



Ricky Matanane Rojas

May 25, 1948 - September 27, 2021

Ricky Matanane Rojas was born in Agana, Guam on May 25, 1948. “Big Rick” was the first son to Enrique and Catalina Rojas, and a natural born charmer. Big Rick was witty and won the hearts of everyone he met. He came to Vallejo from Guam with his parents in 1960. Growing up, Big Rick was always exciting, the cool, handsome older brother and the fun-loving guy everyone wanted to be around, especially the ladies. He honorably served in the U.S. Navy from May 1967 to June 1973. He was an amazing father and family man, ready to share a laugh, always selfless and offered help to anyone who needed it. He was a talented carpenter, a natural leader, especially to young people while teaching as a Wood Shop teacher. He was known for his straight talk and high standards, teaching and inspiring students to work hard and take pride in all their endeavors, big or small. Big Rick was a great cook and prepared breakfast for his work crew and started each day with a laugh. He made an impact on all those who crossed his path, he was unapologetically himself and found humor and positivity in all situations. He passed away peacefully on September 27, 2021 after a short illness. He is preceded in death by his mother Catalina and father Enrique. He survived by his five loving children, DeeDee Pagala (JoJo), Ricky Rojas Jr. (Monique), Stacy Rojas-Kennedy (Fred), Kameron Rojas, Konner Rojas, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, his 5 brothers, 1 beautiful sister and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial including Military Honors will be held on Friday, October 8, at 3:30 PM. St Dominic’s Catholic Church, 475 East I St.,

Benicia California

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT 8. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (PT)

St Dominic's Catholic Church
475 E I St
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 747-7220

Tribute Wall



“ *Ricky Matanane Rojas*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *I knew Ricky for about ten years. We worked at vcsud together. He wasn't just a coworker, he truly was a friend to all. I used to tell him, he was my go to man for any carpentry question. A truly loving and genuine person. I will miss him dearly. My condolences go out to his family. Rest In Peace my Brother.*

Tim Farcas - October 08, 2021 at 02:51 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Ricky Matanane Rojas.*



October 07, 2021 at 09:40 PM

TH

“ It’s hard to put into words what Big Rick meant to me and my family. Let me begin by offering my heartfelt condolences to the Rojas family. I’m not sure when Big Rick and I met, it just seems that I’ve known him my entire life. He often said “I may not have a lot of money but I’m rich in friends”. He had a gift of making everyone feel like family. We worked, partied and laughed together many times throughout the years. He’s the one in 1996 that told me the VSUD was hiring painters he said “Hey, Tom Terrific, you better go down there and apply right away!” I was painting his house on Indiana street at the time. One of the many houses and jobs we worked together on over the years. The friendship, mentoring and professionalism that he displayed as a master carpenter was invaluable to me as both a man and tradesman. Rick made me a better person. Rick cooked breakfast and lunch for the VSUD crew each day for years. Many times laughing and saying “This is so good... can you hear the marching band?” always followed by acting like he was playing a trumpet and dancing to the music. Of all the meals he cooked throughout the years the BBQ’s and finadene were the best and 2nd to none. He loved to cook and share food with everyone. Big Rick was a one of kind all around great guy, a diamond in the rough, and will be deeply missed.

Rick,

It’s is hard for us to believe that you are gone, but your legacy of a life well lived will live on in our hearts. This is not goodbye but so long for now.

Tom & TimiJean Hoey & Family



Tom Hoey - October 07, 2021 at 09:04 PM

SL

“ *Condolences to the family. Ricky will be greatly missed. We grew up in Vallejo with our Chamorro families and have many memories of Ricky and his family.*
Steve Leon-Guerrero

steve Leon-Guerrero - October 07, 2021 at 07:39 PM

JA

*Missing you my friend,
I hope you met my big brother up there and you guys are having a shot together!
Connie and Families, My heart is with you ALL today! ❤️*

Judy Acha - September 27, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ricky Matanane Rojas.*



October 07, 2021 at 06:04 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ricky Matanane Rojas.*



October 06, 2021 at 07:25 PM

BE

“ *My Condolences to Ricky's family. I worked in Benicia, and Ricky was one of my favourite customers. He was always cheerful and cordial with me, and has never complained about anything. The world has one less Angel now. May Ricky fly with the Angels and be the best Woodshop Teacher in Heaven.*



Betty - October 06, 2021 at 11:16 AM

JD

Rest In Peace my friend. You are truly missed.

John Damian - October 07, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ricky Matanane Rojas.*



October 06, 2021 at 10:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ricky Matanane Rojas.*



October 05, 2021 at 04:01 PM

SP

“ In 2000 I met Ricky Rojas at VHS he was My wood shop teacher it was his first year there!! We instantly hit it off. He had this welcoming and contagious attitude that made you feel comfortable and he had people skills combined with some of the savviest street smarts that us high schoolers at the time could not break! He knew how to handle teenagers from all walks of life. Ricky taught us and shared his skills of the trades to where I would help him on side jobs throughout my last year in high school. The best part was the food I honestly had never had food that good! Finadinni, oxtail soup!!!! Man!! And the list goes on. One day in class Ricky asked me if I had a bank account and I said no he looked at me and said one of his favorite words and he took me to open my first bank account, still to this day I ask my self why did Ricky look out for me when he didn't have to. So finally graduation day is here June 2001 and I had no idea that from that day forward my friendship with Ricky would be what it is today!! We stayed connected and busy as Ricky was and in 2003 Ricky helps me with a letter of recommendation for a job in the maintenance department at the Vallejo school district to where our history continued and we worked together ever since. For over 15 yrs I saw Big Rick Everyday in the mornings at work and we would work shoulder to shoulder, we became close and he treated me like a son. Big Rick treated me like family!! Throughout our friendship he introduced me to his family which I had a pleasure to meet and to the abundance of friends that had throughout. Ricky shared his talent and wisdom with not just me but many others and I will forever be grateful. Ricky did not just treat me like family but my wife and kids as well. Ricky I don't know why you looked out for me since the day you met me but I appreciate it and I will not let you down my brother, you shared your talents with me and you also helped mold me to the man I am today. Thank you for your friendship and for making me feel like if I was a part of your family. I can't except that you are gone now but I will keep your memory in my heart forever my brother. I realized that we had an Angel around us the whole time and we didn't know it until you were gone. May god have you in his glory.
Til I see you again my loyal friend.

Sergio Pelayo



Sergio Pelayo - October 04, 2021 at 12:01 AM

GH

He loved you Sergio, there is no one that can compare. He will be missed so much. You were also a great friend to him.

Glenda Hanes - October 06, 2021 at 01:57 PM

JA

“ *What a huge void we will all have in our lives since the passing of Rick!*

Our condolences, prayers, positive thoughts and healing vibes to Connie and ALL of his families for the loss of such a vibrant man.

Our hearts are broken but I know Rick would want us to carry-on his spirit in a positive way and celebrate what he gave to others.

May it help to know that we share in your sorrow and pain as we lost our oldest brother at the same age as Rick, a year ago to this horrific virus. We are certain they're both up above celebrating together!

Please know that you will ALL be in our healing thoughts and prayers in all the days ahead. 💕

Our deepest regrets, Judy & Javier Acha



Judy Acha - October 03, 2021 at 01:18 PM