

Richard Leo Burhans, affectionately known as "Rick," age 64, of Breckenridge, MN, passed away on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at Essentia Hospital in Fargo, ND, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Rick was born to Kenneth Burhans and Renee (Braun) Burhans in Breckenridge, MN. Rick's family moved with Rick and three other children to Glendora, California in 1963, and four more children were born and raised there, that became their home for 26 years. In 1989, Rick's parents moved back to Breckenridge where they would spend their retirement years. Rick moved back to Breckenridge because his dad was ill. Rick graduated from high school in California and took college courses at Fergus Falls Community College.

He served in the United States Army from November 23, 1982, to November 22, 1986, as a Finance Specialist, SP4, Experienced Private, at Fort Hood, TX. He earned the Good Conduct Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Expert Badge (Rifle) awards. Rick made his home in Breckenridge with his beloved lifelong partner, Cindy DeFries, and stepsons Matthew and Brady DeFries. In his spare time, Rick enjoyed horse racing, especially when he lived in California. He loved the Denver Broncos and was an avid football fan. He loved playing dice, cards, trips to Las Vegas, trading and collecting sporting cards, he enjoyed working with computers and technology. Rick was a quiet, reserved man, with a huge heart, always willing to help others. Rick and Cindy frequently and generously donated framed, signed, and authenticated sports memorabilia to support local community benefits. He as one of a kind! We want to give special thanks to Mindy, Hospice Nurse, and Dr. Gupta at the Roger Maris Cancer Center, and many others.

Rick is survived by his beloved lifelong partner, Cindy DeFries; stepsons, Matthew and Brady DeFries; brothers, Randy (Donna) Burhans, of San Dimas, CA, Robert (Dianne) Burhans of Breckenridge, MN, Thomas Burhans of Breckenridge, MN, and Patrick (Wendy) Burhans of Dwight, ND; and many loving family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Renee Burhans; sisters, Sandy (Jon) Brogran of Wahpeton, ND, Barbara Vanderbend of Banning, CA, and Kimberly Burhans of Banning, CA; and nephews, Jeff and Justin Stevens.

In Honored Memory



RICHARD LEO
BURHANS

August 20, 1960 —
August 13, 2025

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF

RICHARD LEO BURHANS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Joseph Vertin and Sons Funeral Home
Breckenridge, Minnesota
5:00 p.m., Friday, September 26, 2025

CELEBRANT

Jim Woods, Funeral Director

MILITARY HONORS

United States Army Honor Guard | Flag Presentation
Wilkin County Honor Guard | Rifle Salute

MUSIC

“Stairway to Heaven” | Led Zeppelin
“Go Rest High On That Mountain” | Vince Gill
“Somewhere Over The Rainbow” | IZ



The family wishes to express their gratitude for your kind expressions of sympathy and for honoring Rick with your presence at the service.

God saw him getting tired,
a cure not meant to be,
So He put His arms

AROUND HIM, AND WHISPERED...

“Come With Me.”