



Michael Anthony Richter III

June 13, 1950 - March 15, 2026

Michael Anthony Richter III, age 75, of Stevensville, Maryland, passed away on March 15, 2026.

Michael was born on June 13, 1950, to the late Michael A. Richter Jr. and Mary Louise Wonneman. He married Sharon Saquella on May 29, 2005 and together they enjoyed 21 years of a loving marriage.

Michael graduated from Severna Park High School in 1968. He then entered the United States Navy. There he was assigned to the USS New Orleans (LPH-11), where he worked as a Radioman. During his military career, Michael was stationed at Yankee Station, Vietnam, as well as Guam. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal as well as the Vietnam Service Medal. Michael was honorably discharged after four years of active duty as a Radioman 3rd class.

After the Navy, Michael entered service with NASA as a Federal contractor. His first assignment was in Voice Control at the Goddard Space Flight Center. He supported most of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs. He eventually became a Federal Government employee in the NASA Communication(Nascom) Division. He served as a Communications Director supporting the NASA Space Shuttle program and their launches. When his daughter, Michelle, was young, she was interviewed by The Bay Times, telling

the reporter, “My Daddy talks to the astronauts”—which he occasionally did. He was most proud of his part in the Space Shuttle program, which he was involved with from before the first one launched to the day the Space Shuttle was retired. Michael then accepted a position as a Communications Mission Planner that supported NASA's Space Science Directorate at the GSFC. He supported NASA both as a contractor and Government employee from 1973 - 2013.

In his spare time, Michael enjoyed making and launching model rockets, boating, fishing, and crabbing. He loved riding motorcycles from the time he was a teen, often commuting from Kent Island to NASA Goddard in Greenbelt, MD.

Michael is survived by his wife, Sharon Richter; his daughters, Michelle (Jared) Smith and Megan Richter, and their mother, Pam Preston; and his stepchildren, Victoria Harrell and Peter (Sarah) Saquella. He is also survived by six grandchildren—Caroline, Grayson, Hayden, Harper, Karter, and Kamryn—and five step-grandchildren—Payton, Emerson, Violetta, Lucia, and Jack. He is also survived by his brother, John (Dawn) Richter Jr.; his sister, Joanne Triantafillides; his aunt, Helen Burtner; as well as various nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Michael's name may be made to the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department at 1610 Main Street, Chester, MD 21619, Compass Hospice at 255 Comet Drive, Centerville, MD 21617, or the Kent Island Methodist Church Love Fund at P.O. Box 308, Chester, Maryland 21619.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kent Island Methodist Church
2739 Cox Neck Road
Chester, MD 21619

Memorial Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kent Island Methodist Church
2739 Cox Neck Road
Chester, MD 21619

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Barbara Gownley lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III*



Barbara Gownley - March 26 at 11:04 PM

BG

Mike was a wonderful coworker and friend. We had a great team and made fun memories as we worked together. I'll remember him fondly as I keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

Barbara Gownley - March 26 at 11:15 PM

SL

“ *Sandra L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Anthony Richter III.*

Sandra L. - March 25 at 07:42 PM

WA

“ *Mike was a loving and devoted husband father, and grandfather, always a pleasant and kind man.*



Wynne Aroom - March 23 at 08:12 AM

DE

“ Dawn Eber lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III



Dawn Eber - March 21 at 10:02 PM

PF

“ Mike was always a lot of fun, and a great Dad. We have many good memories and are happy we had the chance to be in his family for a while. Rest in peace, Mike. Bo, Donna, Chris, Mark and Valerie

Prestin Family - March 21 at 04:44 PM

FS

“ Fred And Phyllis Sherbert lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III



Fred and Phyllis Sherbert - March 21 at 01:52 PM

DP

“ Dung Phan sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III



Dung Phan - March 21 at 01:10 PM

DP

I remember Mike as someone who brought humor and warmth to the workplace. He had a real enthusiasm for new technology and loved sharing whatever new gadget he was trying out, from satellite TV to the latest electronics. Even though we hadn't been in touch for some time, those memories still make me smile. I will keep him and his family in my prayers.

Dung Phan - March 21 at 01:12 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Richter III.*



March 20 at 10:33 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Michael Anthony Richter III.*

March 20 at 10:33 PM

MT

“ *Mandy Tomardy lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III*



Mandy Tomardy - March 20 at 08:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Anthony Richter III.*



March 20 at 02:24 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family on Mikes passing. He was a brother from another mother. First met Mike in the waters of Tonkin Gulf when his ship refueled us...didn't know him at that point, but his service will not go unnoticed. Years later we connected at NASA and shared a long friendship. The memories of those times I take with me. Rest well faithful and loving servant from a brother left behind.*

J. Peterman - March 20 at 01:33 PM



“ *I started working with Mike in the late 80's as the Secretary in the branch he was assigned to after becoming a federal employee. He was always such a joy to be around, either with his jokes, babbling brook sounds and all-around good nature. He truly made going to work fun and entertaining. Never a dull moment! His passing breaks my heart, but am glad he's not suffering. He will truly be missed.*
~Katie Poole

Katie Poole - March 20 at 11:55 AM

LC

“ *Loretta J Cudnik lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III*



Loretta J Cudnik - March 19 at 09:03 PM

MT

“ *Ms B J Tomardy lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III*



Ms B J Tomardy - March 19 at 07:06 PM

LH

“ *Lynn Hirschauer lit a candle in memory of Michael Anthony Richter III*



Lynn Hirschauer - March 18 at 03:37 PM



Thank you so much :)

Megan Richter - March 20 at 07:51 AM