



Richard Lee Conatser

November 21, 1956 - March 27, 2024

Richard Lee Conatser, 67, of New Orleans, Louisiana, passed away Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Richard was born on November 21, 1956, in Ozark AR, to Robert and Estella (Post) Conatser. He graduated from Russellville High School (AR) in 1974 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Arkansas Tech University.

He became one of the finest nuclear scientists and radiochemists in his field, having begun his career at Arkansas Nuclear One. His work continued at other nuclear power plants throughout the US, including Waterford 3 in Louisiana, San Onofre in California, Limerick in Pennsylvania, Comanche Peak in Texas, and Calvert Cliffs in Maryland. At the federal level, Richard worked with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington DC and with the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Richard moved to the New Orleans area following his retirement. Richard loved music, his family, and the food, wine, and traditions of his Swiss and German ancestry. He also made it a priority to remain in touch with his 55 cousins. In the past 2 years while he struggled with cancer, several members of his family became caregivers and new bonds were made through music, gardening, butterfly farming, making bread, and eating ice cream. Those times will be cherished.

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Robert E. Conatser, Sr., brother Russell James, and sister Melissa Kaye. He is survived by his children Michael Conatser, Lusby MD, Ciel Conatser, California MD, and Julia Baird, Pittsburgh PA, one grandson Levi Baird; three sisters, Lisa Hammad (Tamim), Atlanta GA, Leanne Lefler (Martin), Conway AR, Lynne Camak (Lael), Atlanta GA; and four brothers, Robert Jr. (Tammy), Russell David, Rex (Donna), and Ross (Beverly), 19 nieces and nephews, and 7 great nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Shaffer Funeral Home, 2315 West Commercial Street in Ozark, AR, with a rosary at 7:30 pm.

The funeral Mass and burial will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 5, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Altus AR, celebrated by Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, and Father Reginald Udouj, OSB, of Subiaco AR.

Pallbearers are Richard's son Michael and his 4 brothers. Honorary pallbearers are his cousins Roman Plugge, Jr., Chris Post, Eugene John Post, and longtime friend Mike McAnulty.

Memorials can be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 5118 St. Mary's Ln, Altus AR 72821.

Online guestbook and condolences are available at Shaffer Funeral Home, <https://www.shafferfuneralhomeweb.com/m/obituaries/>.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Altus, AR 72821

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Shaffer Funeral Home
2315 West Commercial Street
PO Box 680
Ozark, AR 72949
(479) 667-4147
shafferfuneralhome@gmail.com

Rosary will follow

Rosary

APR 4. 7:30 PM (CT)

Shaffer Funeral Home
2315 West Commercial Street
PO Box 680
Ozark, AR 72949
(479) 667-4147
shafferfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

APR 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
5118 St Marys Ln
Altus, AR 72821

Burial

APR 5 (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
5118 St Marys Ln
Altus, AR 72821

Tribute Wall

DG

“ My name is Daniele Giuffrida, and I have been a colleague of Richard's at the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation, in Abu Dhabi. We also lived in the same area, so we frequently met casually in our neighborhood. Richard had a passion -and a gift- for giving training, a pleasure that we shared, and our training courses interfaced, so I would often refer students to go and study on Richard's slides. I remember the quality and completeness of his training courses on Radiochemistry, Radioactivity, and the beautiful series of courses on Spectrometry. The Laboratory benefitted a lot from having him setting up practices and mentoring the Staff. One day, we were talking about radiation risk communication to the public, and he shared with me a publication from the American Nuclear Society, which I still conserve in my office. He was reserved, always smiling, frequently poking me with a few words in his terrible (!) italian, and then we will end up chatting about italian food and italian cities that he had visited. Too soon, we will miss you, Richard!

Daniele Giuffrida - May 24, 2024 at 01:32 AM

BM

“ My sincere sympathies to Richard's loving family. I recall his wry smile as a RHS classmate. Prayers and warm regards to you all.

Becky Brewer Morrison - April 09, 2024 at 12:17 PM



“ Prayers and comfort to the family and friends!!!!



Buzy Bee Flowers And Gifts - April 02, 2024 at 02:46 PM

SF

“ *Satterfield Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Lee Conatser.*



Satterfield Family - April 01, 2024 at 09:27 AM

PS

“ *As his first cousin, I will always remember Richard as our tag-along, his brother Robert and I roaming around a small farmstead in Pope County that his dad leased for only a short time..... the three of us drinking from an old hand dug well, the coldest water ever to see sunlight, then meandering down a narrow tree lined road along which our tiny tractors imagined the construction of great cities and roads. Although much younger and both Robert and I, Richard was always brilliant and involved and one of the finest gentleman that one could meet, his smile still shining brightly in my mind. God Speed Richard, and may your beautiful soul bring illumination into the heavens above. Love you and miss you. P. Clay Sherrod*

P. Clay Sherrod - March 30, 2024 at 05:43 PM

CD

“ *Bob and I send our sincere condolences to you Aunt Estella, and our dear cousins and your families at this time of loss. May your precious memories of your time with Richard console you! May he be rejoicing this Easter in heaven, at peace and at rest!! 🙏❤️. Christina & Bob Dyer*

Christina Dyer - March 30, 2024 at 12:54 PM

SD

“ Prayers for distant cousins. A cousin I didn't know, but just found out about. My parents were Herman and Louise (Elser) Dahlem. My maternal great grandmother was a Spanke. My paternal great great uncle was a Benedictine priest named Fr Placidus Oerchle. My paternal grandparents were Joseph and Pauline (Oerchle) Dahlem. Maternal grandparents were Jacob and Theresia (Glanzmann) Elser. Related to Richard on both sides of my family tree.



Susan Dahlem DuBois - March 30, 2024 at 03:41 AM