

# ANDREW EDWARD RICH



Andrew Rich of Dormont passed away peacefully at home on December 5, 2023, after a tough battle with brain cancer. He was 57 years old. Andrew was the dad to three great kids, Charlie, Casey and Drew. He was great friends with his ex-wife, Mimi; was an excellent brother to his sister, Martha; and a fantastic stepson to Debbie McKinley. His dad, David Rich and mom, Virginia Steiger Rich preceded him in death.

Andrew, Andy, Ed, Thumper, or Droid, depending on how you knew him, was a great guy and was loved by a lot of people. He was born in and grew up outside of Philadelphia and ended up on the other side of the state after studying communications at Slippery Rock University.

The reason he stayed in Western PA most likely was due to meeting his future wife, Mimi, who grew up in Bethel Park. It took some time, but he eventually shed his support for the Eagles and Phillies and became a full-on avid Steelers and Pirates fan. His sister forgives him. He was more Pittsburgh than Philly at the end. His shorts-in-winter wardrobe confirms this.

Andrew was smart, funny, kind and goofy. He loved to play rugby and played for Conestoga High School in Berwyn, at Slippery Rock University and then for the South Pittsburgh Hooligans. He played until his knees told him to stop. Andrew loved to write and was always buying Moleskin notebooks to put down his thoughts. He also loved BBQ and spent many an evening at the smoker tending to different meats. After college, he worked at a law firm for a while, but then he discovered his love for home brewing. This lead him to taking a class in brewing in Chicago to improve his skills, which lead to a job at Erie Brewing. When another job opened at Penn Brewery he jumped at the chance and a long career in brewing was born. He was there for 17 years. Andrew was one of the originators of Pittsburgh Craft Beer Week among other things in the Pittsburgh brewing scene. After Penn Brewery he ended up at Arsenal Cider House in the early stages of their popularity and growth. At both places awards were won with Andrew's help.

Andrew was a welcomer and connector. He loved to help people out with introductions, inside scoops, jobs or just a good hang out. He was a gentle, fun guy with a silly sense of humor who left skeletons on the front porch year round, hung pictures of Elvis and Santa on the same wall in his house and loved to buy art from local artists.

His favorite things to do were hanging out with his kids, traveling with his sister to eat BBQ across Texas, buying weird stuff at junk stores and listening to the Grateful Dead or seeing Dead & Company anywhere he could. There is a big hole in Pittsburgh right now that won't be filled. He will be missed greatly by many.

Memorials in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are being planned in January 2024. Please RSVP to [thumpermemorial@gmail.com](mailto:thumpermemorial@gmail.com) if you would like the details.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Andrew's memory to the National Brain Tumor Society at [braintumor.org](http://braintumor.org). Thank you.

Arrangements handled privately by the **DAVID J. HENNEY FUNERAL HOME**, Library, PA.

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