



Richard L. Nabozny

May 29, 1956 - January 10, 2026

Richard L. Nabozny, 69, of Slingerlands, passed away suddenly on Saturday January 10, 2026. Born May 29, 1956 in Hudson, NY, he is the son of Lawrence and Eunice (Fowler) Nabozny.

Richard graduated as Salutatorian of Hudson High School Class of 1974. Furthering his education, he received with honors, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from SUNY Oneonta. Richard then attended Albany Law School, graduating in 1981. Upon graduating from law school, he went to work for a private law practice in Canton, NY. His career continued as Assistant District Attorney for Rensselaer County, and in 1986 he began with the Office of Counsel of the New York State Education Department. It was there that he earned the respect, admiration and affection of his colleagues. Richard retired in 2016 after 30 years of law practice with New York State Education.

Richard loved listening to and playing music. He was a gifted guitar player and taught himself piano, banjo and the ukulele. He also had a keen ear for music and could play almost any song, simply from listening to it. While working at the Office of Counsel for NYS Education, he formed a band called

“Richie and the Wannabees”, where they performed for holiday parties and nursing homes. At an early age, Richard took an interest in model trains, which became a lifelong hobby of his. He enjoyed vacationing at Brant Lake with family, and looked forward to family gatherings.

Richard is survived by his brother David (Abby) Nabozny and sisters Jeanne Nabozny and Lisa (Joe) McNally. A niece, many nephews, great nephews and many cousins also survive. In addition to his parents, Richard was predeceased by his sister in law Patricia Nabozny.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday January 16, 2026 at 11:00am from Holy Trinity Church St. Mary’s Parish in Hudson. Burial will be in Cedar Park Cemetery. Visitation at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home 110 Green St., Hudson, NY will be Thursday January 15, from 4:00-7:00pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society, Catholic Charities, or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Park

Hudson, NY

Previous Events

Visitation Hours

JAN 15. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler
110 Green Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3371
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Church St. Mary's Parish
429 E Allen St
Hudson, NY 12534, NY

Tribute Wall

“ So I’m doing some spring cleaning recently, going through boxes of old greeting cards and correspondence, and I came across a letter from one of my college buddies, Rich Nabozny.

My name is Tom Barnello, and Rich was one of my closest friends all through my four years of college at Oneonta, along with my roommate of four years, Cliff Boucher, and Rich’s roommate of four years, Mickey Rothenberg. Cliff and I shared a dorm room, and Rich and Mickey shared a dorm room down the hall from us. We all stayed on the same floor of that dorm the next year then got a quad together the following year in another dorm, and then a suite our senior year with a couple of other guys in yet another dorm.

Rich and I became friends early on. He was a funny, smart guy with a great sense of humor, and a great guitar player. Whenever he jammed with some guys in the lounge I would tag along and listen. He pretty much lived on Ritz crackers and peanut butter and Tang, and he would treat us to pizza at the student union with the points he didn’t use from his meal plan. We stayed in touch a few years after we graduated but then drifted apart. When the time for our 25th college reunion rolled around in 2003 I thought it would be nice to meet up with the guys once again in Oneonta, and the first one I wanted to contact was Rich. He was reluctant to go. I told him if he did go to bring his guitar because I had since learned how to play and wanted so much to play with him. I didn’t know if he was coming until I showed up for the reunion and he was there. We did play together, so I fulfilled a dream of mine to play with Rich Nabozny. And I was lucky enough to play with him again a year later at his house. Then, sadly, we all went our separate ways again.

Jump ahead to the present and our 50th reunion is coming up in two years, and I have been thinking about going to that, but maybe only if all of us could get back together again. So after seeing the old letter from Rich I decided to see if I could find out where he was. I searched for his name and the first thing I saw was... his obituary. Yes—sad—very sad—a gut punch. I’m tearing up again as I write this. So my sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He was a great guy and I am so glad he was a big part of my life during those wonderful years. And I want to thank Rich’s friend Eric Braun for the wonderful words he wrote about Rich. He described him exactly as I knew him all those years ago. And I was happy to see that Rich kindled someone’s interest in Astronomy, because I kindled Rich’s interest when we were in college. It was a hobby of mine and I had a small telescope and Rich was my observing partner. There was a place not too far from campus that had a nice dark sky and we would go there to observe, but even though it was clear when we left campus, more often than not it would cloud over by the time we got to that site. So we tried to “fool” the weather. If we planned to go there on a certain night, all that day we would say things like, “Looks like a nice night for observing, but we certainly won’t be doing any!” “Nope, not tonight!” As we got into the car... “Just going to take a drive in the country!” Yep, going nowhere in particular!” And sometimes it worked!... and sometimes it didn’t... Oneonta weather.

And one night, sitting next to the large windows in the common room of our quad dorm room, I looked out and said, “Venus is up there”, and he looked out and

said, "Jupiter too", and I said "Saturn is rising... and the sky's so blue! Hey sounds like a song!" So we wrote the "Astronomy Love Song" together. We both wrote the lyrics and he came up with the melody. I still sing it from time-to-time for family and friends and I always give Rich his writing credit. So I am very sad that I won't be seeing him again and I know this may sound a little strange, but I hope to visit his grave one day and sing the Astronomy Love Song for my good old friend Rich.

Thomas Barnello - April 12 at 03:31 PM

LT

“ So sorry to hear of Rich’s passing. I enjoyed working with Rich at SED for many years and appreciated his intelligence and kindness. He was a thoughtful and respectful colleague and you certainly can’t say that about everyone you work with! My condolences to his family and friends.

Leslie Templeman - January 17 at 05:48 PM

DR

“ I worked with Rich at the State Education Department and he was always helpful and kind to me. He was incredibly smart and knew his Education Law!! I am sad to hear of your passing Rich. May you rest in peace. My thoughts are with his family at this time.

Doreen Ryan

Doreen Ryan - January 15 at 11:33 AM

“ I am Eric Braun. Rich Nabozny was my best friend. Rich was a good man who never hurt anyone. He was intelligent and shy. And he was kind. We met in the law office of the State Education Department. We were both attorneys and worked in adjacent offices. We became good friends.

We had a similar sense of humor. We liked Seinfeld and Letterman. One Halloween, I convinced him to dress as two State Bureaucrats, which was easy. We each dressed in identical dark suit, tie, tan trench coat, pulled down cap, and carried a black umbrella, and we walked around the Empire Plaza like that on Halloween. Some people got it and laughed.

I asked him to play music with me, and we have been doing it for almost thirty years. Rich had God-given musical ability. He could sing beautifully and play on the guitar any song he heard. I would go to his house, and we would play just for the fun of it. Out of that came the volunteer Office Band, "Richie and the Wannabees".

Rich helped me out whenever I needed it. He checked on my house when I was in Florida taking care of my elderly mother. He drove me to the hospital when I had to have a heart stent. When I started a hiking club in the Office, he would go on hikes with us, even though he really didn't want to go. We called them "pity hikes".

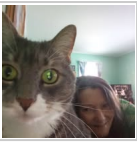
We complemented each other. While I got him to do things he was too shy or reticent to do, he taught me to be less judgmental and resentful. He would say to me, " Eric, let go. Just let go." I told him, "Rich, you walk softly over the sands of time", because he was shy and didn't like to try new things. But I was wrong. Through his intelligence and kindness, he had a big impact on people, and on me.

He was close with his family. He helped his brother and two sisters and was generous with them. He loved them. He always had a rescue cat, and he loved them. He took his mother into his home in her declining years, and his elderly relative who had no one to care for him, and he cared for them until their passings.

Rich believed deeply in Jesus Christ. He told me that he was not afraid of dying because he believed in heaven. I told him if he got there first, I would use him as a reference, that I would tell St. Peter that I knew Rich Nabozny and he would vouch for me. Rich would smile. I believe that if there is a heaven, he is there with his mother and father.

To end-- let me quote from a song called My Buddy: "Miss your voice, you guitar playing man,/ Just long to know, that you understand,/ My buddy, my buddy, your buddy misses you./ Buddies through all of the great days./ Buddies when something went wrong./ I wait alone through the gray days,/ missing your smile and your song./ Nights are long since you went away./ I think about you all through the day./ My buddy, my buddy, your buddy misses you." God bless you.

Eric Braun



“ *Lynne Griffen lit a candle in memory of Richard Nabozny* ”



Lynne Griffen - January 13 at 11:07 AM