



Richard "Rick" W. Matthews

May 8, 1953 - January 18, 2025

Vernon - Richard "Rick" Matthews, age 71, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Morristown Medical Center. Born in Abington, Pennsylvania to the late Lloyd Matthews and Joan M. (Dyson) Dahl, Rick grew up in Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania and lived in Kearny and Clifton before moving to Sussex County in 1981. Rick graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, remained active in the Penn State Alumni Association, and was a Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity member. He had a 47-year career in public relations including tenures at Prudential Financial and TrizecHahn Corporation/Trizec Properties. He also spent 17 years at the renowned New York firm Rubenstein Communications, Inc., specializing in real estate and financial PR, before retiring in 2022. After his retirement, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of spending his days on a golf course by working at the Great Gorge Golf Course in Vernon. Rick was a member of the Tri-States Actors Theater Board, the National Association of Real Estate Editors, and was a program officer for the Prudential Foundation. Besides his parents, Rick was predeceased by his stepmother, Floriene Matthews, stepfather, Stanley T. Dahl, and step-brother, Thomas Dahl. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Susan (Pesansky); his children, Anna Shaffner and her husband Chris of Bound Brook, Evan Matthews of Hoboken and Emma Matthews and her husband Tanner Blee of Santa Barbara, California; his brother, Robert Matthews of Nashville, Tennessee; his sister, Cynthia Ohrberg and her husband Roy of Quakertown, Pennsylvania; his two grandchildren,

Bonnie and Diana; his niece and nephews, Pamela Braley, Timothy Bungo, and Carl Ohrberg; his step-siblings, Jeffrey and Stanley Dahl; and six great nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025 at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Friends may pay their respects to the family from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Richard Matthews' memory to Penn State, designating the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, at raise.psu.edu. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Service

JAN 24. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Virtual Service

JAN 24. 1:00 PM.

<https://youtube.com/live/fnOpkRRgu1s?feature=share>

Tribute Wall

RA

“ *Very sorry for your loss Sue. Our condolences to you ,Anna, Evan and Emma. We were shocked to see the notice on the paper. Prayers to the family*

Robert Aldrich - February 08, 2025 at 04:08 PM

HS

“ *A total pro, and someone whose industry knowledge was very helpful in my early years on the beat. Rest well, Rick, and my condolences to the family - Hiten Samtani*

HITEN SAMTANI - February 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *My deepest condolences to Susan and family. Rick was a talented colleague with a good sense of humor, who enjoyed working with his clients and sharing their successes. Working in close proximity at Rubenstein for a number of years, Rick always made time for a quick hello or chat, and loved to share wonderful stories about his children. A true family man. May wonderful memories of Rick comfort you always. Laura Hynes-Keller*

Laura Hynes-Keller - January 28, 2025 at 10:15 AM

RL

“ Heartfelt sympathy to Susan and children on the sudden passing of a dear friend from Prudential's corporate office in Newark. My husband, Jim, worked with Rick for many years in the communications department and he was a delightful colleague. Always upbeat and down to earth. Despite his impressive background in journalism, Rick was never pretentious or braggadocios. He was low key all the way and had a wonderful sense of humor. Jim and Rick kept in touch after my husband retired from Pru and he often visited us in Franklin Lakes when one of his daughters took dance classes in our area. When Jim died suddenly June 10, 2016, Rick was there for us. He made the long trip from Sussex County to Franklin Lakes to pay his last respects and I will never forget that beautiful act of love. He was a true, loyal, dedicated friend and will be missed terribly, especially by our family. With loving memories and sorrowful condolences,
Rosalie Longo
Franklin Lakes, N.J.

Rosalie Longo - January 27, 2025 at 10:24 AM

NS

“ When I first started working at Rubenstein Rick immediately made me feel welcome as a Penn State alum. It was always a pleasure running into him in the hallways and hearing stories about his time at the latest Penn State football game or updates about his family, both of which he was always more than happy to talk about. Wishing his family comfort during this very difficult time. He will be missed by many.

Nicole Suder - January 27, 2025 at 10:21 AM

VS

“ Sue, so sorry for your and your children's loss. Rick was so proud of you all and always kept his friends aware of the kids' careers, life events, etc. Rick was my firm's PR rep when I was at Mack-Cali, then when I left we kept in touch through lunches, emails, etc. for over a dozen years.
Rick was a good friend who'll be missed.

Virginia Sobol - January 26, 2025 at 10:26 AM

KB

“ My deepest sympathies to the Matthews family. When I first started at Rubenstein, Rick's office was a stone's throw away from my desk. He was a kind, supportive presence from my day one. I greatly enjoyed our conversations, which thankfully continued even when our workday locations weren't in as close proximity. I appreciated his willingness to check in and trade college football stories. I looked forward to hearing from him after a big PSU game. The love and pride he had for his family was so evident. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Kristen Bothwell - January 24, 2025 at 02:18 PM

HC

“Rick was not only a respected colleague but beloved by those who were privileged to call him a friend. His love for his family and sharing each of your accomplishments brought him such joy. He took immense pride in each milestone that each of you achieved. The love Anna and Chris had as teachers, Evan’s success in launching a career in media and production and of course Emma’s ballet brilliance. He loved being a grandfather, but most of all he cherished sharing his life with Susan. His appreciation of Penn State was not limited to their games on the football field but underscored in the doors he opened for so many graduates by helping them launch their careers at Rubenstein. His reaction to being thanked for the kindness he showed to our younger colleagues was that he only hoped his kids would be treated the same way by their more seasoned colleagues. A man who gave so much to so many. May his memory be a blessing.
Howard Cannon

Howard Cannon - January 24, 2025 at 07:30 AM

NM

“I had the pleasure of meeting Rick through his son, Evan. I’ll always think fondly of the times spent & shared at multiple Penn State tailgates, meeting some of his Phi Kappa Theta brothers who would then be kind enough to welcome me into their prestigious MFL fantasy football league. It’s clear that Penn State held a special place in Rick’s heart and I am proud to contribute to the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications in Rick’s honor.

Nick Manzo - January 23, 2025 at 10:13 PM

LM

“ Love Nancy & Bill McMullen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



Love Nancy & Bill McMullen - January 23, 2025 at 08:35 PM

CS

“ I will remember Rick as a sweet and generous colleague, one who wore a smile on his face and had a knack for seeing the best in people. He always had a story to tell (and boy could they be lengthy), but most things with him ended in a wink and a laugh. Which is to say our conversations in the halls at Rubenstein left me in a better place. He was devoted to his family and so very proud of each and all of you. My deepest sympathies on your loss. It comes much too early.

Carolyn N Sargent - January 23, 2025 at 06:46 PM

JF

“ Among Rick's efforts to support important charities, his work at the Prudential Foundation directed needed resources to many people. In his memory, we have made a special contribution to the American Red Cross Wildfire Funds. Cousin John and Marcia Furry.

John W Furry - January 23, 2025 at 03:40 PM

CS

“ I had the honor of working with Rick during his many years at Rubenstein. Sending my condolences to his loved ones, who I heard so much about over the years. He will be missed.

Carolyn Spungin - January 23, 2025 at 03:29 PM

MO

“ Dearest Susan,
I am so sorry to hear about the death of your husband and offer my deepest sympathies. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts during this extremely difficult time.

May his memory be eternal!

With deepest sympathies,
Mary Osinski

Mary Osinski - January 23, 2025 at 01:00 PM

BF

“ Benda Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



Benda Family - January 23, 2025 at 11:38 AM

BF

“ Benda Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

Benda Family - January 23, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



January 23, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

January 23, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ Mark F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

Mark F. - January 23, 2025 at 10:13 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Rick throughout his Rubenstein tenure. He was a pro's pro and one of the most genuinely nice people I have ever met.

While we spent plenty of time talking shop, I will most remember Rick's unbridled enthusiasm for his biggest passions in life, which included golf, an encyclopedic knowledge of Philly Cheesesteak and Penn State sports - not just its storied football program, but its fencing, volleyball and wrestling teams to boot.

However, it was obvious that his biggest passions in life were his wife, children, grandchildren and other family members. He never missed an opportunity to trumpet their myriad accomplishments and milestones or to take time off to support them through all of their life transitions.

My deepest condolences to the entire Matthews family.

Bud Perrone - January 23, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.*



January 22, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.*



January 22, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.*



January 22, 2025 at 02:47 PM



“ *Our thoughts are with the Matthews family in this difficult time. Our deepest sympathies from the BR Animation team.*

Bleacher Report - January 22, 2025 at 02:40 PM

PA

“ My name is Parke Chapman, and I had the privilege of working for Rick from 2011 to 2022 at Rubenstein.

Rick was easily one of the kindest and most genuine people I've ever had the honor of knowing (and working for). His warmth and compassion reached everyone he met, and he had a remarkable gift for making you feel completely seen and heard. A deeply devoted family man, he always spoke with immense pride and love about his wife and children (and grandchildren), and his commitment to them was evident in everything he did.

To me, Rick was more than a colleague; he was a mentor who guided me with his gentle wisdom and thoughtful advice. His sense of humor, great storytelling ability (especially about golf) and steadfast character left an unforgettable impression, making me better for having known him.

I'll always cherish the many years that we worked together at Rubenstein and the lessons he taught me.

Rick, you will be profoundly missed, but your memory will remain a guiding light of sincerity and goodness for everyone who knew you, especially those of us (like me) who were lucky enough to call you a friend and mentor.

RIP Ricko.

Parke - January 22, 2025 at 02:07 PM

CS

“ Rick was a great guy; always at the ready with a smile and a story. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with him. My heart goes out to the family - he was so proud and always had such wonderful things to say about you all. RIP, Rick.

Christina Stokes - January 22, 2025 at 11:26 AM

BB

“ Bob and Carolyn Byers purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



Bob and Carolyn Byers - January 22, 2025 at 11:14 AM

BB

“ Bob and Carolyn Byers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

Bob and Carolyn Byers - January 22, 2025 at 11:14 AM

EF

“ Sue, Anna, Evan, and Emma,
We are so sorry to hear of Rick's passing.
We pray that your deep faith will help you find comfort, warmth, and a lifetime of wonderful memories to get you through this difficult time.
May God grant Rick eternal peace 🙏 with love from the Emering Family



Emering Family - January 22, 2025 at 11:01 AM

CF

“ My deepest condolences to Rick's family. He was a wonderful colleague. I ran into him on the street about a year ago, and he shared how happy he was being able to spend time with his family. Thinking of you all.

Christine Falvo - January 22, 2025 at 10:54 AM

BJ

“ Bill and Julie purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



Bill and Julie - January 22, 2025 at 10:37 AM

BJ

“ Bill and Julie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

Bill and Julie - January 22, 2025 at 10:37 AM

GZ

“ Gary Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

Gary Z. - January 22, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.



January 22, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rick" W. Matthews.

January 22, 2025 at 08:31 AM

BB

“ *God Bless Rick! I knew Rick from his days with the Montclair Rugby Club! Always a gentleman and fun teammate! Bob "Bainy" Bainbridge*

Bob Bainbridge - January 22, 2025 at 08:30 AM