



Richard Lee Steiner

February 14, 1950 - April 19, 2025

Richard Lee Steiner, 75, died on April 19, surrounded by loved ones at his home in Fairway, Kansas, following a lengthy illness.

He was born on Feb. 14, 1950, to Lisette Braun Steiner (Fisher) and Jerrold Steiner in St. Louis, Mo., becoming the adored little brother of his then 12-year-old sister Susie. His father, who had been a minor league catcher and furniture distributor, died when Richard was 12 years old. Richard remained close to his travel-loving mother, a teacher and advocate, who later married Myron Fisher and brought a fun-loving stepbrother, Charles (Chuck) Fisher, into Richard's life.

Richard was zealous about his railway career; dedicated to his wife of 34 years, Joyce Meyer, and supportive of his only son, Jeremy, who brought much joy into Richard's life. He delighted in teaching his succession of dogs to sing, turned grocery shopping into a hobby, was immersed in following the news and liberal causes and was fascinated by history, especially railway history and music history. He was a whiz at "Jeopardy" and family and co-workers knew that only an emergency warranted interrupting his favorite TV show.

After graduating from Horton Watkins High School in Ladue in 1968, Richard headed to the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he graduated. He

majored in social work, minored in Spanish, and discovered a new passion, playing the guitar with his dorm-mate and soon-to-be lifelong friend and fellow railroader Bob Suckiel.

The early 1970s music scene and a job search lured Richard to Kansas City. He explored social work first but ended up hiring out on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad as a clerk and later moved into the engine service. He became a locomotive engineer and later, as a sign of respect by his fellow engineers, he was elected president of the C&NW RR local Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. When not riding the rails, Richard kept busy during his young adult years as one of the early members of The Foolkiller Etc, a Kansas City gathering of political action, music and theater that eventually transformed into what is now Crosscurrents. He played guitar, banjo and sometimes dobro with the folk-Americana band Vegomatic. He, Greg Allen and Sam Lograsso formed Bert and the Brechts, whose claim to fame was once opening for the famed Doc Watson.

In 1990 he met a fellow dog-loving neighbor who shared his interest in music and supporting worthwhile causes. He and Joyce married in 1991. Together they enjoyed travel, music, time with friends and family and always being the oldest parents in the crowd while raising their son, Jeremy. He coached Jeremy's baseball team, supported his swimming, rugby and choral activities, turned the basement into a haven for teens, and later took pride in Jeremy's career move to New York City.

Career wise, Richard was advancing rapidly. In the early 1990s he took a position as Manager of Operations with the recently merged Southern Pacific Chicago St. Louis (SPCSL) railway. The job gave him the opportunity to hone his teaching skills while running Southern Pacific's training center. His career responsibilities grew during a series of railroad mergers in the mid- and late-1990s that turned Kansas City's rail yards into an immense hub under the

moniker of Union Pacific. By 1996, Richard's title was Manager of Operations for Union Pacific. He later became Director of Road Operations. Due to health issues his railroad career took a turn and he took over Union Pacific's training center, became the KC Hub's "rules guru" and one of the top regional investigation managers for accidents and derailments. Both other managers and rank and file employees came to him for the definitive meaning and implementation of the rules and practices of the RR. Everyone knew that what Richard said on these subjects was gold and by chance if not, he always stood by what he said never throwing anyone else under the bus. When it came to the rules all someone had to say was "Steiner said"-----" and all gathered around would hush and listen and he always had time to patiently and calmly discuss the finer points with anyone, treating all as equals. Witty, funny, insightful and a memory for names, dates and trivia were are only some of his attributes that endeared him to his fellow workers.

In 2011, he retired from Union Pacific, formed his own railway consulting business and started a part-time career working for Transportation Certification Services (TCS) of Overland Park, Kansas. He traveled around the country and abroad, instructing railway safety, investigation procedures, training in operations, logistics and other areas.

In addition to his wife Joyce and son Jeremy, Richard is survived by his daughter-in-law Annmarie Wrightsman; his stepbrother Chuck Fisher (Jean); two nieces, Betsy (Joel) Dennis and Emily (Matt) Coen; two nephews, Tom (Tara) Gallop and John (Caryn) Gallop; a step-niece and step-nephew, Nancy (Scott) Trail and Mike (Elaine) Fisher; numerous great-nieces and great-nephews; a huge assortment of in-laws and family dog Lincoln.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Sue Gallop, brother-in-law Donald Gallop, a step-niece Ellen Fisher and father-in-law Vincent G. Meyer.

A Celebration of Life will be on Sunday, July 20, at 2 pm at The Simpson House, 4509 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.

Memorials in Richard Steiner's name may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), your favorite animal rescue or to the charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **20**. 2:00 PM (CT)

The Simpson House
4509 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Joyce,

I don't know if you remember me but I was a college and musician friend of Richard's starting in 1969. I stayed with him in KC for a summer while I was attending the Charlie Parker Institute, not sure of the year (maybe 1978?), and I remember meeting you at some point. So many musicians came through that house in those years. Richard served as a stabilizing force for us all.

I am now packing up our house of many years in Minnesota and am finding so many photos and memories of very dear friends, Richard (or Bear as he was known in college) being one of my fondest memories. I decided to see if I could find him, but instead found this memorial. It has been so many years since we had contact, maybe around the time Jeremy was born. I know he met my husband Craig, maybe in 1980, and at least knew of our son Max, born 1986. I remember getting Jeremy's birth announcement. I wish we had kept in touch. Life has a way of moving on, obliterating the passage of time that we all believe we have a lot of until we don't.

I don't know if you will ever read this post, as it has been a while since his death and I don't have another way to contact you. But I need to say this. Richard was one of the gentlest, most generous, and lovely human beings I have ever had the privilege to call my friend. He was always there for me (and many others.) We shared an interest in so many things, social work, politics, music and late night talks solving the worlds problems. (OK, some of those talks may have been slightly substance driven, it was the 70s.) We had an uncomplicated deep friendship in a sea of youthful complexities and I will always love him for that. I am so sorry for your and Jeremy's loss. He is a man to be missed.

Christine Mueller/Craig Gilbert

Christine Mueller - November 12, 2025 at 01:30 AM

AM

“ Adam, Christian, Frankie & Mitchell purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Richard Lee Steiner.



Adam, Christian, Frankie & Mitchell - July 17, 2025 at 03:21 PM

AA

“ Rest in peace Richard. Sending condolences to the family GodBless. 🙏🙏🙏. Andrew Armilio

Andrew Armilio - May 18, 2025 at 08:59 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Reflections Memorial Services LLC - May 13, 2025 at 12:33 PM