

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD BERTRAM BLATCHLEY 1957-2023



Sudden death took the life of our beloved brother, Rick Blatchley, age 66, on December 24 2023. He was born Richard Betram Blatchley to Bets and Brer Blatchley on October 15 1957 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where he grew up. Due to family fractures, we did not meet our sweet gentle brother until he was 8 years old, and always treasured our times together. A dual citizen, he returned to the US for college, and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1979 with a degree in anthropology. There he became a scion of the West, immersed in ancient cultures and adventures in the mountains with friends. After college he scoured the Wyoming landscape for indigenous artifacts as a crew chief in the Office of the Wyoming State Archeologist. Following 5 years in Knoxville as an archeologist for the University of Tennessee, he headed west as crew chief for Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, Wyoming. In 2003 he settled in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he became the wise story-teller and counsellor to one

and all at Whole Foods and, since 2014, Wilbur's Total Beverage, "the best liquor store in Fort Collins". Rick's interests spanned the universe, from science fiction to keshis to healing with crystals. He collected coins, survival gear, and even black powder pistols from the 1800s. He had a loving and mellow touch with all his family. We cherished his quiet humor, myriad tales, and easy ways of blending into every scene. He will be dearly missed.

Rick is survived by his two half-sisters, Lynn Bickley (Randy Schiffer) and Ann Bickley, and nephews Chester Van Dellen (Mandy), Jeffrey Van Dellen (Catherine), Andrew Van Dellen (Mandi), Brenton Schiffer (Mallory), and Randolph T Schiffer, and by his Van Dellen great-nephews and nieces, Emmet and Hazel, Rae and Lily, and Cooper and Josephine. A family memorial is planned. Inquiries can be directed to lbick09@gmail.com

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