



## Rick W. Stradtner

November 16, 1954 - November 21, 2019

Rick W. Stradtner, age 65 of Jasper, passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at his home.

He was born November 16, 1954, in Washington, IN to John Kenneth and Paula (Abbott) Stradtner. He married Penny Hayes on July 14, 1995.

Little known fact: Rick's given name was 'Ricky': a diminutive name for a tall man of great accomplishment and a big heart. A pharmacist by education, Rick graduated from Purdue University in 1977. He purchased Flick's Drugs in 1981, at the young age of 26, a business which he grew to become HLS Health and Wellness, a pharmacy and home medical equipment provider with locations in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Texas. As a business owner, Rick worked to make others' live better: a claim backed up by many stories, years later, of individuals describing how he would quietly pay for their medicines when they couldn't afford them.

Rick believed strongly in giving back to one's community, and throughout his life, served on many boards and committees. Notably, in his younger years, Rick was involved in the Jasper Jaycees, Jasper Strassenfest (chairman), TRI-CAP board of directors, Jasper Community Arts Commission, and received the Jasper Distinguished Service Award in 1989. Later years saw him serve on the VUJC advisory board, Jasper Redevelopment commission,

Jasper Chamber of Commerce board, Jasper Economic Development Commission, Jasper Utility Service Board, and the Jasper Action Team, with leadership roles in most. Rick gave back to Jasper because the city had been a welcoming home to him, a safe and comfortable place to see his family prosper, and because he wanted Jasper to continue to offer to young people the same opportunities he found here.

Rick's other interests included spending time with his family, generally doing nothing more than sitting around talking and laughing, though he would note to his sons-in-law that sometimes it was necessary to leave the room when the "decibel level" of his daughters got too high. He enjoyed reading books of a historical or political nature; a book of fiction probably hadn't crossed his lap in 20 years. He loved music: he would speak fondly of his time as a trumpet player at Washington High School, could often be found tapping his hand on the dashboard of his car to the songs of Chicago, and when convinced, he would even sing an impressive James Taylor in karaoke. Rick enjoyed spending time outside, generally engaging in the futile activity of keeping his lawn clean of sticks and leaves. Rick believed strongly in not missing a meal, always having a full cup of UNSweetened iced tea with minimal ice, Saturday breakfasts at the White Steamer in Washington, avoiding the use of "cutesy" marketing terms like "biggie" at restaurants, and throwing the occasional swear word in conversation for effect. Rick will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him—small words to describe such great love for a big man.

Rick is survived by his wife Penny Stradtner, Jasper, four daughters, Meredith Voegerl (Ottie), Jasper, Paige Stradtner (Joshua Belcher), Bloomington, IN, Whitney Merkel (Jeremy), Huntingburg, and Jordan Stradtner (wherever travel nursing takes her), stepchildren Jennifer Williamson (Matt), Evansville, Tyler Hayes, Hawaii, Lauren Hayes, Evansville, one brother, Douglas Duffy Stradtner (Brenda), Washington, and 8 grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, stepfather Joe Adams, and stepmother Virginia Adams.

A visitation for Rick W. Stradtner will be held from 4pm until 8pm on Monday, November 25, 2019 at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana, with a private burial to follow on Tuesday November 26th at Lemmons Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

On-line condolences can be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown

214 East 7th Street

Jasper, IN 47546

(812) 482-4141

[email@becherkluesner.com](mailto:email@becherkluesner.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Rick W. Stradtner

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ Rick was my dad's childhood friend and still tried to keep in touch. He came to my wedding. He will be deeply missed by all. Loved hearing stories my dad told about him and other friends. Him and dad were very close as well as a few others. RIP Rick and my God Bless you and your family. Love Chris

Chris Shelton - November 26, 2019 at 10:25 AM



“ Rick always had a smile on his face, such a kind man! Our thoughts and prayers go out to your family!  
Ben and Carrie Gates

Carrie - November 25, 2019 at 03:46 PM



“ Shelley Otto lit a candle in memory of Rick W. Stradtner



Shelley Otto - November 25, 2019 at 09:22 AM

AW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.*



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**April Waterman** - November 24, 2019 at 12:48 PM

JW

“ *I started working for Rick at HLS after returning from a Disneyworld internship. His employees were having training at the hotel I was working front desk at . Next thing I knew I was being asked if I wanted to become a pharmacy technician at his Petersburg pharmacy. 20 years later I am still a pharmacy technician. I enjoyed working 10 year for Rick , later I worked for him again for 2 years as a Durable medical representative at HLS Flicks location in Jasper. This past year I have had the great pressure of working with him at William's Brothers LTC in Washington. Every morning Rick greeted all of us with a big Hello. He was a kind , caring, and funny. I am lucky to have got to know him over the years . Many days I am often stopped by customers saying how much they miss out small town local pharmacy In Petersburg. He gave me the opportunity to have a family of coworkers and customers. Rest in peace my friend .*

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**Jennifer Woodall** - November 23, 2019 at 08:28 PM

SW

“ *Jordan, my heart aches for you & your family! Your Dad sounds like an outstanding man so I know you have many, many fond memories that will sustain you through this difficult time and beyond.*  
*Susan White*

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**Susan White** - November 23, 2019 at 06:54 PM

PG

“ *Paula Goodwin lit a candle in memory of Rick W. Stradtner*



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**paula goodwin** - November 23, 2019 at 06:08 PM

PG

*So sorry Jordan for your loss*

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**paula goodwin** - November 23, 2019 at 06:09 PM

WS

“ I lost a longtime best friend a couple of days ago. Rick Stradtner was truly someone you would want in your life. I met Rick when we were in 6th grade - along with Hak and Cyndi and Jerry and all the South Side neighborhood gang. We both moved into the neighborhood that summer and became friends. We rode skateboards together. We worked at the Dairy Queen together. He had a red VW beetle and I had a blue VW beetle. We were in Up With People - Sing Out - together. He used to come to the house and he and I and mother would watch Hogan's Heros together and then we would head out for the evening cruise or whatever. We shared so much - good times and not so good times - that I don't know where to stop. In college he would come to ISU and we would have weekend fun - I would go to Purdue for the same relaxation. We would come home from school and end up at Don and Bev's house along with Terry, and Harry and have card games and watch SNL - the good early ones - just sharing great company and friendship. As gangs sometimes break apart, life was taking over. Rick was the best man at Diana's and my wedding - still have the pictures. When we moved to Jasper, Rick was able to move there as well. While he was still working at Vincennes, he would come and spend a night or two each week until he got settled in Jasper. I got the privilege of doing the wedding pictures for his wedding - still have those as well. We did the home-owner chores together - when he bought his first house in Jasper we put up a mailbox from old wood we had. I helped him put up a garage door opener - that was a fun challenge. I helped him put up a wall paper mural in the living room - a one of a kind and you couldn't even tell where I accidentally ripped it. As Diana and I moved to Crawfordsville, we kept in contact, but less and less. It was always good to see him and catch up - to reminisce about the "good old days" and share each other's company. I may have seen him less but I have thought about him often over the years. Unfortunately, you think you always have "next weekend" to visit - maybe not. Rick has passed through this life and left a wake of goodness, kindness and love that won't long fade away. I'll miss him and will miss seeing him at our 50th class reunion - but his spirit will live on in my memory and the

*memory of all who knew. Rest well my friend - until we meet again - it's been a privilege and honor to know you.*

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**Wes Shelton** - November 23, 2019 at 01:22 PM

CF

“ *What a Great Guy , who adored his girls !! Penny I am sooo Sorry for your loss , and send my Deepest Sympathy to you and All your Family.*

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**carolyn fuhs** - November 23, 2019 at 11:16 AM

PR

“ *I graduated with Rick in 1972. I really didn't get to know him until we started our class reunions. He was always so friendly and genuine. He will surely be missed. It is obvious from the comments and his obituary that he was as fine a person you could ever meet. Fly high Rick. I'm so glad to have known you!!*

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**Peggy Ryan** - November 23, 2019 at 09:34 AM

MS

“ *I had the privilege of being a friend of Rick's throughout middle & high school in Washington, playing trumpet in the WHS band, learning how to fly, sharing great times. We reconnected 10 or years ago when our firm MEK was helping put together the WestGate tech park, and Rick was eager to explore a strategic role for Jasper in broader economic development. Talented, intelligent and witty, Rick was a natural leader. You went too soon, my friend, but you left behind a remarkable life of achievement and service. Prayers for the family.*

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**Michael Snyder** - November 23, 2019 at 09:17 AM

RA

“ Rick was truly an amazing man! I will for ever cherish our laughs we shared at Williams Brothers. He always put a smile on my face along with the others there. He would always be the first person i would go to everyday to see how his day was a d what was happening. There definitely never be anyone take his place! Rest in peace Rick! God bless the family!!

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**Robin Abbott** - November 22, 2019 at 10:35 PM

PP

“ Please accept my condolences in the passing of Rick,my classmate from grade school through Sr year. I sat behind him in many classes because of my maiden name Thomas. Rick was always a great guy and was always happy. Prayers for his family at this sad time! RIP Rick! The Class of 72 will miss you.

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**Paula Potts** - November 22, 2019 at 08:13 PM

JD

“ I worked for Rick for 15 years at HIs. I can remember before ever meeting him that he had this larger than life voice & thinking of him as being a bit scary. When I met him, I thought this man is a big ole teddy bear, he just sounds rough. He had the biggest heart of anyone I've known. We had many long talks together & he always said he wasn't my boss, we were co workers. He always thought of his employees as we all work together. We spoke of family many times & he loved Penny & his daughters very much. He was a good man, always helping someone. I don't think he even knew how to say no to anyone. He will be missed by many. My prayers for his family, may God wrap his arms around you & bring you peace knowing he is now with him, no more life struggles, only light, peace & love for him now.

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**Joretta Doss** - November 22, 2019 at 06:17 PM

JF

*Rest In Peace Rick. My heartfelt condolences to his precious family. I cherish the 21 years I worked at Flick Drugs. You get to know a person working for them that long and Rick was one of the best! He will be greatly missed by many.*

**Jenifer Fischer** - November 22, 2019 at 08:00 PM

LP

*Penny, Donna and I met with Rick and you only a few times. We both liked Rick and respected him as a man, pharmacist and friend. We ,as Bob Leich mentioned, spent time together on pharmacy trips and events. People that you meet and spend time together for short times over several years do not usually make deep impressions. Rick did. No words are appropriate. Please know we grieve and feel a loss with you.*

**Lynn & Donna Hostetler Lynn's Phcy** - November 22, 2019 at 10:55 PM

KH

*Rick, Dennis Lovins & I joined forces in 1996 to form HLS Pharmacies (guess what the initials stand for?). It was a great run and we had some wonderful times together and it lasted 23 years. I enjoyed every minute and Rick & Dennis were a major part of that enjoyment. They both went way to soon! Susie & I extend our sorrow & condolences to his wonderful family and his many friends. God rest your soul, buddy, we'll miss you.*

**Ken & Susie Hacker** - November 23, 2019 at 11:24 AM

CS

*My sincere condolences to the family of my fellow classmate and trumpet player. My last extended conversation with Rick was at our 40th class reunion and I walked away thinking what a life well lived. Rest in peace my friend.*

**Cheryl Snyder** - November 23, 2019 at 05:35 PM

GS

*We are so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you Penny and the entire Stradtner family. Please accept our deepest condolences. A fellow classmate of mine, and Steamer buddy of my hubbies.....gone too soon!*

**Gaya Swartzentruber** - November 23, 2019 at 11:42 PM

EZ

“ *What a fun and compassionate guy. i have many memories working with Ricky throughout the years when I was involved downtown...my deepest sympathy to all of you as you grieve through this process...know he was loved and respected by many!!!*

*Ed Zoglman*

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**ed zoglman** - November 22, 2019 at 05:27 PM

RL

“ *So many memories and so many good times. I first met Rick in 1980 or thereabouts when he purchased Flick Drug in Jasper on the square from the late "Chubb" Flick. We worked together in various business endeavors for all of the years since, and remained very close. We took countless vacation trips together and those wonderful memories will sustain us.*

*We just spoke recently about getting together for a Christmas lunch when I came back to Indiana in December. Linda and I extend our condolences to Penny and all members of the family. You will be missed my friend.*

*Bob Leich*

*Los Angeles, CA*

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**Robert Leich** - November 22, 2019 at 05:19 PM

JF

“ *Rick was truly an exceptional man. A man of his word. I have so many fond memories. Sorry for your loss girls but I hope you appreciate the gift of a father like that. Penny sorry for your loss.*

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**Jerry Fuhs** - November 22, 2019 at 04:47 PM

CH

“ Rick had the biggest heart of anyone I knew. My heart goes out to all the family. I hope you can find comfort in knowing how much he loved each and every one you. <3

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**Carol Humbert** - November 22, 2019 at 03:57 PM

MM

I worked for Rick at HIS for 8 years. His passing was a shock to me. All those years he always walked in by saying good morning to all of us. He was kind, respectful and an honorable man with soft heart. My prayers are for the whole family and may you find peace knowing his soul is free and happy now.

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**Maggie Mirgheshmi** - November 24, 2019 at 03:27 PM

KH

Penny,  
Tim and I send our condolences. Such wonderful memories of our trips together with DHI and then working with Rick and Dennis at HLS. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.  
Kathy Hambidge

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**Kathy Hambidge** - November 24, 2019 at 06:12 PM