



## Richard Paul Groff

May 29, 2025

Richard Paul Groff, 76, of Strasburg, passed away unexpectedly at home on May 29, 2025.

Rich was born in Lancaster to Roy and Ellen (Moore) Groff. He grew up in Kinzers and attended Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Rich was the beloved husband of Beverly (Irons) Groff, with whom he shared 46 years of marriage.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to everyone who knew him. Rich was known for his generosity, serving in many positions at Lampeter United Methodist Church, including Chair of the Trustees. Making sure everyone was comfortable for every event, Rich would be known to swing by at any time of the day to check all of the thermostats.

Faithful to God in a strong but quiet way, Rich demonstrated his faith through acts of service. It was a priority for Rich to help members of the community, especially those who wouldn't ask for help on their own. He treated everyone with dignity, always thinking of others.

Having worked as an HVAC & Refrigeration Mechanic for Clark Electric, Inc. for 40 years, he retired in 2015. Rich loved his trade and instilled a strong

sense of work ethic in his children. No matter the type of equipment, if it made things hot or cold, Rich knew how to fix it and keep it running. These challenges, and seeing his smiling customers, provided a great source of satisfaction to him. He was proud of his work, enjoyed making friends at the businesses he served, and loved sharing epic stories of his triumphs over machinery.

As the most curious person any of us knew, Rich would strike up a conversation with anyone at any time, always wanting to know more. He found wonder in most everything and loved to share stories with the family. Whether he was at work or home, Rich had an uncanny understanding of practical physics and was a natural problem solver.

In no particular order, Rich loved to...

- Explore the area in his loud, rumbling blue truck, with no specific agenda in mind
- Spend time at Ocean City, Maryland, and be on the water with family (never missing an opportunity to induce chaos for the tube passenger riding behind)
- Watch (and light off) fireworks
- Tease chickens and pigs at the Farm Show
- See sporting events in person, including the famous "Snow Bowl" with his sons in 2013
- Follow NHRA drag racing, attending many races in person and watching races with Alex
- Experience concerts and dance recitals performed by his children and granddaughters
- Catch wild birds over the years, proudly bringing them inside to show Bev and the family before releasing them in the backyard
- Delight his kids with found objects, creating cherished memories for his kids such as riding around the neighborhood in a discarded laundry cart
- Be involved with his sons in their Troop 56 Boy Scout activities, camp

weekends, and Scouting for Food

- Enjoy world travel with Bev after his retirement, including a European river cruise
- Work in his garden and backyard
- Quote his favorite shenanigans from Seinfeld
- Listen to music, including his favorite oldies station
- Serve as President of the neighborhood Saturday Morning Fire Hall Breakfast Club
- Enjoy the thrills of riding and driving things that move fast, for instance go-karts and roller coasters
- Give Christmas gifts that require refrigeration to friends and family
- Engage in his quest every fall to find the largest \$1 head of cabbage in Lancaster County to bring home to Bev
- Connect with animals, including pet cats, turtles, chickens, fish, and his treasured dog, Ebony.

Rich will be missed by his wife, Beverly B.; sons, Mitchell J., husband of Hayley (Greer) of Mount Joy; Alexander J., husband of Gina (Everhart) of Lancaster; daughter, Richelle M., wife of Evan Zeiders of Enola; and his adored granddaughters, Norah and Charlotte. Rich was the youngest of four siblings. Surviving are Charles (Janet) Groff, John (Gretta) Groff, and many beloved nieces, nephews, and a wonderful extended family. Rich was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy (Melvin) Allgyer.

The family is planning a memorial service and celebration of Rich's life to be held on Saturday, July 19, at Lampeter United Methodist Church, 1101 Village Road, Lancaster, PA 17602. Visitation for family and friends will be held at the church from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. His memorial service will begin at 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of these organizations

that impacted Rich throughout his life: American Diabetes Association or  
Lampeter United Methodist Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 19. 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Lampeter United Methodist Church  
1101 Village Road  
Lampeter, PA 17537

## Memorial Service

JUL 19. 4:00 PM (ET)

Lampeter United Methodist Church  
1101 Village Road  
Lampeter, PA 17537

# Tribute Wall

IC

“ *Ian and Laura (Walton) Cunningham purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Richard Paul Groff.*



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**Ian and Laura (Walton) Cunningham** - July 18, 2025 at 07:49 PM

MW

“ *My memory of Mr. Groff goes back a long way. Mrs. Groff was brave enough to take a bus load of high school students to Manhattan to see a show on Broadway. Mr. Groff was kind enough to go along as a chaperone. I specifically remember his kind, calm demeanor surrounded by excited students on the drive. He always had a smile on his face. When I reconnected years later at Lampeter UMC, Mr. Groff still had the twinkle in his eye and the calm smile. Prayers to the Groff family in the loss of such a beautiful servant of Christ.*

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**Mary Wittemann** - June 16, 2025 at 04:22 PM

RL

“ *I knew Rich for a couple years and we would discuss electrical issues at his church and he would call me at times to ask about a problem. I would help him when I could. He was a very good friend and I would see him many sundays. He was always professional and had a lot of respect for people. I was truly sad when I read about his passing in the Sunday news. He was a inspiration to me and others. I send my condolences to the family and also to his church family. He will surely be missed. May he Rest in Peace .*

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**Rod Lingo** - June 12, 2025 at 07:35 PM

RE

“ Rich and I were trustees at UMC for many years, it was a pleasure working to keep our church up and running well, I will miss him very much. Rich Emerich

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**Rich Emerich** - June 08, 2025 at 03:26 PM

MC

“ I worked with Rich at Clark Electric for seven years. He was head of our service department and I assisted him for a while with scheduling and billing. I must say he was the best coworker I ever worked with and I had the upmost respect for him. He was a wonderful man and a special person overall. It's been many years since I worked with him but I still think of him often and am so deeply sorry for his family's loss. Mary Campbell

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**Mary Campbell** - June 08, 2025 at 06:02 AM

GL

“ I went to school with Richard. Great memories, stock car races in Reading, boating, and running the loop in Lancaster. I left the area in the mid 70s. Lost contact him. Sorry for your loss, may God comfort you. Galen Lapp.

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**Galen Lapp** - June 06, 2025 at 07:17 AM

VM

“ During most of the time that I worked at Calvary Monument, Rich was my go-to guy for anything related to heating and air conditioning. I loved having him come on service calls because he was always eager to explain exactly what he was doing. In more recent years, it was fun to catch up with Rich anytime our paths would cross. Early in May, Rich stopped by our house to drop off a racing t-shirt that we gave to him years ago which he hadn't worn and thought we might want to have back. We weren't home at the time, so he left it for us to find, but he followed up with a phone call. We chatted for about a half hour. I look back on that conversation now as a gift. With sympathy, Vickie Martin

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**Vickie Martin** - June 03, 2025 at 04:36 PM

SG

“ Many a year, on New Years Day, Rich would treat Sherm and I to Pork & Sauerkraut dinner at Kinzer firehall. How we looked forward to that time together and a visit back at their home. We always admired Rich's committed spirit to 'all things working well' at LUMC. Sherm so respected Rich and his interest and experience in so many things. We miss him already. The Guyers

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**Sherm & Bernie Guyer** - June 03, 2025 at 08:03 AM

KA

“ Rich's continuous smile when on the European river cruise especially when the captain explained how the ship ran.

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**kathy acker** - June 03, 2025 at 07:20 AM



“ *Rich was always ready to help childrens ministry with whatever we needed managed with the facilities. We are thankful for that. He always had a smile and a giggle to offer during conversation. He was a gentle, beautiful spirit to be around. He will be very missed.*

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**Pam Fliegel** - June 02, 2025 at 10:43 PM



“ *Racing around the loop in one of his Buick Grand Sports. Having ham sandwiches at the Pizza Hut on Columbia Avenue. Responsible for finding the love of my life, Jeanie.*

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**Frank Warner** - June 02, 2025 at 09:43 PM