



Kevin Stanley Rickey

October 25, 1961 - November 28, 2016

Kevin Rickey, 55 of Etna, passed away on November 27, 2016 while on a hike up Kidder Creek trail.

Kevin was born in Etna on October 25, 1961. He was the youngest of four children born to Merwyn and Dorothy Rickey. Kevin was raised in Quartz Valley. He attended Quartz Valley Elementary School, Etna Elementary School and Etna High School.

Kevin was a hard working man. He was an entrepreneur who started and maintained his own landscaping business and had recently started a bat guano distribution business called The Good Soil People. He was part of the Millwrights union and a minister. He spent three seasons fishing in Alaska and participated in two charity missions, to Guatemala and Haiti.

Kevin was known as “Mr. Adventure”. At the age of seventeen he traveled to Europe by himself and continued to explore new places and old haunts throughout his life. He

was an avid hiker and passionate about the mountains, wildflowers, mushroom gathering and geology. He was a natural scholar who studied many topics. He took beautiful pictures, kept a journal and loved to read and write poetry. He learned to juggle as a teen and continued to enjoy juggling for the years to come. Not long ago, he spearheaded the establishment of a family memorial scholarship in his parents' name.

Above all, Kevin loved people. He married his wife, Susan, in 1995 and was a devoted father to their two children, Eli and Jenny. His family and friends meant the world to him and they were his greatest joy. Wherever Kevin went, he could easily speak with and make connections with others. Because of this, his circle of friends and loved ones is vast. He was always considerate and opened his heart to everyone. He shared his faith with kindness.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Susan; son Eli and daughter Jenny; his sisters Chloe Grenvik and her husband Jeff, Sharmel Christ, and his brother Paul Rickey and his wife Michelle; and his many nephews and nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents Merwyn and Dorothy Rickey, his brother-in-law Kenneth Christ and his nephew Craig Strickland.

Memorial Services will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 12:00 Noon at the Methodist Church in Etna. There will be a potluck lunch to follow

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Kevin's

favorite charity, run by
his good friend Fritz Desir: Family Care Haiti in Port Au Prince at
familycarehaiti.org, or Scott
Valley Scholarships, P.O. Box 352, Etna, CA 96027.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 3. 12:00 PM (PT)

Etna Methodist Church
137 Diggles Street
Etna, CA 96027

Tribute Wall



“ My husband Phillip and I (Sarah) were blessed to get to know Kevin one summer while we stayed in an RV park in Willows. Kevin and Phillip were working together at a fiberglass factory for several months together that summer. Kevin also stayed at the same RV park that we did. Upon first meeting Kevin, he shared with me that he had noticed that Phillip was "different" and discerned that he was more than likely a man of faith like himself... Kevin was right. It was our common faith, and in many ways, our uncommon ideas about it, that spawned a great many visits and late night conversations with Kevin. Phillip would often invite guys over to the RV for dinner with me and our daughters. One night I told him that I was just too tired to keep up with all the visitors but made it clear that this did not apply to Kevin... he felt comfortable, like family and would never be turned away from our doors. Phillip and I are all the way back home in Wisconsin now, have been here for several years, but the news of Kevin's passing has struck us both very near to our hearts. Kevin was and will always be one of the greatest men either of us has been blessed to have known. Our time spent with him will forever be in our memory. I praise God for allowing us to meet this wonderful brother of ours here in this world. We will see him again, that I am sure of... until then, he will be greatly missed.

PhillipandSarah Schmitt - December 11, 2016 at 10:17 PM

BW

“ When we were kids, Paul, Kevin and I would usually be doing boy kid things when the families would get together. I was teaching Kevin to put a Pea in his nose and shoot it out to see how far we could launch it. Unfortunately Kevin missed the part about not putting it too far up the nose and his was stuck. Mom was taken aback that she had to teach her son that sticking peas up his nose was not the thing to be done. After several minutes the pea was safely dislodged. He never gave it up that I told him this was a good thing to do.

My roots will always be with my family in the valley. It brings me comfort to know Kevin's faith will take him on another great journey while we struggle with this loss.

Britt, Kathy, Kayla, Brena Whipple

Britt Whipple - December 03, 2016 at 10:11 AM

HA

“ Kevin had a wonderful soul. He was a craftsman and all around handyman. Thank you to his family for sharing him with us. My condolences to his family. It is so hard to lose someone especially when it happens so quickly.



Kevin did some work for me just a few weeks ago and I had hoped I could have him do more. I pray for each of you in this time of sorrow and for the many weeks and years that will follow with a very empty space where he was.

I am sorry I will not be able to come to the memorial on Saturday as I have another commitment I need to be at the same time of day.

Harriet Rivallier

Harriet - December 02, 2016 at 05:38 PM

CC

Kevin has impressed me with his utterly kind and generous heart. He came across as a youthful guy with wonderful curiosity and a sense of adventure. He is a wonderful and unusual guy. It is with sa

Chaplain James Cavener - December 03, 2016 at 12:39 AM

CC

(Cont.) sadness to realize that he hahe has

Chaplain James Cavener - December 03, 2016 at 12:42 AM

SN

“ I met Kevin during my trip down the California coast in the summer of 2013. I got lost driving the backroads from Redding, California and ended up in a little tiny town called Etna. It was 120 F outside. I'm NOT kidding. Kevin invited me to go swimming together with his son in the local swimming hole. He then directed me on the shortest route over the mountains to the coast. No matter where you travel, being a believing and practicing Christian means that you have family in every part of this world. I am fortunate that God connected me with my brother in California. You will be missed, Kevin. My sincerest condolences to the Rickey family.

Sylvia Nitz - December 01, 2016 at 09:53 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kevin Stanley Rickey.



December 01, 2016 at 10:47 AM

LC

“ We were blessed to know Kevin Rickey. He drove vans for the High School Basketball team and was one of their greatest fans. His kids and family were his pride and joy. Our sincerest condolences to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Lori and Tim Connelly



Lori Connelly - December 01, 2016 at 09:01 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kevin Stanley Rickey.*



December 01, 2016 at 12:41 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Kevin's death. He was a special man. May your memories and faith bring you comfort.*
Evelyn Mann-Wilder

Evelyn Mann-Wilder - December 01, 2016 at 12:26 AM



“ *We first moved to Etna in 2001. Kevin and Susan were the first to befriend us and make us feel like coming to Etna was the right thing to do. Kevin always made me feel good about life whenever I saw him. Even though I'm not a pray-in-public kind of person, I always took comfort when Kevin would want to pray over one situation or another; it usually happened in our kitchen and he'd always ask if it was okay. I'm glad I was always open to it.*
Kevin's passing still feels very surreal because Kevin was one of those mountain men who seemed eternal. The only comfort I can find is knowing God must have a plan none of us could have foreseen that will give Kevin a higher purpose. Though I'll be missing his presence in this valley--we were going to organize a poetry jam some time after the holidays--I'll know he's watching over us when we're out hiking around the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Maybe a poetry slam in your honor, Kevin, will be in order...
Susan, Eli, and Jenny--our thoughts and prayers are with you. oxox,
Lynn, Larry, and Tiller

Lynn Karpinski - December 01, 2016 at 12:02 AM

ST

“ To Susan, Eli, Jenny, and All of Kevin's Family Members:

My thoughts are with you as you navigate through this difficult time. I went to high school with Kevin and I always appreciated his calmness and fairness towards all fellow students. As adults we shared gardening ideas and discussed the challenges of small business operations. I've always felt that Merwyn and Dorothy passed along many fine qualities to all of their children and I'm happy to know them.

Sheryl Towne

Sheryl Towne - December 01, 2016 at 12:02 AM

MB

“ We are so deeply saddened by Kevin's untimely passing. He was a kind and caring man who leaves a legacy of love - love of the Lord and love of family and friends. He will be missed. We are sorry we can't be at the services on Saturday as we won't get back in time from a trip, but please know our prayers are with all of you.
Mike and Lynne Bryan

Mike and Lynne Bryan - November 30, 2016 at 10:01 PM

EV

“ Dear Susan, Eli, Jenny, Cloie, Sharmel, Paul, and all the Rickey family. I am sorry I can't be with you on Sat but please know my heart will be there. Kevin was one of the best among us. So much love and thoughtfulness wrapped in a smile and a hug. After Bob was killed in 2011, he came by my house at least once a month for over a year to see if there was anything I needed. I will greatly miss him. Love to all of you.

Elizabeth Varney - November 30, 2016 at 08:58 PM

JS

“ *John and Beth Smith purchased the Rainbow Reflections Basket for the family of Kevin Stanley Rickey.*



John and Beth Smith - November 30, 2016 at 07:40 PM


Shellee
Mittan

“ *Your tribute to Kevin in his obituary was so perfect. No matter how many years between seeing him, he always greeted me with such friendliness and familiarity, always saying my name and knowing who I am. I am so sorry for this tragic loss. My prayers are with you all. Kevin was a wonderful soul and when I think of him I always smile. And I so remember his juggling!*

Shellee Mittan - November 30, 2016 at 04:36 PM

RD

“ *Dear Susan and family,*

Our hearts go out to you all. Kevin was one of my very first friends in Scott Valley when I was 10 years old. We rode the bus together and had many great adventures in Quartz Valley growing up together. It always brought me joy to run into him unexpectedly at the store, or the fair, or where ever.

He was a very special light in an amazingly special family.

Love to you all,

Becky Desmond

Rebecca Desmond - November 30, 2016 at 03:51 PM

SB

I love you and hurt with you. I will never forget Kevin. Shirley Bridges

Shirley Bridges - November 30, 2016 at 03:56 PM