



## Richard Harter

May 4, 2015

Richard Allen Harter, 64, of Thebes, Illinois died Monday, May 4, 2015 after a courageous fight against leukemia.

He was born June 24, 1950 in Chester, Illinois to Austin G. and Esther J. Moe Harter.

He and Teresa "Terrie" Benefield were married August 16, 1991 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Rich was a graduate of Central High School and received his bachelor of science in accounting from Southeast Missouri State University.

Rich and his family first lived in Perryville, Missouri, where his dad Austin owned and operated a local ice company. In 1964 the family purchased Pure Ice Company and moved to Cape Girardeau. Rich would spend many summers and weekends working alongside his dad learning the business. In 1976, Rich and his brother Glenn bought the ice plant from their dad, who was retiring. They grew and expanded the business throughout southeast Missouri until both retired in 2011.

He was a member of St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church. An avid supporter of junior wrestling, Rich helped create the wrestling program at Notre Dame

High School in 2010. As an assistant coach, his teams took 12 young men to state, including both of his sons.

Survivors include his wife Terrie, two sons, Ryan and Austin, also of Thebes, Illinois, a daughter, Jennifer (Robb) Wilson of St. Louis, Missouri, brother Glennon (Julia) Harter of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, sister Mary Harter of Thornton, Colorado, grandson Luke Krapf and granddaughter Kate Wilson, both of St. Louis, Missouri, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Austin G. Harter, mother Esther J. Moe Harter and sister Julie C. Harter.

Friends may call 4 to 8 pm on Friday, May 8, 2015 at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau. Parish prayers will be at 7 pm.

Funeral service will be at 10:00 am Saturday, May 9, 2015 at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. David Hulshof officiating. Burial will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages memorial contributions to Rich's Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" Team. Donations can be sent to: Light the Night, 1972 Innerbelt Business Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63114 or credit card donations can be made by calling 314-590-2230. Online donations can be made at: [pages.lightthenight.org/gat/StLouis15/rharter](http://pages.lightthenight.org/gat/StLouis15/rharter).

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ *My heart is flooded with wonderful memories of Richard. I had the pleasure of working for Richard when he met and married his wife Terri. I remember so well how happy he was when she said, YES! My deepest sympathy to you and your family during this very difficult time. He will be dearly missed.*

*Anita Mize  
St Louis , MO  
Friday, May 15, 2015*

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**Anita Mize** - May 21, 2015 at 09:32 AM

BW

“ *Terri, Ryan & Austin. So sorry for your loss. Rich was a great guy and a joy to work with. Never afraid to put himself out there for what he believed in. His passion for wrestling helped start our ND program and we are grateful to him. Know that we have fond memories of Big Rich at ND and they will last forever. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Bonnie Westrich  
,  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Bonnie Westrich** - May 21, 2015 at 09:30 AM

LF

“ *May our Heavenly Father hold you close to provide comfort and peace during your time of sorrow. Our deepest sympathy.*

*Lisa, Dexter and Carson Freeman  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015*

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**Lisa, Dexter and Carson Freeman** - May 13, 2015 at 09:42 AM

JF

“ *Dearest Terri and family, you have our sincere condolences for your lost loved one. Know that we will be praying for you and your family for God's strength and love to carry you through. Love, the Finches*

*Jonathan, Regina and Connor Finch  
Jackson , Missouri  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015*

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**Jonathan, Regina and Connor Finch** - May 13, 2015 at 09:42 AM

RW

“ *Rob, Jennifer and family we send our prayers to you at this time of sorrow. Rob, I know your dad wishes he could be there to lend you support but we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.*

*robert and patricia wilson  
wildwood, mo.  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015*

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**robert and patricia wilson** - May 13, 2015 at 09:42 AM

SO

“ Dear family, I am so sad to hear of the passing of my friend Richard. My thoughts and prayers will be with all of you during this very difficult time.

Susie Pickett O'Connell  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015

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**Susie Pickett O'Connell** - May 13, 2015 at 09:42 AM

DC

“ Dear Harter family- My sincerest condolences for your loss. I spent many hours working at the ice plant with Rich while in college. He helped me grow professionally, personally... and forever changed my life. As you know that was Rich... he touched everyone around him and will be truly missed. May God's grace be with you during this difficult time. God bless!

Doyle Kyle Cronan  
Saint Louis, Missouri  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015

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**Doyle Kyle Cronan** - May 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

JH

“ Sending our sincere condolences to the Harter Family during this most difficult time. Richard was one of a kind, he was loved and respected by all that knew him. We will miss him dearly. God Bless

Jim, Patty Hicks  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
Tuesday, May 05, 2015

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**Jim, Patty Hicks** - May 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

CC

“ I knew Rich from my brief time living in Cape Girardeau in the 80's. We met once a week for Tuesday Night Poker and I remember his insight into life and unbelievable sense of humor. May God Bless you Terri your children and all of Rich's family. Chris Campbell

*Christopher Campbell  
El Paso , Texas  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Christopher Campbell** - May 13, 2015 at 09:41 AM

PL

“ so sorry for your loss . Rich was a great and kindhearted man. My sympathies to you and your family at this difficult time. My prayers are with you

*Paula Little  
cape girardeau, mo  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Paula Little** - May 13, 2015 at 09:40 AM

JL

“ My heart and thoughts go out to the entire Harter family. Richard was a great man who will be missed but will never be forgotten.

*Jeremy Loenneke  
Oxford, Mississippi  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Jeremy Loenneke** - May 13, 2015 at 09:39 AM

SB

“ You and your family are in my prayers.

*Sherry Baltzell  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Sherry Baltzell** - May 13, 2015 at 09:39 AM

RR

“ Continued prayers for your family during this heartbreaking time. "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them." Revelation 14:13

*Robby, Bridget, Logan, and Lindsey Ringstaff  
Jackson, MO  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Robby, Bridget, Logan, and Lindsey Rings** - May 13, 2015 at 09:39 AM

MH

“ I am very disappointed that I can not make the funeral because Anne Marie is graduating from college in Tulsa. Rich was a wonderful friend. He was always supportive and helpful to me. His optimism through his difficult suffering was a tremendous inspiration to me. I will always be grateful for our friendship. He will always be in my prayers. Mike

*Mike Himmelberg  
Cape Girardeau, Mo  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Mike Himmelberg** - May 13, 2015 at 09:38 AM

SB

“ So very sorry. My prayers to the family.

*Sherilyn Burger*

*Morley, -----*

*Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Sherilyn Burger** - May 13, 2015 at 09:38 AM

AB

“ Terri, Ryan, Austin, and family- We are so sorry to hear of Rich's passing and his fight with Luekemia- thinking of you all, and praying for peace during this time of loss.

*Ann Bira*

*Troy, Missouri*

*Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Ann Bira** - May 13, 2015 at 09:38 AM

TS

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Richards family and friends Richard was a great man and he will be truly missed!!!!

*Tim & SandySimmons*

*Kelso, Mo.*

*Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Tim & SandySimmons** - May 13, 2015 at 09:38 AM

TH

“ *Doing business with Richard, his father and his brother for a little over 30 years was not always easy. All of them demanded high standards in the purchases they made and the people they dealt with. Richard always lived up to the standards he demanded from others and I know he will find his peace in the arms of our Lord.*

*Tom Howat  
St. Peters, Missouri  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Tom Howat** - May 13, 2015 at 09:38 AM

DG

“ *we are so sorry for your loss. Rich was a sweet and kindhearted man. He will be greatly missed.*

*Daniel and Jaimi's Grimm  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Daniel and Jaimi's Grimm** - May 13, 2015 at 09:37 AM

SH

“ *Terrie; so sorry about Rich. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Sue Hurst  
Fair Grove, Missouri  
Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Sue Hurst** - May 13, 2015 at 09:37 AM

BW

“ Terri, Ryan & Austin. So sorry for your loss. Rich was a great guy and a joy to work with. Never afraid to put himself out there for what he believed in. His passion for wrestling helped start our ND program and we are grateful to him. Know that we have fond memories of Big Rich at ND and they will last forever. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Bonnie Westrich*

,  
*Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**Bonnie Westrich** - May 13, 2015 at 09:37 AM

UN

“ We called him "beast". His voice and laugh filled the room.

,  
*Wednesday, May 06, 2015*

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**unknown** - May 13, 2015 at 09:36 AM

TF

“ Terri, our deepest sympathy to you, Thor and Austin. We were so sorry to hear of Coach's passing. He was such a wonderful mentor to our boy's on the ND Wrestling team, and I believe their biggest fan! He really impacted those boys' lives and they are better young men for having known him. I know for my son, his passion for wrestling and the encouragement he gave him really made a difference. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed by us all. We will be keeping Rich, you and your sons in our prayers.

*The Moses Family  
Mounds, Illinois  
Thursday, May 07, 2015*

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**The Moses Family** - May 13, 2015 at 09:36 AM

MR

“ Rich was such a delight to care for. What a wonderful man. The last time I saw him two weeks ago we were joking that he was starting to look like Richard Simmons after losing some water weight. He always took his illness in stride and with humor and dignity. He will be truly missed. The Harter family is in my prayers and in the thoughts of those on 6900 at Barnes Jewish Hospital. Melissa

*Melissa Edwards RN  
Manchester , MO  
Thursday, May 07, 2015*

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**Melissa Edwards RN** - May 13, 2015 at 09:36 AM

JR

“ Terri, I always like seeing Richard and talking politics with him. He would always make me laugh. We send our deepest condolences. He will be missed! Janice and Jack Ruopp

*Jack and Janice Ruopp  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
Thursday, May 07, 2015*

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**Jack and Janice Ruopp** - May 13, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Harter family. May you find solace in your fond memories of Richards contributions to your life.

*Jeff & Lisa Barber  
Centennial, Co  
Thursday, May 07, 2015*

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**Jeff & Lisa Barber** - May 13, 2015 at 09:35 AM

KW

“ It was with great sadness that I read about Richard's passing. I worked for him and Glen at Pure ice all through college, 1980-83, and I got to know Rich, Glen, and their dad AG, very well and deeply respected all of them. Rich taught me that very hard work and determination would get you somewhere, and the foundation he helped me build carried me to where I am today. The Harter family has my deepest sympathy. Richard and Glen had a profound impact on many more people than they would have known; I'll carry great memories of those long days at Pure Ice for many years. Kevin Whitfield

*Kevin Whitfield  
San Antonio,, TX  
Friday, May 08, 2015*

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**Kevin Whitfield** - May 13, 2015 at 09:35 AM

KP

“ I've learned what a loving husband, father, brother and friend Rich was in listening to stories told by his sister, Mary. My deepest sympathies to the whole family. Blessings, Karen

*Karen Pacent  
Riverside, CT.  
Friday, May 08, 2015*

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**Karen Pacent** - May 13, 2015 at 09:35 AM

ST

“ We wanted to let you know we are thinking of you at this time. Rich was here at Schnucks daily when he ran the route many only knew him as the Ice Man. He always had a smile and joke for you he will be sadly missed by all.

*Schnucks Teammates  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
Friday, May 08, 2015*

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**Schnucks Teammates** - May 13, 2015 at 09:34 AM

ER

“ Terri, we are so sorry to hear about Rich. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Kelly-Ann

*Ed and Kelly-Ann Radetic  
Ellisville, Missouri  
Friday, May 08, 2015*

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**Ed and Kelly-Ann Radetic** - May 13, 2015 at 09:34 AM

JL

“ Dearest Terrie, Jennifer, and family, I wish you peace, love, and light... many prayers & much love

*Sheri Schrader-Turner  
Jackson, MO  
Friday, May 08, 2015*

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**Jim and Jan Leuthauser** - May 13, 2015 at 09:34 AM

JL

“ Our sad hearts are with the Harter family today as we mourn the loss of Rich. We will cherish forever the memories of him. Thanksgiving will not ever be the same without you, Rich. Your laughter, debates we had, games we played, and just hanging out together. We will miss you dear friend. Love, Jan and Jim

*Jim and Jan Leuthauser  
Silverthorne, CO  
Saturday, May 09, 2015*

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**Jim and Jan Leuthauser** - May 13, 2015 at 09:34 AM

RA

“ I knew him as Thordaddy. We shared the same passion for the St. Louis Rams. I always enjoyed talking politics and current events with him. He was an excellent teacher and so proud of his family and his coaching wrestling. My condolences to his family. He will be missed.

*RAMSWRATH  
,  
Saturday, May 09, 2015*

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**RAMSWRATH** - May 13, 2015 at 09:34 AM

TC

“ Rich was a great guy who was always so friendly every time I saw him. We met in Cape Jaycees a long time ago where he encouraged me to participate and think outside the box. I'm sure alot of people will miss him & my heart goes out to his family.

*Tara Caldwell  
Thebes, Illinois  
Sunday, May 10, 2015*

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**Tara Caldwell** - May 13, 2015 at 09:33 AM

MS

“ My deepest sympathy to Terri and Austin and the family. Rich was a great friend being out of town watching Ramsey play in his regional baseball tournament kept me from attending any of the services. I know Rich would understand that! He was a great man who put the family and kids first! I'll sign off with another "I see you!"

*Mike Scott  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
Sunday, May 10, 2015*

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**Mike Scott** - May 13, 2015 at 09:33 AM

ZC

“ Richard was a great guy and I will miss him. Condolences to the family.

*Zac Caldwell  
Cape Girardeau, Mo  
Monday, May 11, 2015*

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**Zac Caldwell** - May 13, 2015 at 09:33 AM