



Richard Anthony Cotton

November 7, 1947 - April 21, 2025

Richard Anthony Cotton, 77, passed away peacefully at home on April 21, 2025 surrounded by family and loved ones.

Born in Media, Pennsylvania, Rich was the beloved son of the late Richard and Marion “Chessick” Cotton. He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Shea Cotton; his devoted children, Lisa (Tim) Keck, Ryan (Shannon) Cotton, Justin (Danielle) Cotton, and Andy (Rabecca) Cotton; his siblings, Carol Simpson and Anthony Cotton; his cherished grandchildren, Brennan, Mason, Harrison, Delaney, Addie, and Gia. and his beloved dog Bentley.

He graduated Penncrest High School in '66 and attended Penn State University before beginning an apprenticeship with the Steamfitters Local 420. In March of 1968 he proudly enlisted in the United States Navy Submarine Service; among many duties, Rich ran multiple tours on the USS John C. Calhoun nuclear powered submarine and proudly served until his honorable discharge in 1974. He returned home to Delaware County PA. and in the late 1970's, made Galena Md. his home.

His next chapter returned Rich to his steamfitter apprenticeship which gave way to a career in that industry through 1990. Richard then embarked on a new career in real estate with Gunther McClary. He flourished in the business and among other accomplishments, joined forces with Susan Lassiter to launch Waterfront Properties in '96. In 2003 he purchased the first Exit Real Estate franchise in the state of Maryland. Ultimately he merged Waterfront Properties with his new company and formed Exit Realty Chesapeake Bay. A

dedicated professional and active member of his community, Rich served on the Board of Realtors and the Board for Habitat for Humanity. He remained active in the industry until his retirement in 2019.

Above all, he cherished time spent with family and friends. He was a proud father grandfather and a devoted companion to his beloved dogs, Buster and Bentley. He was a loyal fan of Penn State and the Philadelphia Eagles; he had the good fortune to attend a Penn State game at Beaver Stadium in October 2024 and to witness the Super Bowl accomplishment of his beloved Eagles this year.

All the 'facts' about Rich can't explain the heart of him. Simply put, Rich loved life; in fact many would say " He was larger than life".

He was deeply passionate about his work as a Realtor, He loved the Sassafras River and the Upper Eastern Shore, He loved the history of Kent and Cecil counties. When he became a Realtor he made waterfront property his specialty and it became his mission to help everyone he worked with to find their special place on the Eastern Shore. He was a visionary in many ways and was among the first to integrate technology such as digital video tours of home's long before it was common place, He started his own You Tube Channel called " Out and About with Rich Cotton". He loved going behind the scenes in local places and events. His favorites were how Harris Crab House's commercial oyster shucking packing process works and behind the scene of the 4th of July fire works on the Sassafras,

He loved all measure of things with engines, car, boats, motorcycles and oddly, in the end, became obsessed with electric cars, He was often identified by what vehicle he drove. His Harley, his red Jeep, his red 911 Targa, and later, one of the first in this area, his red Tesla. And yes he did love to be seen in whatever cool car or vehicle he drove.

His boat history can not rival his cars but he loved being on the water. His last boat was Dream Weaver, a 42' wood Deadrise made by Cecil Robbins. In Dream Weaver he rolled his love of selling waterfront property, local history and just having fun into one boat. He used her for guided history tours of the

historic properties along the Sassafras River , to show property from the waterside and of course sunset cocktail cruises down his beloved river. He was a man of deep passion and enthusiasm. His love of life and fun was infectious. All of us who knew and loved him were blessed to share it.

A visitation will be held on May 9, 2025, at Fellows Family Funeral Home in Millington, Maryland, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., followed by a service at 5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Richard's memory may be made to the Maryland Food Bank or Our Daily Bread in Middletown DE.

Use link below to view Live Stream of the Service

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc0NjczNjUyNjM2MTg0MyZvbmVyb29tLWFkbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 9. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Fellows Family Funeral Home
370 West Cypress Street
Millington, MD 21651
(410) 928-5311
info@fhnfuneralhome.com

Memorial Service

MAY 9. 5:00 PM (ET)

Fellows Family Funeral Home
370 Cypress St
Millington, MD 21651

Tribute Wall

TC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tony Cotton - May 09, 2025 at 12:59 PM

TC

*The three sibs... Carol on the bottom, then Rich and then me (Tony).
No wonder I'm smiling... I'm on top of the heap ;-)*

Tony Cotton - May 09, 2025 at 01:03 PM

CS

*Wow awesome picture of the three of us. Brings a smile to my face.
Carol*

Carol Simpson - May 14, 2025 at 04:27 PM

KM

“ *In honor of Rich Cotton's love and generosity of spirit, Kathy and
Joe Maisano have donated to Our Daily Bread in Middletown DE.*

kathy and Joe maisano - May 08, 2025 at 06:19 PM

TC

“ *Just made a donation to Compass hospice group who helped the
family give Rich a peaceful transition with the Love of family and
friends all gathered around.*

Tony Cotton - May 07, 2025 at 03:42 PM

LK

That was so kind of you Uncle Tony. They were all so awesome to dad, and all of us! Thank you for doing that!

Lisa Keck - May 07, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Anthony Cotton.*



May 07, 2025 at 06:00 AM

DM

“ *When I met Rich for the first time, I felt like I knew him for years. His smile would light up the room. His laugh was infectious. Thank you Rich for encouraging me to be a part of the conference supervisor's group. Your presence at future conferences will be missed. My thoughts and condolences to Patricia and family. With love and gratitude. Denise*

Denise Maple - May 05, 2025 at 06:05 PM

LK

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lisa Keck - May 05, 2025 at 11:11 AM

TC

Great pic... says it all ;-)

Tony Cotton - May 09, 2025 at 12:55 PM

LK

“ Lisa Keck sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Anthony Cotton



Lisa Keck - May 05, 2025 at 11:06 AM

LK

Dad- you are missed! I love you, and know that you have been restored, and are now at peace! You are watching over me. Thank you for sending the 3 Little Birds. I know that you have fully transitioned, and are now and forever watching over me and everyone that you so deeply loved! 💕🙏

Lisa Keck - May 05, 2025 at 11:09 AM

SH

“ Sueann and kids, Chuck and Carol Hall purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard Anthony Cotton.



Sueann and kids, Chuck and Carol Hall - May 02, 2025 at 06:46 PM

SH

“ Sueann and kids, Chuck and Carol Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Anthony Cotton.

Sueann and kids, Chuck and Carol Hall - May 02, 2025 at 06:46 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Anthony Cotton.*



May 02, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family. I enjoyed getting to know such a genuine man.*

Liv DiMichele - May 02, 2025 at 08:01 AM



“ *I worked for Rich at Exit Realty CB and I have many fond memories of Rich, the first being his love of life and his big smile he brought to the office everyday. He made going to work everyday easy and fun. He was always ready to initiate new ideas in technology to help his agents and their real estate practices, and he always had a kind word for everyone. I remember him cooking fried chicken on Friday nights to benefit Habitat for Humanity and I also remember St Party's Day shenanigans!! I could go on and on. Rest in Peace Rich! Until we meet again! T. Spanitz*

Terry Spanitz - May 01, 2025 at 04:45 PM

DS

“ Rich and P. came into our lives through Rich's brother Tony and once in, a fast friendship ensued for many decades to come. How lucky were Rick & I to count this larger than life man as our friend! From margarita parties in mid-winter (complete with illuminated palm trees), to St. Patrick's Day shenanigans in Chesapeake City (shot of whiskey with pickle juice back!) to floating in our pool well past dark (another hamper anyone?), we made many happy memories that will sustain as we grieve Rich's passing. Rest in peace my friend. My hope is that Rick was awaiting you on the other side with open arms.

Deborah Shaw - May 01, 2025 at 08:28 AM

DS

“ Rich and P. came into our lives through Rich's brother Tony and once in, a fast friendship ensued for many decades to come. How lucky were Rick & I to count this larger than life man as our friend! From margarita parties in mid-winter (complete with illuminated palm trees), to St. Patrick's Day shenanigans in Chesapeake City (shot of whiskey with pickle juice back!) to floating in our pool well past dark (another hamper anyone?), we made many happy memories that will sustain as we grieve Rich's passing. Rest in peace my friend. My hope is that Rick was awaiting you on the other side with open arms.

Deborah Shaw - May 01, 2025 at 08:24 AM

CS

“ Craig S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Anthony Cotton.

Craig S. - April 29, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ *He lived life with an enviable exuberance. He was our family's MC and will be missed.* ”

jeanne cooper - April 29, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Anthony Cotton.* ”



April 25, 2025 at 12:54 PM



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

April 25, 2025 at 12:54 PM