ Jason , My family and i have you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Gods love will see you thru this stage of life , as he has promised your Father will be with Jesus in heaven.

Allen Blackmon , Carrie and Alicia

Allen Blackmon - December 02, 2019 at 04:37 PM

VC

Larry and Jennifer I am sorry to hear about the loss of your beloved brother. may God angels watch over you and your family and give you peace. love you both. Vicki Evans Carreno

vicki carreno - December 03, 2019 at 09:23 PM