



Richard Stewart Leahy

August 15, 1959 - September 20, 2025

Richard S. Leahy, born August 15, 1959, in Atchison, KS, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, September 20, 2025, hiking the Pacific Crest Trail at Forester Pass in Kings Canyon National Park, CA. Richard was 66 years old. He will be remembered as a son, brother, uncle, and cherished friend to many, known for his adventurous spirit, sense of humor, and love of animals.

Growing up in Irvine, CA, Richard was a graduate of University High School in Irvine, CA, and CSUF, in Fullerton, CA. He had a lengthy career in financial services, including trades, fixed income, and investment management.

Richard had a deep passion for camping and hiking, an extensive book collection centered around history, and an immense loyalty to family and friends. Many vacations and weekends were spent volunteering with his team, the "Trail Gorillas", to maintain The Pacific Crest Trail. He continued this dedication by organizing an annual volunteer day at work, allowing coworkers to experience, and share his love of the PCT. As the eldest of seven, Richard rarely missed a family gathering and maintained a significant presence in the lives of friends. Reflecting on his meaningful life, many of his friendships began in childhood, young adulthood, and continued until his death, including those with Marty and Paul Blenz, Mary Jane McDowell, Heather McDowell Leishman, Christine Amato, Frank Givens, and Susan Melody to name a few.

Preceded in death by his parents, Richard A. Leahy and Mary Agnes Haegelin Leahy; brother, Robert P. Leahy; and niece, Rebecca Jane Leahy. Survived by three brothers, two sisters, two sisters-in-law, four nieces, and eight nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Pacific Crest Trail at give.ptca.org.

A Celebration of Life will be held on November 2, 2025, from 1-5 PM at the Yucaipa Community Center, located at 34900 Oak Glen Rd, Yucaipa, CA 92399. A catered reception will follow.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 2. 1:00 PM.

Yucaipa Community Center

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Debi and Lisa Lasky planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Stuart Leahy.

Debi and Lisa Lasky - November 03, 2025 at 04:00 PM

DL

“ Debi and Lisa Lasky purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Stewart Leahy.



Debi and Lisa Lasky - November 03, 2025 at 04:00 PM

DF

“ I have known Richard since we first moved to The Ranch in 1969. We all went to University High School together and played hide and seek in the park until the street lights went on. He and my brother Kenny were fast friends well into their adult years until Kenny passed in 2014. Kenny and Richard were Boy Scouts together in Irvine's Troop 36 which is where my sons went on to enjoy Boy Scouts in the very same Troop. Richard and Kenny's Scouting unit flag still hangs in the rafters of the Scout House behind the Katie Weller Library in Irvine. Richard continued to pay all of the Lasky Siblings a visit at gatherings and attended our mothers funeral last year sharing fond memories and providing kind words of support. Our sympathies go out to all who knew and loved Richard as we did. We were going to meet up for lunch last month but hadn't heard from him. I am devastated by his passing and only hope and pray he was not alone when he died. He will be welcomed in heaven by my brother Kenny and forever be in our thoughts and prayers celebrating his accomplishments on the PCT and for his genuine loyalty and friendship. Rest in peace dear Richard. The Lasky Family

Debi (Lasky) Fingerhut - October 28, 2025 at 12:35 AM

SL

Thank you for your kind words of our brother Richard. ❤️ Sue

Sue Leahy - October 29, 2025 at 08:41 AM

DB

“ I wish I would have made it on a hike or 2 with Richard. I know that several of us back in the Midwest share his love for the outdoors. My son, August, has gotten into Boy Scouts and it's his primary extra-curricular activity, so I think the trend will continue. I met Richard at my wedding - was surprised but happy to see and meet him there. Was very kind of him to make the trip and appreciated. Very sorry for your loss, and the unfortunate timing (far too soon) of Richard's passing. You all are in our prayers.

Daniel Burke - September 29, 2025 at 11:19 PM

BL

“ We have a hole in our hearts today with Richard’s passing. We had the blessing of knowing Richard for just a short period of time, but in those 5 years he became family to us.

Every couple of weeks we would look forward to going out to dinner with him and we always left the evening with more knowledge about the word because of him.

We will never forget the time we took him to the driving range recently to hit golf balls for the first time. With his tongue sticking out and with a very unorthodox swing, he somehow quickly found out how to hit the ball straight down the middle just about every time!!? He was so relieved he didn’t embarrass himself and most of all so proud of how he hit the ball. The fine dinner to follow was icing on the cake that day!

We know that Richard would not want us to hang our heads. So instead and in his honor, we frequented his favorite watering hole in Oceanside for the first time, a place he was looking forward to taking us someday for Bloody Mary’s made by Shana! We toasted to him and could feel his presence at the stool next to us.

We will miss you so very much Richard, but enjoy your hikes and Old Fashions in heaven. We look forward to our next get together.

*With love,
Brian and Jenn*



Brian Lucas - September 26, 2025 at 07:35 PM

CA

I love this - Richard loved both of you and cherished the time he spent with you two

Christine Amato - September 28, 2025 at 06:16 PM

SL

♥ *Sue Leahy*

Sue Leahy - October 29, 2025 at 08:42 AM

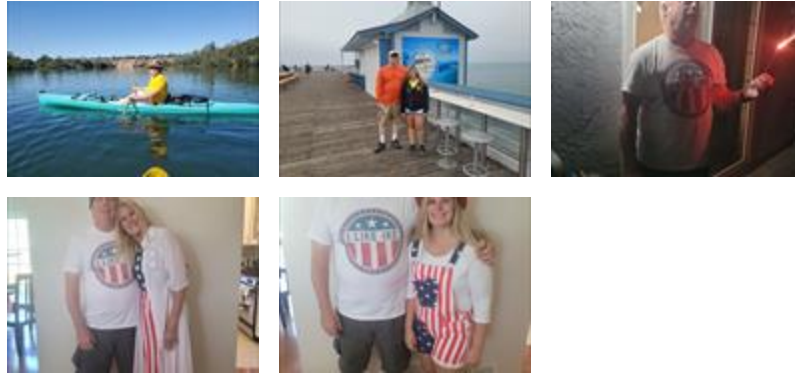


“ *I was so looking forward to seeing Rich. He was coming for a visit on October 11th. He has been a good and faithful friend for about 38 years. We always looked forward to his company, with his dry wit and appreciation for American History. Frank, Rich and I went to the Carter House and we all felt struck by the intensity of it and other civil war sites we visited. We also enjoyed a full day of hiking, something we were planning on doing when he returned. I regret that when he sent me his last text that he would be here in a month, my response was simply "Yay!". I wish I had said more. I wish I had told him how much his loyalty and friendship meant over the years. I can only take comfort in knowing he is smiling down from heaven, probably saying a sarcastic quip about how he already knew that. I miss him. God bless him and tell him how loved he was by me, Frank and all who truly knew him.*

Laurie Sutton - September 26, 2025 at 01:33 PM

PM

“Buddy you left us too soon! You have been my friend for 47 years! We will miss our visits to Oceanside to come see you. Captain -O AKA Skylar will miss the sarcasm. Your circle was small and we were lucky to be in it. We loved you Buddy...Happy trails my friend.



Piper Mckee - September 26, 2025 at 11:59 AM

DF

“I am so saddened to hear of Richard's passing. We shared many trail projects and I always enjoyed his stories and his company. He was part of a special group of people that just wanted to make the trail a better experience for all hikers and equestrians. We had a passion for the PCT and good whiskey, which he always brought some to each multi day project. I would bring Jameson's and he would bring something else and we would debate which one was better. I will miss you my friend and condolences to his family.

Dave Fleischman - September 25, 2025 at 10:44 PM

HL

“ *Richard, I know you are hiking up in heaven right now. We miss you immensely and were so blessed by the time and memories we got to make with you while you were here with us. It's not goodbye, it's see you later. Love Heather, Andrew, Adeline and Lochlan*



Heather McDowell Leishman - September 25, 2025 at 12:35 PM

CA

I love these photos and memories. Richard was the best dad / grandpa and did it with such love and pride. He loved you so much

Christine Amato - September 28, 2025 at 06:18 PM

BS

“ *I worked many projects on the PCT with Richard and can't believe there won't be any more with him. He was always happy to share his knowledge and stories while we were working and hanging out at the campfire afterwards. His presence will be missed, but not forgotten out there.*

Brian Setzer - September 24, 2025 at 10:29 PM