



## Richard A. Connor

June 23, 1965 - January 30, 2014

CONNOR. Richard Anthony

Richard Anthony Connor, age 48, passed away on Thursday evening, January 30, 2014, in West Hartford, CT after an almost 3 year battle with skin cancer. He died peacefully, surrounded by love, with his wife and young children by his side. He was born in Lakewood, OH, the son of A. Joan Connor and the late Frank J. Connor. Richard is survived by his beloved wife Holly Joy Connor, from Manchester, CT, his sons Aiden Nicholas Bowden Connor and Ethan Anthony Andrews Connor, his mother Joan, his sister Mary Beth Newkumet (Christopher), his brother Frank T. Connor (Patricia), his sister Kathleen Del Col (John), 15 nieces and nephews, his mother-in-law Carol Andrews Joy Bucello and his father-in-law Frederick Bowden Joy. Rich was raised in Stamford, CT, graduated from Harvey School in Katonah, NY, and Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA. He pursued a career in marketing in New York, California and most recently ran a Marketing Agency in Portland, Oregon. He met his wife in Portland, where they lived for 17 years, and only recently moving back to Ct to be closer to family. Rich's passion from a young age was music. He was in a band in college and got his first job at MTV. He loved playing the guitar, singing, writing songs, seeing live music, and most of all playing the guitar and listening to his large collection of vinyl records in his music room with his young sons. His great joy was seeing that his love for music has been passed down to his 10 year old son who loves guitar and his 5 year old son who loves to sing. He was an accomplished technical scuba

diver who travelled and did recreational diving with his wife. He loved hiking, biking, skiing, and vacationing with his family and friends. He will be remembered for his kindness, his booming laugh, his infectious smile, and his eternally positive attitude. He will be dearly missed by anyone that knew him. Calling hours will be on Thursday evening, February 6th, from 4:30-7:30 pm. at Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. A funeral will be held on Friday, Feb 7, at 11 am, at St. James's Episcopal Church, 1018 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford with burial to follow at Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers an educational fund has been established for his sons. Donations may be sent to Merrill Lynch FBO: Aiden and Ethan Connor, Attn: Cathy Tanzilli, Merrill Lynch, 301 Tresser Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06107  
(860) 521-5270

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

FEB 6. 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home  
906 Farmington Ave  
West Hartford, CT 06119  
(860) 232-1322

## Funeral Service

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James's Episcopal Church  
1018 Farmington Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ I apologize for the late post. I just learned the news from a friend of my Mothers that still lives in Stamford. Richard and I were childhood friends until I moved away in 1979. We didn't stay in touch. When you grow older you sometimes think of people in your past. Richard was someone that I have nothing but fond memories of. Music was something that we shared a common love for. We both had 1978 Les Paul's and would often play together. I remember camping with him in boy scouts, going to his parents lake home in Maine where we would waterski first thing in the morning. He was really good. He tried to get me up on one ski and was always patient with me when I would fall. I am sorry to hear that he passed. I wish his family the best and want them to know he was someone very special to me.

Mark Modzelewski

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Mark Modzelewski - December 30, 2014 at 05:50 PM

AS

“ Having Rich and Holly around the corner for so many years was a great treat. Rich always had a really great smile, a good hug, and a joke or comment about everything. He made everyone feel at ease, he was an amazing father, a thoughtful kind husband, and his presence will always be missed. My boys and I are grateful we got to know him, and all of you. Holly, we are so sorry. He was a decent, kind man. We can't begin to comprehend the hole in your life, but knowing he was loved and his memory will always be treasured will hopefully bring some comfort. Never forgotten, we will do anything we can to keep him living large! Love, Ariel, Alec and Samœ

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Ariel Skelton - February 09, 2014 at 09:31 AM

BM

“ *When I was a lowly intern at MTV nearly 25 years ago now, Richard was one of my first buddies in New York. I will always remember his kindness and the wonderful times we had together running around New York. So sorry to hear of his passing--will always remember what a terrific friend he was to me.*

*Wishing all of Richard's friends and family the best in this difficult time..,*

*Bill Miltenberger*

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**Bill Miltenberger** - February 08, 2014 at 03:49 PM

RW

“ *Peace brother. SMS #301*

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**Robert Wirth** - February 08, 2014 at 07:41 AM

JS

“ *To Richard's family:  
The Somma family wishes to send our sincere regret in Richard's passing. Having known the Connor family since Pepperidge Road days, the growth of Richard and his siblings and our fondness for them through the years, we are greatly distressed and saddened at this time.*

*We pray for the repose of his soul.*

*Joan and Joe Somma*

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**joseph j. somma** - February 07, 2014 at 01:37 PM

JS

“ Condolences to Rich's family and loved ones. I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Jana Spear

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**Jana Spear** - February 06, 2014 at 11:04 PM

KC

“ Richard was a wise and caring individual who made the transition into adulthood seem not so overwhelming . He was a great friend to have at Lynchburg College making those years more exciting and memorable.

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**Kelly Clarke** - February 06, 2014 at 09:36 PM

JF

“ Rich,

*I am sorry I cannot be there tomorrow to say, "until we meet again" in person.*

*We shared many things in common and I was delighted when I read you were an accomplished technical scuba diver. I will think of you often as I dive the wrecks of Jersey and when we do meet again, we will dive them together.*

*The pool is wide open brother. Dive in peace and beauty!*

*--Padre*

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**Jim Flanagan** - February 06, 2014 at 09:30 PM

CW

“ Dear Holly, Aiden and Ethan- Your Dad, Rich, loves you all very much! You all were the best neighbors. We'll always remember the BBQs, the laughs and hold the memories of our times together. We remember dearly Holly and Rich keeping baby Chloe for us overnight when her brother was born. How you both enjoyed that so much and later had kids of your own who are beautiful! So sad for you all at this time and happy that we got to know you all and share moments together. Love live records, the real kind.....albums on those big CD thingies that nobody plays anymore. Much love to you all,  
CJ, Ross, Chloe and Josh

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**CJ Willson** - February 06, 2014 at 08:29 PM

JT

“Holly, Aidan and Ethan - though I have not met any of you yet, I am so very sorry for your loss. Your husband / dad was a great man who made such a positive impression on everyone he met and I feel so grateful to have known him. I believe in all my heart that he made world a better place and left behind something that just wasn't there before. This is a gift that nobody can take away.

*I became close friends with Rich in college and afterwards, when he was working for MTV in NYC. During college, when I was just a Freshman (I think Rich was a Junior - he was a little older than me), Rich and I were in a band together and bonded over music - both listening and playing - in a very big way. Rich was one of the first people in my life who really believed in me, and this came out in some of the music we created together.*

*He was the undisputed leader of our band and gave us direction. He got the gigs, he planned the rehearsals and he had a natural ability to motivate everyone. He dragged us out onto the tarmac at the airport and on the train tracks to get publicity photos. He also LOVED his '78 Les Paul - (I only got to play it once or twice!). When he came to rehearsal one day having written that song 'Talking to Myself' I was astounded - the lyrics and chord progression just flowed effortlessly. We had a ball playing in that band playing at parties all over campus and at major campus events and dances.*

*Sometimes just the two of us practiced and sang Beatles songs in two part harmony - like "If I Fell" and "I'll Be Back Again" - he knew The Beatles entire back catalog. He was also a perfectionist whenever we practiced together and he took it very seriously. His commitment to getting the songs just right was so very clear.*

*Fast forward to New York after we had both graduated. When he lived in the upper west side, Rich and I would often get together and hang out. Before making our first stop at the White Horse Tavern (where Dylan Thomas used to hang out) and ending up late night at Automatic Slims, we would LISTEN to so many records from his*

*massive collection of CDs. Rich would turn me on to so many artists and songs, and then I would turn the tables on him and play some of my own. He was so in tune with music, having an inexhaustible knowledge and exquisite taste. Yet he was always eager to discover music that other people had that he hadn't heard yet.*

*When Rich decided to settle out west I was a little sad because I knew that distance would be an obstacle in our friendship — we both became busy in our careers and I had just met my future wife and began settling upstate. At the same time, I was certain that Rich would continue his amazing adventure wherever he went - I always admired his scuba tales (he used to dive wrecks off of Cape Cod and many other places) and risk-taking nature and if there was someone who deserved to chase a dream, it was most certainly Rich.*

*Too many years passed - and I thought I would finally reconnect with my old friend this past August. My family and I were vacationing in Oregon and I reached out to Rich and he said "It would be great to see you - come on by!" I was so excited to finally see Rich and meet his family for the first time. But our schedules crossed - my fault - and it never came to be. I had no idea this was my last chance to see him alive.*

*I'll always miss my friend but I take comfort knowing that his family who loves him was right by his side until the last moments of his life. I know if Rich were here, he would be telling Holly, Aidan and Ethan that 'everything is alright.'*

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**Jeff Touzeau** - February 05, 2014 at 08:41 PM

EL

“ *Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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**Endurance Specialty Holdings Ltd.** - February 05, 2014 at 02:17 PM

PB

“ *Paul and Peggie Bushey purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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**Paul and Peggie Bushey** - February 05, 2014 at 01:00 PM

MM

“ *I worked with Rich for 8 or 9 years, I think. In the early days, we called him Angry Man. I think many of us mild-mannered Oregonians were surprised by his passion, and it brought out passions in us. But as time passed, we discovered he was a reasonable and caring man, always ready to talk things out.*

*A funny thing I like to remember is how Rich loved to come up with a fruit that represented the inside and outside of each person. I was a banana. Mark Dagg was a Kiwi. Rich also found me to be incredibly hilarious, so of course I loved him for that.*

*How I wish we'd had more than that one brief conversation 9 months ago. Holly, Aiden and Ethan, my heart goes out to you.*

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**Mark McCarthy** - February 05, 2014 at 12:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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February 05, 2014 at 11:06 AM



“ *It was a privilege to be a friend of Rich. He was a man of fierce loyalty with an indomitable spirit. In the course of a brief conversation he could discuss the fallacies of tech giant's business practices, the beauty of a single malt scotch, new marketing strategies and how the brilliance of Led Zeppelin was honored by some obscure garage punk band. He was quick with a laugh and lavish with his praise for his beloved wife Holly and his wonderful boys.*

*Deep condolences to Holly, Aidan and Ethan. May the the good times you shared strengthen you now and the lessons learned together guide you in his absence.*

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**Matt McGinnis** - February 05, 2014 at 09:42 AM



“ *So sad... rest in peace Rich. :(*

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**Karen Dempsey** - February 05, 2014 at 06:49 AM



“ *I attended the Harvey School with Rich. He was a warm, kind person then, and it sounds like he grew into a wonderful man. I just wanted to express my sorrow to his family and friends for their heartbreaking loss.*

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**Anita Pomerantz** - February 05, 2014 at 05:33 AM

NB

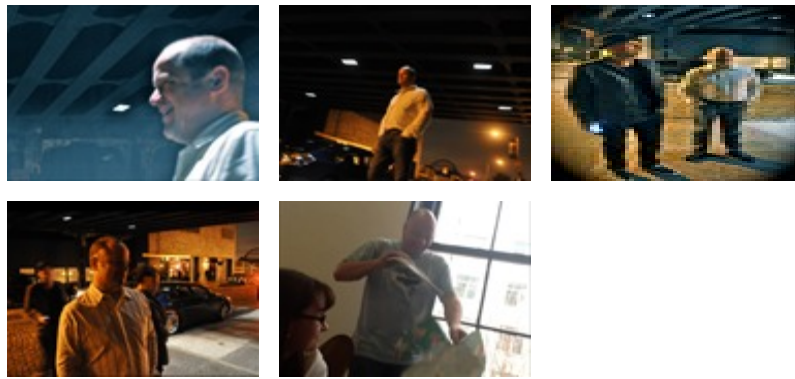
“ *Rich and I were at The Harvey School together. I was deeply saddened to learn this news, and want to express my condolences to his wife and children, and to all with whom he shared his life. I'm so, so sorry.*

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**Nina Bathon** - February 05, 2014 at 05:20 AM

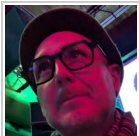


“ *11 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Daniel Wood** - February 05, 2014 at 02:35 AM



“ *Sending my best to your family as you deal with the loss of a very special man. I'm glad that the boys caught the music bug and will likely never listen to "Steven Wonder" again without thinking of their dad.*

*With respect and sadness,  
Daniel*

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**Daniel Wood** - February 05, 2014 at 02:34 AM

 Robert Sandler

“ It's hard to know where to start. First of all, I had no idea Rich was sick. We worked together three years ago and from the first moment I met him, it was clear that he was different from many other 'agency types'. He was kind and considerate to me and was genuinely interested in my work and in me as a person. When he was in the room, the level of energy and positivity always took a turn upwards. Really incredible to watch. He'd sort of sit at the side working away seemingly not paying attention and then would throw out a comment or observation that completely changed the course of a discussion in an amazing way. What a fantastic guy - I am certain he will be missed.

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**Robert Sandler** - February 04, 2014 at 05:24 PM

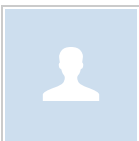


“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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February 04, 2014 at 03:59 PM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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February 04, 2014 at 02:17 PM



“ *Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Richard A. Connor.*



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February 04, 2014 at 12:48 PM



“ *Ethical and fiercely loyal, Rich was at his supportive best when I was having some business challenges. He made me laugh about it, stuck by my side, and made me stronger. He was a client for over 8 years in business, and we were friends from day 1. Though it was business that brought us together and kept us in touch, I always viewed him as a good friend and looked forward to seeing his name popping up on my cell phone. It meant something good and funny was about to happen.*

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**Steve Potestio** - February 04, 2014 at 12:25 PM



“ *Oh Holly. I'm so sorry for your loss. I'll be thinking of you and your boys. The obituary was so touching and music such an easy way to incorporate a memory of someone into everyday. With deepest sympathy and condolence - Sarah (Maloney) Cruz*

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**sarah** - February 04, 2014 at 12:13 PM

KD

“ I keep starting this, and then stopping, I think of something to share, and then delete it. I have all of these thoughts, and just don't quite know how to say them. Holly, your husband meant the world to us, but so much to Mark. He was the yin to Mark's yang, together they were amazing. I will miss his laugh, his winks, his spirit, his integrity, his honesty, and most of all his friendship. My heart breaks for you, Aidan and Ethan, but I hope you take comfort in knowing that you loved an amazing man, and his love will be with you three for the rest of your lives. He's winking at you. I love you.



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**Kristin Dagg** - February 04, 2014 at 11:53 AM

Kim  
Ponto

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



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**Kim Ponto** - February 04, 2014 at 11:06 AM

 Kim Ponto

“ Rich, I know you are now watching over us all, sitting in the most decked out vinyl room of all time, and sipping an incredibly old and expensive whiskey. I will miss your boundless energy, your infectious laugh and your mouth like a sailor. I was blessed to know you, to work with you and to call you my friend.



Holly, Aiden and Ethan, I know you are all suffering such pain right now. I hope you can take comfort in knowing how much Rich loved you all. Whenever he talked about his wife and his boys you could see the love and the pride shining through his eyes. I can see so much of Rich in your boys Holly, his spirit lives on through them.

Much love...

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**Kim Ponto** - February 04, 2014 at 11:06 AM

 Kelly Rose

“ Rich was my mentor, my support and my friend for the six years I worked for him. He taught me so much. I'm so very sorry and saddened that he succumbed to cancer. Holly, Aidan, and Ethan, may your memories of your husband and father be vivid and forever, comforting you in your grief.

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**Kelly Rose** - February 04, 2014 at 10:49 AM

SR

“ My sincere condolences to you, Holly, and your family. I pray that you will find peace and comfort in the memories of good times you shared together. I'm sending Texas-sized hugs to you and your boys. We will continue to pray for you. With Love, from Susan (Gaskill) Rogers



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**Susan Rogers** - February 04, 2014 at 10:33 AM

HC

*Acabo de ver la noticia de la muerte de Richard. Te acompaño con mucho cariño y muchas oraciones. Abrazos en especial a tu mama. Les quiere y les recuerda mucho. Hna. Iris*

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**Hna. Iris Rivera, Carmelitas** - February 05, 2014 at 08:37 AM