



Nicholas "Nick" DeFabbio

April 7, 2012

Nicholas Anthony DeFabbio, 67, of Richland Center was surrounded by his loving wife and children when he went to be with the Lord on Saturday, April 7, 2012, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Nick was born July 30th, 1944 in Syracuse, NY to Nicholas and Josephine (Volturno) DeFabbio. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1961 to 1965 and afterwards pursued a college education receiving a Bachelor of Arts with a major in American Studies from CSU – Fullerton. He loved the Lord, and spent the last 25 years with Christ as his savior. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. It always gave him great joy to mentor his children, grandchildren, and friends in the fine art of fishing. He had a unique sense of humor and loved to make other people laugh – regardless of the cost. In his later years he could be found spending the lunch hour at his favorite place to eat, Culver's, enjoying the company of a few dear friends. He is deeply loved and will be forever missed by those who had the privilege to know him.

The family would like to thank Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leal, his favorite nurse, Sue Dean, and the staff at the Kramer Center and Richland Hospital, and also Dr. Resnick, the nursing staff from Neuro ICU and general Neuro at UW-Madison, and so many who cheered him on.

He is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Robin DeFabbio of Richland Center, his wonderful children Chris (Jennifer) Veurink of Lake Wylie, S.C.,

Benjamin (Renee) DeFabbio of Muscoda, WI, Cherith (Shane) Dilley of Blue River, WI, and Jennifer (Timothy) Thomas of Oak Harbor, Wash, his two caring sisters, Madeline Faglorone of Estero, FL and Frederica Waddell of Makanda, IL, his beloved grandchildren, Brianna and Jeremiah Veurink, Garrett and Destiny DeFabbio, and Chase, Kadin, Ty, Justice, and Violet Dilley, many beloved nieces and nephews, a large extended family, and wonderful friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Joseph DeFabbio.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center. Friends and loved ones are invited to gather at Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The local Military Honors rites will be performed at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to GRACE (Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination).

" I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7

"Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!" William Shakespeare

Tribute Wall

MC

“ Nick was one of my most favorite cousin' - along with his brother Sonny, and sister Frederica. Having been 8-10 years younger than them, they teased me mercilessly - much to our mothers. I remember them telling me that there were bears in the woods and that if I didn't eat a lot of pancakes, the bears would eat me for being too skinny! My Dear Freddie shaved my legs at the ripe old age of 6 years old. Boy did my mom have a fit!!! I remember nicky as being the smart ass funny guy all the time. He took to my dad, and after my parent' s divorced moved out to California and both the guys kept in touch. Now he's fishing in Heaven with Pappa wo died Nov. 11, 2009.

Marie V. Alessio - Queen Creek, AZ - Cousin - April 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Robin, Chris, Benji, Cherith & Family,
We are very sorry for your loss. Nick was a terrific guy, life was never dull when he was around and what wonderful stories. We recall when Cherith decided he would be a good match for her mother, boy were there a lot of questions but in the end it was so obvious that Nick was really the "one" God sent. He was a great father and sweet husband, and God and his family was everything to Nick. He was just special, and everyone who met him knew it. Even though he is gone from your sight, his spirit will remain with you always. In life he was your Rock, now he will be your Guardian Angel, waiting until the day you are together for eternity. May God hold you close.

Bill & Sandee Ogilvie - Santa Maria, CA - Friends - April 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VN

“ Robin, and family,

My favorite memories of 'Uncle Nicky' are from when I was about 10-11 years old. He had just returned home from the Navy, and lived about three blocks from us. Just as he included his family and friends in as many activities as possible, he did with me then. He took me fishing with him whenever possible. And try as he did to teach me, I was always more interested in listening to the ball game on the radio...or climbing all over the banks of the river. Usually this resulted in all kind of rocks, gravel and dirt sliding into the water. Not exactly an ideal way to attract fish. One time, even I ended up in the river. But he STILL took me with him whenever he went! The pictures you have posted here are testimony to how he passionately enjoyed life...and how much he loved his family and friends.

Vince

Vince Fagliarone - Syracuse, NY - nephew - April 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

“ Dearest Robin and Family,

I will always hold the memories of Nick DeFabbio close to my heart. Robin, I remember the first time you told me that you had met "the one" God had for you. I was uncertain at the time because you said he was not a believer "yet". We arranged a meeting for lunch and a hunting trip at Bob Stonebrook's ranch in Cambria.

When I first met Nick, I knew I had gained an instant friend. And that he was and so much more. The perfect man for you Robin....and the perfect one for your sweet family. We walked around the ranch that day talking about the love of God that Nick noticed between the brothers in Christ that day. Two day's later, Nick received Christ Jesus as His Savior. He took off like a rocket. Full of the love of God. No pretenses....what you saw is what you got. Nick Defabbio....a real friend.... a real brother.....real.

I will always be thankful to the Lord for the sweet memories. And I am looking forward to the time when we will meet again in the Lord's Kingdom.

May this Scripture minister grace and peace to you, his loving family and friends. "God will show us the pathway to life; in His presence is fullness of joy, and at his right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalms 16:11

With much love and prayers,

Greg Diamanti

Greg S. Diamanti - Santa Maria, CA - Brother in Christ....friend.... - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I hope that I could bring a smile to Nicks face when I would see him. I will truley miss talking politics with him while eating at Culvers. With the money that we spend there I still think it would have been cheaper to buy our own restaurant. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. Nick you will truley be missed. I hope to still see your loving family. The world will miss your humor.

Jeremy - Richland Center, WI - Friend - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ We will miss you Nick. Everyone should enjoy life the way you did. I will miss your humor and political talks. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and friends.

Jeremy - Richland Center, WI - Friend - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ To my friend

*So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged by his dungeon; but, sustain'd and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.*

Thanatopsis William Cullen Bryant

Dave - Richland Center, WI - frien - April 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ So many of these pictures made me laugh and thank God for the unique creation of Nick. How can you not smile? He will be missed!

Nancy Nelson - R.C. - friend - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Our sympathy in your loss. We are thankful for Nick serving his country. Our deepest sympathy at this time.

Loretta McCarthy-Richland Military Honor Roll committee

Loretta McCarthy - Richland Center, WI - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I didn't meet the man, but have had the pleasure of knowing Cherith and her family. If they are in any way a reflection of the man, his life was a success many times over. They are kind, giving, considerate, caring and very funny. I love that the picture of Nick the family used was a humorous one -- I instantly saw the essence of the man. His legacy lives in his family, so he will be remembered fondly for generations. Thoughts and prayers to all for your loss.

Thomas McFeeley - Cedar Lake, IN - Family friend - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Nick came to the Richland Center Culver's everyday for lunch for the past several years! It was a daily occurrence to see him walk in the door, we would have his coffee ready and CNN on the TV. His smile and jokes always made someones day!! It has been a joy for everyone to get to know him over the years and we are going to miss him dearly everyday!

The Richland Center Culver's Team - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Nick was a character. He sometimes gave me fits when he acted in the Keys Easter drama but he was a good friend and will be missed.

Mike Breininger - Richland Center, WI - friend - April 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ You will always be remembered Nick! You were a great joke teller and I know you have the Lord laughing now too!!!!

Libby Parish - Richland Center, WI - Friend - April 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Dear Robin,

I did not know Nick but I do know that he made you so happy and for that I am thankful. I know he was a wonderful Father, a wonderful Husband and that he was your forever man and soul mate. As we celebrate his passing as he is now where we all want to be someday, let us all remember that during the days to come you and the kids will need many prayers as you struggle through the reality of your loss. I am always here for you and will pray for you every day. I am so sorry that I cannot be there with you, but you are in my heart. Please let me know what I can do for you...

*Much Love,
Starlin Kay xxoo*

Starlin Sherwood (Langkamp) - Byron Center, MI - Cousin - April 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *The 'Banana Hat' is perfect. For a lot of years I worked with Nick, and then Robin and Shane. What a delightful guy, and family. No matter how serious the topic, I could always look forward to a necessary humor break. And, always, good business ideas and personal integrity. I know he is in a better place, and will be missed.*

Ray Bartholomae - Barrington, IL - Business friend - April 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them. - Augustine*

Chris Veurink - Lake Wylie, SC - Son - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *So thankful for the happy memories of working for Nick n Robin in their home, my husband and I sharing a delicious fish dinner cooked by Nick and also the many Saturday morning prayer meetings we attended together. Thank you God for heaven, Nick is home.*

Ronda Cook - Hillpoint, WI - Friend - April 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM