



Richard F. Kollinger

December 30, 1949 - May 31, 2021

Rick Kollinger passed away at his home in Easton on Monday, May 31, following a long illness. He was 71.

Rick was a proud Eastern Shore native and a nationally acclaimed, award-winning political cartoonist and columnist for The Star Democrat for three decades, creating more than 18,000 cartoons.

His wit and talent, sometimes indelicate sense of humor, scathing political satire, brutally honest conservative commentary, honest self-appraisal, and genuine kindness left an indelible impression on his community and beyond.

His first regular column “of political commentary and humor” appeared on March 23, 2004. His cartoon depicting a tearful soldier against the backdrop of the American flag was featured in the Memorial Day edition of The Star Democrat on Sunday, May 30.

Born on Dec. 30, 1949, in Franklin, Virginia, Rick was the son of Bill and Alice Kollinger, who moved to Easton in 1946. They and his older brother Davis predeceased him.

He played Little League baseball and “had a wicked curve ball that took him farther in baseball than he deserved.”

In high school, he began practicing his craft as a cartoonist for The Eastonian, Easton High School's newspaper, and graduated in 1967. He earned an associate's degree from Chesapeake College in 1970, and a bachelor's degree from Salisbury State College in 1973.

Throughout his career, Rick's wide range of styles and perspectives were noticed and rewarded by his peers. He was a member of the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists and the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. He won dozens of awards – many first place — for editorial cartooning, including “Best in Show” for several years. He won the national Fischetti Award for Editorial Cartooning and was twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. One of Kollinger's cartoons made the cover of the 2014 edition of “Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year.”

"Life is a comedy to those who think and a tragedy for those who feel," Rick often said, quoting Horace Walpole.

Rick is survived by his wife Tracy, his dear friend Lynn Mielke of Easton, his niece Allison Ross in North Carolina, several cousins, and his dog Bug.

He loved his dogs, especially the late Tater, as well as the late Flash, Little Dog, Jack and others.

Special thanks is extended to Rick's four "angels of mercy": caregivers Barbara, Michelle, Crystal and Jordan; and to Dr. Eglseder and the entire Amedysis team: Melissa, Mike, Deborah, Maribeth and Meagan, who cared for him like he was their own.

A Celebration of Life honoring Rick Kollinger will be held on Wednesday, June 16th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at the Elks Lodge in Easton where there will be an

opportunity to share stories, laugh, and view a gallery of selected cartoons and artwork.

Previous Events

celebration of life

JUN **16**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Elks Lodge #1622
502 Dutchmans Lane
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard F. Kollinger*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Richard F. Kollinger*


January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Richard F. Kollinger*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I will miss his wit so very much* 



Laura Swann - June 16, 2021 at 06:26 AM



“ *During my run for Governor in 1994, Rick did a number of funny cartoons about the race. I loved them all, even those that spoofed me. My friends from Easton presented me with a large framed poster with the collection of Kollinger cartoons from that race. I still have them as a great memento of the campaign and fond memory of a patriot who was also a very talented and witty Marylander. I am sorry to learn of his passing.*
Ellen Sauerbrey

Ellen Sauerbrey - June 15, 2021 at 09:17 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Richard F. Kollinger.



June 14, 2021 at 08:44 PM



“ Paula Young lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Paula Young - June 10, 2021 at 02:17 PM



“ Kathy Combs lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Kathy Combs - June 08, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ Gary Ball lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Gary Ball - June 08, 2021 at 08:41 PM

MA

“ Michele Auker lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Michele Auker - June 08, 2021 at 10:10 AM

BW

“ Brenda Wood lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Brenda Wood - June 07, 2021 at 10:52 PM

ED

“ One of MY MANY FAVORITES : Wish I had a copy to share ! " Tater had his hind leg in a cast after an operation and Rick tried many ways to keep it dry and failed. One day he was in the Health Dept. and they were promoting the use of condoms and had a basket full that you could help yourself to FREE of Charge ! Rick picked up some and they worked perfectly ! So that became a regular stop for them. Soon after Talbot County Health Department received an Award for Preventing Teenage Pregnancies ! Not sure if Tater was a Teenager but he helped them get that Award ! Like many others "He will be Missed by Many ". Sincerely , Libby Kelley Dawkins

Elizabeth K. Dawkins - June 07, 2021 at 03:11 PM



“ *Dani Woodhurst lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Dani Woodhurst - June 06, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ *Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Phil Foster - June 06, 2021 at 01:27 AM



“ *Memories of growing up in Clifton and neighborhood baseball games with Davis and Rick. They didn't care if I was a girl who liked to play baseball!
I will miss Rick's satire and cartoons. He was amazing!
Godspeed, Rick 🌻. Elaine Younkin Bloomer*

Elaine Younkin Bloomer - June 05, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ *Donna Healy Clem lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Donna Healy Clem - June 04, 2021 at 10:00 PM

RH

“ *Rita Hill lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Rita Hill - June 04, 2021 at 08:03 PM

PN

“ *Paige North lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Paige North - June 04, 2021 at 06:53 PM

JB

“ *I remember the first time I met Rick at the office. I took him to an exam room and made the mistake of asking him what was his issue. It took 10 minutes to get back on track. Then he started on my crazy socks! The term issue became a long running joke with every time he came in and I made sure to wear the craziest socks I owned. Life will be boring without his visits. He will be greatly missed. RIP, sir.*

Jo Bramble - June 03, 2021 at 04:43 PM

TR

“ *I will miss my friend Rick, I have many fond memories of the laughter we shared. I'm blessed to have quite a few personalized cartoons. One of my favorites is, Madam Trish the amazingly, almost accurate fortune teller! His quick wit and ability to capture it in a cartoon was a gift to behold. RIP my friend. I feel you smiling*

Trish - June 03, 2021 at 02:44 PM

SV

“ RIP Rick the “Rocket” . What a great best man you were at my first wedding. What a great time we had at Chesapeake. Truly a great guy. Condolences to your family.

Sam Villani - June 03, 2021 at 02:40 PM

 Timothy Schneider

“ What a character. He brightened my day every time I saw him in the office. A true fighter and a real inspiration. He will be missed

Timothy Schneider - June 03, 2021 at 11:43 AM

AS

“ Alicia Summers lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger



Alicia Summers - June 03, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ A fighter like no one I ever met! Rick blessed me every minute we spent together and I will forever remember his strength, courage and sarcasm with a great big smile!



Michelle D'Orlando Child Daycare - June 02, 2021 at 08:32 PM

SP

“ *Stan Patrick lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Stan Patrick - June 02, 2021 at 07:29 PM

AB

“ *Ann Butler lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



ann butler - June 02, 2021 at 04:55 PM

BP

“ *Barbara Parker lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Kollinger*



Barbara Parker - June 02, 2021 at 03:08 PM

BP

You will be missed very much

Barbara Parker - June 02, 2021 at 03:09 PM

PF

I always looked forward to his cartoons and comments on world events, especially in our little piece of the world on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, aka in the "Land of Pleasant Living ". I often wondered what was going on between his ears and underneath the wisps of white hair that for years made us laugh or at least take a few minutes to ponder about everyday events both big and small. I would wonder what's happening in between the gray matter and synapses that gave him the talent to tell it the way it really was and so eloquently. Thank you Rick for making this world a better place to live and laugh. Job well done.

Peggy Ferguson - June 12, 2021 at 05:19 AM