



## Richard Frederick Gerner

May 21, 1935 - April 8, 2020

### Obituary

Richard Frederick Gerner, 84, of Union City passed away on April 8, 2020 due to natural causes at the Palo Alto VA hospital.

Richard was born in Oakland, California on May 21, 1935. He grew up in Richmond, California with his parents John and Viola Gerner. Survived by his siblings John, Margaret and Robert Gerner.

Graduated from El Cerrito high school in 1954. Served in the Air Force where he worked on B-52s as a jet engine mechanic. After the Air Force he worked at the family business where he bartended for many years. He later then worked for Levlor for 19 years. He retired in 1998.

1973, Richard married his loving wife Ester.

He was a loving father to his 3 children Frederick Augustine, Albert and Joy Gerner.

He had two grandchildren which he absolutely adored, Nadia Gerner and Josiah Gerner.

His hobbies were watching Judge Judy, taking his dogs to the dog park and telling stories.

Funeral services will be held in Santos Robinson Mortuary, Friday, April 17, 2020. He will be laid to rest at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward.

Due to the current situation regarding COVID-19 there will only be immediate family.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Richard Frederick Gerner, please visit our floral store.

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ Just thinking about you, Dad. I love and miss your dearly. Keep watching over us. Tell mom, Rocco and Shelby I said hi and love and miss them too! Love Joy

Joy - January 08, 2024 at 12:58 PM

MF

“ A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Richard Frederick Gerner by Margaret Faria. Plant a TreeFor Richard GernerMargaret Faria

Margaret Faria - May 31, 2022 at 10:40 AM

AG

“ I LOVE YOU DAD

Albert Gerner - July 01, 2020 at 10:30 PM

MO

“ Uncle Richard served me my first cocktail when he was a bartender. I was 5 or 6 at the time and btw the drink was a Shirley temple! Lol 😊 He also took me and my brother Danny target shooting on a few occasions and If I remember right it was the Rod & gun club in Richmond. You will be very missed Uncle!!! RIP

Mike Ortiz - May 11, 2020 at 03:59 PM

JU

“ I grew up down the hall from Joy. She was my best friend and we visited each other often. When I would visit Joy, Richard would always say, “Hi JJ!” with a big warm smile! When he wasn’t working he could be found in his favorite chair watching recordings of Judge Judy. Richard was always kind, happy and generous. He would take Joy to lunch at local diners and he would always invite me and he would share stories of the past. I loved listening to his stories, watching his face light up and hearing him laugh. To this day those lunches are some of my best childhood memories. Richard would also encourage me to try different foods including his fruit cake, beets, artichokes and pot roast. I loved his roast and I would even pick at his leftover pot roast that was in the fridge as I waited for Joy to get ready for school. It was still delicious a day later and cold! Richard would also take Joy to visit family and I was always invited to join and got to visit both sides of the family which was always so much fun. I am so thankful for Richard’s kindness, generosity and love over the many years. I am so happy my children got to meet him and have lunch with him at Baldie’s. Richard was the sweetest and I will miss him dearly.

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**Judy** - April 17, 2020 at 11:45 AM

FA

“ Thank you Robert. I really appreciate you sharing. You always are so considerate and kind. Dad really enjoyed when you and Abby came to visit the last time.

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**Fred Augustine** - April 17, 2020 at 11:16 AM

JA

“ He was always so friendly and patient with Nadia when she wanted to go swim at the pool. I will miss seeing him and saying hi when he walked by. His stories were plentiful and he was always cheerful. We're so sad to hear of his passing but enjoyed the short time we had with him.

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**Jill Arafles** - April 17, 2020 at 10:37 AM

LY

“ I remember the hot summer day in June 2018 by the pool side, watching my kids swim and he also came to watch Nadia swim. We had just come from Nairobi and did not know anyone at the apartment complex. He came asked to sit next to me and we spoke and laughed for so long that we were the only ones left at the pool. We talked about his family, his military life as I told him that my husband was also in the military. He told me about his visit to Nairobi and other parts of Kenya (my home country) and how he loved and enjoyed his time there. I mean, if not for time, we would have not stopped. Since then, my kids grew so fond of him coz they always had a good time with him. My daughter would always go to Joy's house and I would look for her the whole day not knowing she was playing with him and Nadia. Whenever we met, and we met so many times (almost everyday) that summer, the conversations would not end coz there was always something to talk and laugh about. He made me feel really comfortable and welcome in this new place and also introduced us to Joy and Nadia who have since become like family to us. Even when he was not well, he would still find a way to cheer me up amidst the challenges of having young kids and running around. He would tell me how he raised his kids and how his wife and him managed to do it without feeling overwhelmed. I will miss him always and I pray to God to rest his souls in eternal peace.

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**Lydia** - April 17, 2020 at 09:33 AM

JG

“Where do I start.. my dad, my best friend, my rock! You have always been there for me. You were my biggest fan. You supported me, protected me and guided me when I needed you the most. I don't know what I'll ever do without you. I want to say thank you for being the greatest dad ever. I couldn't ask for anything more cause you gave me your all. I'm such a lucky girl to have you as my father. You were always kind, honest and nonjudgmental. Thank you for helping me raise Nadia. I know you loved her so much. She misses you. I miss you. We miss the way you made us laugh. Your cheery disposition. You always saw the bright side of things. You would always say “Cheer up things could always be worse”. Even in our final moments together you would make us laugh with your wise cracks. We will miss your baking and cooking. Nadia is already asking for your chicken soup, I'll try my best to make her some. The house is cold and lonely without you here. Your spirit will never fade, we will remember you always. All the stories you tell, I can repeat them as if you were telling them for I've heard them a million times. I'm glad you are no longer suffering. Tell mom, Shelby and Rocco I said hi and give them big hugs and kisses for me. I love you Dad!

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Joy Gerner - April 16, 2020 at 10:27 PM

YB

“Uncle Richard is someone who would brighten up your day with his friendly hello and smile. He loved being around family and friends. I enjoyed listening to many of his stories. I also enjoyed his delicious homemade pumpkin pie that he would bring to the Christmas parties but my enjoyable memory is going out for dog walks and he would say “tayo na” and the dogs would get excited to leave.

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Yvonne Banayat - April 16, 2020 at 09:48 PM

DA

“ About 16 years ago I went to a baseball field that I'd call the dog park. It was located next to the Green Haven Apartments in Union City. There my Ex husband, Achilles my Husky and I met Richard, Rocco and Shelby his dogs. Richard has always been the kindest person to talk to. Not a dull moment ever with him. Shelby would always run and chase Rocco then would play side by side Achilles in our little dog park. While the dogs played I'd always sit by Richard on the basketball bench and have a blast talking about the past. Then Rocco would finish playing and return right next to Richard and sit by his feet never leaving his side. I always looked forward to seeing Richard. If you see Richard you'd see Rocco and Shelby they were inseparable. He would talk about Joy alot and how he was married to a Filipina lady. I just want to say how special Richard was he was about the only one I ever talked to when I'd take Achilles for a walk. He was apart of me growing up. I will miss him walking the streets of Union City by the baseball field and going back to the Green Haven Apartments. I know that Richard is in Heaven with Auntie (Tita), Rocco and Shelby. I just want to tell you that my heart is with you all and that he'll never be forgotten. I can still hear his voice and the way he wore his hat, jacket, his height and seeing him hold 2 leashes and 2 dogs pulling so strongly and him walking as fast as he can to their pace. Richard you will be missed immensely. We love you forever Achilles and Daisy. God bless you all!

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Daisy - April 16, 2020 at 08:09 PM

FA

“ The thing that stood out the most to me about my dad was that he was decent to everyone. I never heard him talk ill of any race or anyone. He liked to walk the neighborhood with the dogs and say hello to everyone. When he was in the hospital he would like to go around and say hello to everyone in the halls. He'd do it so many times people would start saying hello back and become friendly towards him. He also loved mom and pop style coffee shops and diners. He liked being a regular and getting to know all the servers by name. The last time I had the chance to see my Dad was when I walked him to hospice. I gave him a hug and told him I loved him. He told me he loved me and said "Take it Easy". Every time we talked on the phone after that he'd say "Take it Easy". Thank you for taking the time to read my Dad's page and being apart of his life. Take it Easy Love and Hugs

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**Fred Augustine** - April 16, 2020 at 06:56 PM

RB

“ Uncle Richard was a good uncle. I enjoyed talking to him at family parties. I remember one Christmas he bought me a Nintendo game and I really enjoyed playing it. I had to interview him one time for my history class and he was more than happy to help me. He was just that type of person. He made the best fruit cake. Lastly, he loved his dogs Shelby and Rocco very much. We will miss him dearly.

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**Robert Banayat** - April 16, 2020 at 05:21 PM