



Richard James Goodwin

December 14, 1960 - October 25, 2024

Richard James Goodwin of Happy Camp, California, was found deceased in his home on Friday, October 25th. His death was unexpected. Richard is survived by his daughter, Donna Leah Goodwin of Happy Camp, and his grandson, Eugene James Goodwin who resided with his grandfather; his mother, Donna Rae Hays of Grants Pass, Oregon, his brother Douglas Goodwin, of Happy Camp; sisters, Lorraine McGorry of Roseville, Denise Backen of Sacramento, and Laura Goodwin of Davis, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, Oliver Richard Goodwin, his uncle Douglas Goodwin, Sr, a brother, Benjamin Goodwin, and sister, Julia Rae Goodwin.

The U.S. Forest Service employed Richard for 20 years in the Klamath National Forest, Happy Camp Ranger District and the Supervisors Office in Yreka; and the Tahoe National Forest in Nevada City, California. No matter where he lived, Happy Camp was always his home. A proud and active member of the Karuk Tribe, Richard served as a board member of the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance committee. In the last few years, Richard continued to give back to his community, working when needed as a Cultural Monitor for the tribe.

An active outdoorsman, Richard fished the Klamath River with his grandson and other extended family. He and his brother Doug took a memorable Alaskan trip, fishing west of Juneau, Alaska. Richard joined the family in camping and fishing out of Brookings, Oregon. He hunted every fall with his

grandson and brother. While driving down a mountain road on a hunting trip, Richard was known to roll down the window and call out, "Here, buck, buck, buck."

Well known for his smoked salmon and deer jerky, Richard shared his bounty with family and friends. He also organized and held Goodwin family reunions in 2016 and 2017.

Richard, a kind and generous man, supported many causes in the Happy Camp community. He will be sorely missed by his family and community. A traditional Karuk burial service will be held at the Happy Camp District Cemetery at 12 p.m. on Sunday, November 3, 2024. A social gathering will follow at the old gym across from the People's Center at the Karuk Tribal Administrative Complex on Second Street in Happy Camp, California.

Tribute Wall



“ You were always a good man Richard!! always thought of you as a friend. RIP

Mike Ledford - November 16, 2024 at 12:00 AM

“ While I have not seen Richard in many years, I have many great memories of time spent together in Happy Camp working for the USFS. Spent several years working together on the Helitack Crew. We shared many fun and exciting times together on the fireline and helibases all across the West from Arizona north to Idaho.

We also shared a deep affection for the river and all the river had to share with us. Many days were spent together in my driftboat floating the Klamath in search of fish, quiet, and wildlife. Richard and I shared a dislike for the overwhelming intrusion of suction dredges that infested our once quiet and relatively untouched river. We were known only to each other as "The Blue Heron Society", dedicated to the preservation of our river and the riddance of those infernal dredges. One day Richard presented me with a nicely adorned Blue Heron feather he'd created himself. I hung it proudly from my rear-view mirror in my pickup until one day while chasing steelhead up Elk Creek, a warden with CDF&G confiscated it from me stating it was illegal to have in my possession. Gifted to me or not, it was still illegal. Go figure. After that, Richard decided to gift me something a little more sturdy - a machete! He made the machete from an old lawn mower blade, attached a deer antler for the handle and adorned it with wrapped leather. Laughing, he said, "I'd like to see them take that away from you". Gotta love the guy, he had a sense of humor.

I am aware of Richard's love of jerky. But, I have to share a quick story about a dinner one time when we were on fire assignment out in Cedarville country. The crew decided to have dinner together one night so we found a decent restaurant that prepared a nice steak. We all ordered our steaks cooked ranging from medium rare to medium with one exception - Richard. He wanted his cooked well done and by well done, I mean really well done. He ended up sending his steak back twice to be cooked even more. He had that chunk of beef so well done there wasn't a lick of moisture left in it and it had the consistency of a slab of jerky. To this day, I've never seen a steak more cooked than Richard's that night in Cedarville.

There are so many more stories I could share about our times together, but I'm a tad long winded already so I'll end it for now. Just know they were good and memorable times we shared together.

I enjoyed you and your friendship Richard and I look forward to seeing you once again on the river where wildlife abounds and the sun always shines.

Tim Grenvik - November 03, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *I worked with Richard in fire and in the dispatch center in Yreka. He was great to work with - had a sense of humor and a knew the forest like the back of his hand. He touched a lot of people.*

Mary Gausen - November 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel*

A Memorial Tree was planted for Richard James Goodwin - October 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Sorry for your loss. Warm hugs!*

Sharon Hall - October 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *So very sorry for your loss. 🙏🙏*

Kristen Naylor - October 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss.

Dina Meyer-Eastlick - October 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM