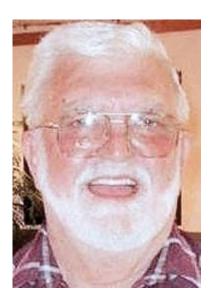
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Richard C. Gardner Jr., 76

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GILMANTON — Richard C. Gardner Jr., a longtime resident of Gilmanton, passed away peacefully from brain cancer on Dec. 27, 2017, surrounded by family in La Mesa, California. He was 76.

Richard, the son of the late Grace and Richard Gardner, Sr. was born on Aug. 28, 1941, and was raised in Billerica, Massachusetts, with his sisters, Janet and Geraldine. While growing up, he developed a love of cars which would last throughout his life. As a mechanic and auto body repairman, he would go on to work at West Street Motors and Granite State Volkswagen before moving to Gilmanton, where he opened and ran a successful auto body repair business, Gardner's Auto Body.

Richard's interests included riding motorcycles and auto racing, as well as a love for traveling across the United States. He enjoyed going to Yuma, Arizona, and Algodones, Mexico, with his wife, Judith. Richard's caring and gentle nature made it easy for him to collect friends wherever he went. After retirement he spent time in California, volunteering part-time at RV parks in King City, Ramona and Campo, which both kept him busy and allowed plenty of time for riding his motorcycle. Until his final illness, Richard would always be found riding his Harley for hours on the scenic roads he loved so much.



Richard is survived by his wife, Judith; his children, Gayle, Steven, David and Matthew; sisters, Janet Deshaies and Geraldine McKenney; and his seven grandchildren, all of whom he loved so much.

He was predeceased by his parents, Richard and Grace (Champa) Gardner and his former wife, Joan Gardner.

A special thank you to the staff at Lakeview Hospice House and Sharp Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, California, for their loving care and support. As per his request there are no calling hours or services at this time.