



## Richard John Byrne

November 6, 1968 - October 26, 2023

A very outgoing and friendly person, Rick Byrne will be remembered by so many people for many different reasons.

Born in Dublin, Ireland he was a loving husband of 20 years to wife Stacy (nee Schafer), and engaged dad to sons Richard and Aidan, a brother to Cassandra and Tara, a son-in-law to Ben Schafer and a trusted friend to so many.

Rick passed away at home surrounded by his family on October 26, 2023.

Over nearly a year he fought with bravery and resilience to overcome his Leukemia diagnosis but sadly he succumbed to the illness.

Rick graduated from the Dublin Institute of Technology with a focus on design, later going to London's prestigious Central St Martin's art college for a masters degree. After working in several tech companies including most recently Dropbox, Rick found his design forte in creating logos with more recent international recognition of his skills happening right before his passing. During his time in London Rick also served in the British Territorial Army, at one point volunteering to go to Kosovo as a UN peacekeeper during that country's conflict. Rick always regretted that the mission got cancelled.

A chance meeting in a San Francisco bar while on vacation changed Rick's life when he met Stacy, his future wife. Enticing her to move to London where he lived at the time, Rick proposed after a year. The wedding followed a year later followed by a move to the US where Rick spent most of that time in Marin which he loved (Point Reyes in particular). Sons Richard and later

Aidan were born, both becoming a tremendous focus for Rick's time and energy in the years since. Rick was a beloved member of the Corte Madera community and will be missed by so many people.

Rick's personality was to always look for humor in things and wrote this article on using it as part of his treatment:

<https://medium.com/@Rsbyrne/humor-is-addictive-cancer-is-not-finding-humor-while-fighting-cancer-7af190d3cab>

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to support Leukemia research at UCSF. Rick loved Dr. Dunivan, all of the nurses at the infusion center and the quality of care he received so much at UCSF and knows they're working hard to find a cure.

Please send donations to: UCSF Foundation, PO Box 45339, San Francisco, CA 94145 or make a gift online at [makeagift.ucsf.edu](http://makeagift.ucsf.edu) . Please be sure to note that the gift is in memory of Rick Byrne to support the Leukemia research of Dr. Neil Dunivan.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Tamalpais

2500 fifth avenue  
FIFTH AVENUE  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901

# Previous Events

## graveside service

NOV 3. 2:30 PM (PT)

Mount Tamalpais  
2500 Fifth Ave  
San Rafael, California 94941  
(415) 459-2500

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ My deepest condolences to Stacy, Richard and Aidan. I remember Rick from the Appendix N Patron discussions and our Friday night D&D games over Zoom. He was a great guy. He was humane in the most authentic way. Even when very ill, he thought of others as well as himself, showing amazing courage and humanity. If more people were like him it would be a merrier world.

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**Adam Styers** - November 07, 2023 at 07:36 PM

AS

“ Rick became part of our D&D game last year and quickly became a treasured member of the group. We had been meeting since the beginning of the pandemic but Rick was a great addition. He always had a clever and creative solution at hand, and even in a shared fantasy milieu his warmth and kind heartedness shined through. As a group we also got in a fair bit of non-gaming conversation, and Rick shared a lot with us, such that we all came to feel close. Through his illness he was still able to join us frequently, and he bore the weight of it all with equanimity and even humor. Though we never met in person, his passing affected all of us deeply. Lal Cha Nu shall always be a member of our party! To Rick's wife and boys, we've never met but I do think of you often.

*With love to you all in this difficult time,  
Andrew Sternick & the rest of The Interlopers*

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**Andrew Sternick** - November 02, 2023 at 01:56 PM

VH

“ I remember Rick’s St Martin’s graduation day in London in 1997. Together with Gemma, we all went out to eat. And we were just giddy – Rick at his best – riffing on everything. Everything was funny. I remember laughing so hard that my face hurt. Can’t remember about what... But that was Rick...

*And I have to say that of all the skills and talents and things that Rick did well as a friend, I think that being a husband and a dad turned out to be his Superpowers...*

*With love to you all at this time.*

*Vera Hegarty  
& David Motion. Thank you for the chance to donate to UCSF.*



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Vera Hegarty - November 02, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Richard John Byrne.



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November 01, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard John Byrne.*



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October 31, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard John Byrne.

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October 31, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *That smile, that relaxed patter and the banter...  
My thoughts and best wishes to Stacy, your beautiful children and friends and family.  
Kind, caring, compassionate...the world is certainly poorer for losing you pal.  
Will be sure to too see you in the Squadron bar in the sky, am sure it was your round next.  
All the very best my friend, you fought valiantly and courageously, rest peacefully x*

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**Ashley Byford-Bates** - October 31, 2023 at 03:10 PM



“ *Such a gift to have spent time with this charming, joyful, caring man. Stacy, I fondly remember watching your relationship blossom and your love and family has only expanded since those early days. Rick's legacy will live on through you and your boys, but I am so sorry for the pain you are feeling at this time.*

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**Ariana** - October 30, 2023 at 02:57 PM

RJ

“ Dear Rick & Family,  
As with all your other Army brothers & sisters I to was privileged to have known you and served with you. From living on the same street in Cricklewood for a short time to all the exercises, drill nights, good times, bad times you always had an infectious smile and uplifting outlook that either made us throw things at you or lift us up with you!  
I also made the mistake of losing touch as used to follow the boys growing up as my oldest was just slightly older doing the same things.  
You were Mr reliable, always there and a much liked and loved part of our small squadron family.  
We connected again not long ago too late to have that chat and drink again.  
Our deepest condolences to Stacy and the boys and all our love to you from Dubai.  
Rest In Peace mate.

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Robin Jarvis - October 30, 2023 at 02:14 AM

RC

“ I first heard Rick speaking in a recording of a book club meeting. He was smart and funny and willing to share personal anecdotes in such a way that I felt welcome to join the club myself. He was a part of just about every discussion I was able to attend and I'm so glad I got to spend time with Rick talking about the stories that we loved. Our group's meetings were all recorded and there are a few publicly available for listening. I hope it's okay to include a link to one with Rick in case anyone wants to hear his voice again and what he thought about the books he liked to read.

<https://appendixnbookclub.com/2023/02/20/patron-book-club-134-michael-chabons-gentlemen-of-the-road-with-our-patron-book-club/>

*My heartfelt condolences to his loved ones and friends.*

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**Robert Coleman** - October 30, 2023 at 01:35 AM

MZ

“ Heartbroken for Stacey and the boys. He loved them so much and I met Rick at Oracle and used to catch the bus together. We got chatting and he was such a proud dad and shared with me what a wonderful person and wife Stacey was. Stayed in touch online seeing the creative logos be made and I thought he was doing well so this is a shock to read this sad news.  
Matt Z

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**Matt Zeeman** - October 30, 2023 at 01:06 AM



Brandon  
Kruse

“ I feel very lucky to have known Rick if only for the little bit of time we spent in our online book club every other month. Very sharp, very quick, Rick always had some new interpretation or insight which had never occurred to me – even on titles I was reading for the second or third time.

*I believe Rick was the first person whom I will only have known entirely through the internet. It's a strange thing. But even through the little one-and-a-half inch Zoom window, his warmth, good nature, talent, and wit came through easily. I regret not being able to have met him in “real life”. He will be missed. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.*

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**Brandon Kruse** - October 29, 2023 at 08:27 PM

HW

“ Rick was one of life's true gentlemen, from reading the posts, he was and remained so giving and supportive to others. [1] [SEP]

*We met first in the early 1980's Rick, was a young teenager, coming to visit my brother, in our family house in Dublin. Later as a design student, he took time to talk and engage with me on the up and downs of design. We picked up a few years later in London, where I had the pleasure to work with him. He managed himself and others around him in such a calm, professional manner and was always super clear, patient and fun with everyone he worked with.*

*I know he will leave such a massive gap for all those around him, but his legacy will live on with his boys.*

*May he rest in peace,*

*- Hans*

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**Hans Winkelmann** - October 29, 2023 at 08:08 PM

TR

“ Stacy, I’m so sorry to hear of Rick’s passing, and my heart breaks for you and your children. You two were my first friends in London, and I will never forget the kindness and generosity you both showed to me. I still don’t see a tiara and not think of you, and I will never forget Rick letting me crash on the floor of his hotel room the night before your wedding! I always think of him whenever I have an Irish coffee... his are still the best.

*Sending you all of my love in this difficult time.*

*-Tracy*

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**Tracy** - October 29, 2023 at 04:00 PM

AN

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Rick's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting Rick and Stacy in San Francisco when we were all working at CBSi. Being a long way from home (London), it was lovely to meet a friend from the other side of the pond, who shared the same sense of humour and would brighten up any day. I will always remember Rick's presence. He was someone who would light up any room with his warmth and infectious smile. He was truly a legend and impacted so many people around him. May you rest in eternal peace. My deepest condolences to Stacy and family. Thinking of you.

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**Anoushka** - October 29, 2023 at 10:35 AM

TT

“ I am absolutely heartbroken to hear of Rick’s passing. Whilst we had been in touch again latterly, there were too many years where I regret having lost touch. He was the epitome of Irish warmth, humour and kindness - meeting him as a fellow ‘Irish soldier’ I enjoyed his ‘craic’ and humour whilst also being able to hold a deep and profound conversation. I loved the chats that made those cold, rainy, sleepless nights on exercise so much warmer and entertaining. Truly one in a million.

*My heartfelt condolences to Stacy and his boys - who he cherished so much. I so wish I could be there for his service. Sending you all much, much love x.*

*RIP wonderful man - your legacy will forever live on through your boys, and through all the incredible memories we all have of you 🍀  
❤️ On the day of your passing, I had just accepted a new job working for the Northern Ireland Leukaemia charity, which directly funds medical research - weird considering the recent conversations we’d had about serendipity. RIP x*

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**Tanya Taggart** - October 28, 2023 at 06:14 PM

AW

“ Rick... where to start... so many find memories.  
I remember when I moved in to share your house and I opened the kitchen cupboards to see hundreds of rations 🐉 still laugh about that to this day!!  
I think the happiest one was when you met Stacy on a trip to San Francisco... you were over the moon!  
So happy that you had found your soul mate...  
Travel safe my friend and shine brightly in the night skies 💖



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**Andrea Wilson** - October 28, 2023 at 04:26 PM

RM

“ Rick

*Mate where do I start?! We both joined the Yeomanry at a similar time and shenanigans followed soon after. Your mischievous smile and jokes made cold, wet military exercises much more fun and nipping to the pub after we got back was always a hoot.*

*We've shared these memories again recently and I still smile every time I think of you (smiles and tears can come at the same time it seems).*

*Joking and having fun at Ft McLellan, painting the town red in New Orleans, grumbling our way around Salisbury Plain or sweating climbing up the Rock in Gibraltar, laughter and leg-pulling was never far away.*

*The world needs more Rick Byrne's in it.*

*Miss you man*

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**Rob Markworth** - October 28, 2023 at 01:25 PM

ND

“ Rick and I studied Visual Communications together at DIT. I remember his calm character and creative dedication. We recently reconnected over social media and chatted about our mutual interest in returning to education as 'adults'. These discussions made clear that although still academically curious, Rick was now most dedicated to his loving family (proving he was in no need of further education!) Please accept my deepest condolences.  
Nora Duggan

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**Nora Duggan** - October 28, 2023 at 10:35 AM

AP

“ Rick was a wonderful colleague and friend. I cherish his creativity, his positive attitude, his eagerness to help everyone, and our meetings for English breakfasts at the Mayflower. He will be missed.

-Alex

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**Alex Poulos** - October 28, 2023 at 09:15 AM

RS

“ One of the nicest blokes that I served with. We were chatting in the bar at Duke of York's HQ one evening years ago, I mentioned that my Mum's maiden name was Byrne, next time I saw him Rick gave me a white 'Byrne' name tag for a set of Tank Covers to give to Mum! Only a couple of years ago, we found out that both our Grandfather's drank in the same pub! A sad loss. Rick and his family are in our prayers. Shep

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**Roger Sheppard** - October 28, 2023 at 08:46 AM

PD

“ Rick,  
I liked you from the minute you walked into the Duke of York’s to ask about joining the Westminster Dragoons. Your smart, pin-striped suit, infectious smile and fantastic sense of humour. You became my comrade and friend, sharing adventures in Alabama (!), Gibraltar and the UK. I’m wearing the t-shirt you designed for the return visit of the American Chemical Corps in 2000 now.  
After you moved to California it was great to see you on my visits and get to know your lovely family a little.  
Although it is ten years since we saw each other face-to-face, staying in touch remotely was always great. Whether it was sharing book recommendations through the pandemic, or chats about other things.  
You never felt far away, and I am sure we will meet again at that last great RV.  
Rest in peace and rise in glory, my dear friend.

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Paul Dryden - October 28, 2023 at 03:43 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard John Byrne.



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October 27, 2023 at 05:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard John Byrne.

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October 27, 2023 at 05:23 PM

LI

“ Sitting down sharing memories of our Dad's, I recounted a story to Rick of how my Dad, Rick's uncle gave the most reassuring comforting bear hugs & always knew just when one was needed (if though the receiver didn't know themselves). When my Dad passed away suddenly Dick (Rick's Dad) saw the sorrow in my eyes, crossed the room & with no words said just came up to me & gave me this massive bear hug, identical to my Dad's. The hug was perfect so reassuring! Rick smiled & thanked me for sharing a tender moment with his Dad, one he had never heard about. A shared memory never to be forgotten. We will miss you Rick.

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**Laura Molloy - cousin in Ireland** - October 27, 2023 at 12:53 PM

TJ

“ I met Rick at DocSend a little over two years ago. It was my first job in tech, and I was so nervous and overwhelmed. From my first day on the job, he was so nice and welcoming to me. He encouraged me and made me feel like I was apart of the team. I'll never forget his kindness nor his amazing sense of humor. He brought a great deal of joy to our team, and he will be tremendously missed.

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**Tamika Jackson** - October 27, 2023 at 11:00 AM

CB

“ Rick and I met many, many years ago when we were both in our late teens growing up in Dublin. We were close friends for a few years with my being welcomed in to the Byrne household at 'Montrose' just a stone's throw from where I lived. Being around Rick was always an adventure, full of fun and uncertainty as to what he would be planning next. He was not one to sit still even back then in late 80's/early 90's Dublin. Rick has always been full of warmth and compassion. He and his family reached out with such a warm embrace when my dad, Maurice Brogan, passed in 1989. I would be fed and watered at Rick's family dinner table with the special treat of his mum, Gemma, cooking up her scrumptious lemon meringue pie. Rick and I lost touch as we each discovered our own separate paths only to re-connect a few years ago. I am so filled with gratitude that we did as we have had so many insightful, deep and meaningful exchanges since. Rick will be always in my thoughts and in my heart. His heart, spirit, soul, empathy, compassion has been far-reaching. Loved by many people.

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**Carole Ann Summerlin (nee Brogan)** - October 27, 2023 at 08:13 AM

DL

“ Dearest Stacy, Richard and Aidan, the memory that I want to hold on to, is that of Rick at Aidan's Bar Mitzvah! He was so full of life, and was overflowing with happiness, joy, and pride for his whole beloved family. No words would adequately describe what an extraordinary person he was .I was so touched by his resilience, energy, humor, and loving devotion to his family and friends . Rest in Peace, Dear Rick...

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**Diane Levitt** - October 27, 2023 at 07:56 AM



“ I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Rick briefly at a small agency in Marin. To this day he remains one of the few designers/individuals I know who was free of ego. He had incredible character and humility, a consummate professional and team player he has always fair, honest, and hard working. On a personal level he was someone who united people, and enjoyed company. Full of life, engaging, and never one to take life too seriously; he made it easy to be yourself without judgement. Again like in his professional life a selfless and generous person who even in the most difficult times managed a smile. People like him are rare; never self involved a caring kind individual who seemed to always stay above the chaos. Life it seems always claims the good ones far too early; his will be sorely missed.

*Gregg Boot*

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**Gregg Boot** - October 27, 2023 at 04:57 AM